

# East Lancaster Neighborhood Association

September 7, 2023

Minutes

**Attendance:** Sue Fowler, Mary Sarabia, Officer Mark Jantz, Pat Mick, Chuck Westbrook, Councilor Deanna Gwen, Vern Golden, Pastor Terry Mott, Mike and Dahlia Sobieska, Kimberly Castro. Via Zoom: Susann Kaltwasser, Clark Hazlett, Bev Quiring, Paul La Scola, and Peter Strauhal, and Ken Gettys.

Sue opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with introductions. We put the approval of the minutes at the end of the meeting.

**Police Officer Report:** Officer Mark Jantz noted that he had been with ELNA for one year now. The summer was very busy. He is responsible for Community Engagement and he has attended many events like World Beat; Art Fair; Marion County Fair; Ironman; National Night Out (114 parties); YMCA Block Party and Hoopla. None of the events took away from patrol. This fall they will have the Halloween Dress Rehearsal on the Saturday before Halloween. Last year they had 1500 kids and parents participate. They are also starting up Coffee with a Cop in October.

Officer Jantz said that he did a presentation on fraud recently and wanted to share some information. He reviewed some of the cautions, such as calls from what is purported to be a family member having an emergency, or someone saying that some issue needs to be dealt with right then. He said skimmers are not being used in Salem area that they know about. People should make sure to use credit cards and not debit cards.

Clark asked about gangs. Sobieski's asked about speeding on Market Street at night. There are kids doing circles in the Swegle parking lot many nights. Police response is slow so not much is done. They also talked about a shooting on 45th. About a dozen youths were congregated at 12:30 a.m. It was caught on camera and they learned that the police know who did the shooting, but it doesn't seem like anything is being done. Officer Jantz said that officers won't share information in an ongoing investigation. Mike Sobieski said that response times are an issue. They call about drifting and racing many nights. They also are worried about the parking around the school at pick up and drop off times. Parents are being very unsafe and parking illegally. There is no enforcement.

**Councilor's Report:** Councilor Hoy was not present. Councilor Gwen said she is visiting other neighborhood associations to learn about their issues. She mentioned the payroll tax briefly and said that the Council is looking at what to do to find income. Pat Mick asked about whether City Councilors are required to attend meetings. Susann said that as volunteers they are not required to do so. She did urge the Councilors to host town halls or meet and greets to get more public input.

**Safety at Meetings:** Based on some comments by Officer Jantz at the annual meeting the Board discussed some of the safety recommendations. We discussed alternate exits, how to react to a disturbance will be continued at another meeting.

## Committee Reports:

a) Land Use: 1. Panda Express seems to be going forward again. But Susann does not know any further details because there are no land use issues left. She said that there is still great concern about traffic on Lancaster at Weathers Street. There was a serious 3 car accident recently. 2. East Park Estates is moving on to Phase 3. Neighbors on Greencrest complained about people ignoring the stop sign at Auburn Road. 3. United Way Cottages on Market are going to have a ground breaking on the 19th. Sue will attend, but others are invited. Pat Mick is concerned about the lack of sufficient parking. Susann said

that most people are anticipated not to own cars. There is some parking for visitors or medical vans. Mary noted that the buses that come in the area are not direct to downtown or even to Fred Meyer so it will be an issue. She noted that people will have to cross the road to catch the bus. 4. 4060 Earl Street NE. Paul La Scola and Peter Strauhal presented their concept for a project including two units with 4 dwelling units each. The lower level would be small units and the top unit would be normal 1600 sf house. The building might be up to 35 feet tall as permitted in the MU3 zone. Details are not yet set.

- b) Traffic - discussed earlier. Officer Jantz will follow up on the issues on Market and at Swegle School parking lot
- c) Parks - WOW van visit might be too late for this year, so will look at something in the spring.
- d) Newsletter - Pastor Terry said that he is making progress and hopes to have a sample to share soon.

**Soccer Field at East Salem Community Center** - Kimberly reported that the project was still in the planning stages. Susann asked if they had made contact with The Springs Retirement Apartments next door. She said not yet, so a discussion took place about ELNA needing to write a letter. Pastor Terry made a motion to send a letter from ELNA to The Springs. Sue seconded the motion and all agreed.

Kimberly asked if ELNA would give testimony to support returning Resources Officer to schools. After discussion it was decided that we would not do this as an organization, but individuals could do so.

**Minutes:** Pastor Terry moved approval of the August minutes. Mary seconded the motion. All vote approval.

**Other items:** The Church is having a clothing give away on September 8 and 9th from 9 to noon.

**Next Meeting Agenda Items:** Cottages update; Mural in the Street; Earl Street update; Fire Prevention presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.