



NEN General Meeting Minutes
9/12/23

Call to order: 6:30PM via Zoom

Board attendance: Lynn Takata, Ken Houghton, Cindy Kimball, Joan Lloyd, Erin Grimm, Leslie Polson, Nick Cantonwine, Delana Beaton, Jenna Otto, Ken Simila, Jacqueline Schindele. Schindele

Guest speakers:

Virginia Stapleton, Salem City councilor Ward 1
Cory Folkert from Church of the Park
Rick Cardoza and Kevin Brown from Oregon State Penitentiary

Total in attendance: 21

Ken Simila took charge of the meeting due to Lynns recent shoulder surgery.

Church of the Park report:

Cory Folkert updated NEN on the Village of Hope low barrier micro shelter located at 1280 Center Street NE. It currently has 40 shelters with 80 adults. The original land use application was approved as an “emergency ordinance” in 2021. The Church of the Park will now apply for status under the new, updated city codes. Village of Hope has a waitlist of 760 people, average stay is 6-9 months and 56% of the adults have moved to better destinations, which could include permanent housing, transitional housing, inpatient treatment, detox or other care facilities. Church of the Park hopes to add more wrap around services and a chaplain at the Center Street shelters.

City Council report:

1. Council work Session on Monday, Sept 18 will work on a “plan B” in case the November 7th payroll tax ballot measure fails.
2. The Geren Island Water Treatment plant has treated freshwater from the Santiam River supplying Salem with clean drinking water since 1937. An ozone treatment facility was added in 2021 to address the bacteria found in the algae blooms in Detroit Lake and now, a federal grant will be used to replace the aging dams at the plant.
3. House located at 1296 16th Street (near Market and the 7/11 store) has been declared “unfit for habitation”.

Oregon State Penitentiary report:

Update on a department of corrections project: A three-legged, self-supported communication tower will be built beginning in 2024. It will be used exclusively by OSP to provide communications within the OSP facilities,

and around Salem. It will be 140 feet tall, with an 11x24-foot shelter at the base. It will have multiple antennas, microwave dishes, and it has been approved by the FFA since it is in the flight path of the Salem airport runway.

Announcements from Lynn:

1. Estimated attendance at Englewood Forest Festival: 3,700-4,000.
2. Lynn reached out to Green Light Development regarding the affordable housing complex they intend to build on 23rd street. They have reduced the projected number of units from 155 to 120-130. They also received grants from two state agencies. Lynn will try to get them to attend our October meeting to give us an update. They intend to break ground in the summer of 2024.

Neighborhood Concerns:

1. Graffiti on Mill Street bridge
2. Concerns as to where micro shelter residents are released when they leave the shelters.
3. Someone tried to “kick in” the front door of a home in the vicinity of 20th and Market Street.

Cory Folkert’s addition via text message:

After the NEN meeting, Cindy reached out to Cory Folkert via text and asked where residents are released, who leave the micro shelters and do not go to a more positive destination. Are they released into the neighborhood?

Cory responded, “the majority of folks who are “exited” are given 14-30 days’ notice and time to work with case managers to find a suitable transitional shelter, etc. We often provide financial assistance, transportation, and other assistance. A very small portion are removed without notice, but most all of those involve law enforcement, which means they are taken into custody. Staff are working hard to make sure no one exits the shelter without a plan as to where they are going, and they’ve been very successful so far.”

Meeting adjourned: 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Kimball 10/9/23