



NESCA MEETING MINUTES

July 18, 2023

1. Welcome, Introductions, Announcements, Approval of Minutes:

Chair Mike Beringer opened the ZOOM meeting at 7 PM, introducing everyone in attendance. A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 20th meeting minutes as provided via email. Motion Carried.

2. Salem Police Officer Report: No report

3. City Councilors' Report:

Virginia Stapleton:

- Opening of the Airport
 - The first flights will begin in October.
- Homeless Shelter updates
 - A 3rd micro shelter village will be opened for Youths 18-24 (Turner Road) as soon as they are able to get the asphalt in so they can finish up their site.
 - The Navigation Center is working very well. They are slowly welcoming people in, five to ten people come in per week, which is a good pace. They have 24 people now and 22 are already lined up for permanent housing. Most are women, which is big struggle in Salem because we have more women than men who are unhoused. It's very gratifying to everyone who has been working so hard for these past many years that we are finally able to get people into permanent housing situations.
 - Sequoia Crossing (across from the North Fred Meyer) is ahead of schedule. Originally scheduled to open in January, it is now looking like it might be able to open in late fall. It is designed to provide permanent supportive housing for 60.
- Payroll Tax
 - Passed 5-4
 - Oregon Business & Industries has filed a motion to have this be referred to voters for a vote in November. They will need to get 4,000 signatures in 30 days (August 9th) in order to get it on the ballot. Until it is known if the vote will be referred, this is in a holding pattern.
- Overlays
 - Currently there are five overlays in South Central Salem that were kept in the Our Salem process that the Council was unaware of which will need to be reconsidered at the end of September. The overlays are mostly along commercial areas along Commercial St. SE near LifeSource south to the library (mostly on Commercial rather than on Liberty), the car dealerships to the large dental clinic, and along the west side. They are all in this general area
 - Overlays (petitioned for by residents of the area) add more restrictions to base zoning (residential, commercial, etc.) for sites to be developed, which basically makes zoning null and void. It changes the height restrictions, limits the number of curb cuts, states that certain types of vegetation are not allowed, etc. As a result, everything that is added to the overlay makes it more difficult and expensive to develop the land.

- No other areas of Salem have these overlays except over I-5 and the airport where they actually serve a purpose.
- In the Our Salem process, these areas were changed to multi-use 1, 2, or 3, which allows for different height restrictions in each one.
- If the City can get rid of the overlays, then developers will be able to come in and utilize the land that is there with the zoning code and not the overlay zone.
- The overlays were started over 30 years ago. The Council thought the overlays had been disbanded, but then learned they were still in place after the Our Salem process had been adopted. While the Our Salem process needed to be adopted, it is felt that a small group should not be able to have that much power over the Council in this way.
- These overlay zones were well vetted during the public Our Salem project, so it doesn't seem logical to maintain them.
- National Night Out will be held at various locations across the city on August 1.
- Neighborhood Traffic Management passed Council and has been adopted.
 - Includes Safe Streets that was a part of a Federal grant.
 - 20 Is Plenty program as well as other traffic management issues that are of concern to neighborhoods.
- Neighborhood Association News
 - Central and NEN concern
 - School kids on D Street (currently a 30-mph zone).
 - Looking for solutions for walkability.
 - Proposal for Salem Health property west of Yaquina Hall.
 - Virginia hasn't seen anything official yet.
 - NESCA
 - Virginia has not heard anything specific to NESCA.
 - Anyone with questions is asked to email her:
 - VStapleton@cityofsalem.net

Virginia mentioned she had opportunity to witness the extreme danger for pedestrians at the Market St. NE/Lancaster Dr. NE intersection. Due to her concerns, staff are looking at this intersection to hopefully provide ideas for safety updates. She stressed that it is NOT SAFE. This intersection is one of the busiest on Lancaster and the busiest Cherriots line as well. While it is known that NESCA has a higher than usual number of residents who always walk, there are no stats regarding pedestrians. Everything is geared for single occupancy cars. With the Transportation Master Plan Update, there is a push to try to advocate for pedestrians and those who ride bikes. Through this process, they are trying to make changes to help everyone, not just those driving cars. The Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan recognizes that land use around a street should impact the way the street is viewed. For example, Market Street has always been considered as an arterial. In this plan, the language is changing to "neighborhood arterial" so when Market Street turns into predominately an area of housing, it is no longer just an "arterial": it is now a residential neighborhood arterial. That changes everything as it will now have to work well with the areas around it. Equity is another issue and NE Salem has an equity issue compared to other areas. These parts of the plan will have a huge impact on how the City proceeds when dealing with transportation issues.

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Comments/Questions:

- Ian Johnson mentioned he often walks to work with some potential danger issues, but that he will not walk Market Street. It is not safe and has personal experience of nearly getting hit.
- Is there a possibility of being able to get the D Street bus route to return? (Mai Vang, Transportation Chair will check into this.)
- Are there still free bus rides for kids? (Yes)
- When will the safety crosswalks for Market Street (discussed at a meeting last Fall) be installed? (Virginia: There are 14 or 15 that are a part of the recent bond measure. When putting the equity lens on this issue, four are on

Market Street. However, that is likely to change as having four on one street when it's a city-wide bond may not happen. The Bond committee will make that decision.)

- Clarification on the Payroll Tax (Virginia: This tax will be paid by anyone above minimum wage who works in Salem, not just those who live elsewhere and work in Salem.)
- Electric Bikes
 - Basic rules are needed in parks, including speed limits, where, and how to ride this type of bike.
 - Conversations are being held about electric bikes. Parks Department and staff are trying to come up with regulations for bikes in parks as there are increasing conflicts between riders and pedestrians.
 - Ian suggested the city check with State Parks systems. Administrative Rules have been written on this issue because they have been dealing with user conflicts for quite a few years.

Linda Nishioka:

Linda sent a report for the meeting with various updates which will be included as an attachment to these minutes.

Highlights of her report include:

- Airport
- Employee Payroll Tax
- Ward 2 Events
- Initiatives

4. Guest Speaker: Tom Andersen, Oregon State Representative

Due to a scheduling conflict, Representative Andersen was unable to attend this evening. He has rescheduled to visit NESCA at our September 19th meeting.

5. Committee Reports:

a. Land Use

Ian Johnson

- Ian contacted Robert Underwood at the Department of Administrative Services. Basically, the sale of the property along Center Street is at a dead stop and the RFP process is on hold. The Dome building remains empty, as it has been for the last year or two.

b. Transportation:

Mai Vang

- Mai has concerns about parking issues around the private homes at The Jory site.
- Mai was unable to attend this month's SAMTD transportation meeting but hopes to go in August. She did go to a previous meeting which was mostly about the new transit center by Chemeketa College. Discussions were generally how to make it more usable and safer for students and others.

c. Parks

[no chair]

- Mike announced that former Parks Chair Eli Brody has resigned his position for personal reasons. We will need someone to step in and help in this area,

d. Hoover School

[Teri Lupoli]

- It is time to begin thinking about whether NESCA wants to again participate in the back-to-school program for Hoover Elementary.
 - A vote was taken, and it was unanimously determined NESCA will participate.
 - Teri will contact Nancy Russell from Salem First Nazarene to see if we will be able to co-op with their program again this year.
 - It was suggested Irma Coleman might add our backpack info to the city newsletter.
 - Flyers for this effort need to be added to our park kiosks.

e. Watershed

[Gary Pullman]

- Gary reported he has been working at Engelwood Park, Bush Park, and at Mill Creek.

f. North Campus

Ian Johnson [no additional report]

6. Other Business: Old Business

- 25th Avenue NE – private street or not?

- Marilyn contacted the city and was told that 25th St. NE between D and Center streets is a private street. As there were a lot of questions about the accuracy of that information, Anne O'Rourke said she will provide a copy of the SRC Chapter 803 (April 2019) for the notice of decision, filed before the project was started. That might clarify who is responsible for maintenance of the street.

6. Other Business: New Business

- National Night Out (NNO)
 - NESCA's NNO will again be hosted by Mike and Lucy Beringer.
 - Tuesday, August 1, 6 PM till dusk at 384 Illinois Court NE.
 - Bring a dish for the potluck table (main/side/dessert).
 - Bring folding chairs.
 - Hot dogs/drinks/table settings will be provided.
 - Fire truck and police will be there.
 - There will be giveaways.
 - Games for kids
- Coffee with the Mayor
 - Marilyn spoke with Hailey at Fresh Start Market who said we will need to use the conference room (NESCA's former meeting room). She asked that we do this on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday as she has more staff on those days. It is hoped we can plan this for September.
- Teri will check with Irma about using NESCA funds to reimburse expenses for NNO and Coffee with the Mayor.

7. Discussion/Questions/Comments

There being no further business, Mike thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM. **The next scheduled NESCA meeting will be held via ZOOM on August 18th beginning at 7:00 PM. The ZOOM meeting link will be provided to those on the NESCA email distribution list prior to the meeting.** The link will also be available on the city website. Next month's guest will be Counselor Virginia Stapleton who will be talking about the Salem Bike Vision.

Submitted by: Teri Lupoli
NESCA Secretary/Treasurer

Attending:

Mike Beringer*, Marilyn Moritz*, Teri Lupoli*, Lynn Cardiff*, Gary Pullman*, Ian Johnson, Mai Vang, Jim Lupoli, Virginia Stapleton Salem City Council, Anne O'Rourke

*NESCA Board Members

- **Other Website Information:**

- To report homeless camping: <https://form.cityofsalem.net/s3/homeless-camping-complaint>
- To report homeless concerns: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-concerns-about-homeslessness.aspx>
- To sign up for weekly updates regarding homeless: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/tracking-progress-on-homeslessness-efforts.aspx>
- To report graffiti: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-graffiti.aspx>
 - [503-371-4262 Graffiti Response team](https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-graffiti.aspx)
- The link for the crime statistics: www.cityofsalem.net/crime-stats