



Minutes of the Meeting

Of

Thursday, July 20th, 2023 via Zoom only

Executive Board Members Present: Bayard Mentrum, Chair; Phyllis Abbott-Cavota, Vice Chair; Jess Cruz, Community Liaison Chair; Shirley Robertson, Treasurer; Kaethe Mentrum, Secretary/Park Chair.

General Board Members present: Pedro Mayoral, Randy Ray, Michael Hoselton; Bill Berry, Joanne Barnhart.

Absent with excuse: Becca Strieper; Don Jensen Land Use Chair.

Speaker who was absent: Danette Ficken, Sales Marketing and Event Manager, Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center due to getting back to her young son. (she will email later).

Members: Diane and Terry Crawford; Kimberly Castro, Emily Embleton.

Guest Speakers: Scott Archer, Deputy City Manager for Community Services and Dylan McDowell, Chair of Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (SPRAB)

City Official: Rob Romanek, Senior Parks Planner of City of Salem

The meeting began about 6:03 p.m. by zoom.

Bayard asked each to introduce themselves.

Sean Bennett, Police Officer, Narcotics Dept. mentioned about 95% of the homeless population is mentally ill. Bayard mentioned this seems to be more than what he previously heard of 75% to 80%. Bayard asked the sidewalk law does not seem to be working as we have seen the homeless people take up all the sidewalk instead of leaving 3 feet from the curb. Sean said it's an enforcement issue. If they get more money, the officers from the payroll tax can get two more officers in their crime unit and four more additional officers.

Then he went on to talk about Mr. Tim Fiscus' property at Hummingbird Road. He said both the police and Code Enforcement worked together and without any issues the homeless people who resided at his property were removed. It didn't cost Mr. Fiscus any money. He said he gave Tim his direct contact number to avoid red tape should any problems arise again. There was a case where one tent returned

but that was taken care of right away. The police are keeping a good eye on his property going there weekly to make sure this older gentleman is not in trouble. Terry Crawford said he was there and noticed there is still a lot of trash at the property. Sean said they are removing them continuously. Sean mentioned about a good man on a light pickup who goes around picking trash at different locations almost daily. Bayard asked about the rocks blocking vehicles from Portland Road to the entrance to his property. Sean said it is to keep people from dumping trash or RVs to use the parking area. He also asked Sean if he knew about what Walmart did to keep the homeless off their property with big rocks on their landscape. Sean thought that was brilliant, but Bayard said now they move to the other side and the tarp and rocks will probably kill the trees.

Randy and Bayard both mentioned that we need more mental and drug treatment centers rather than just shelter housing after Sean described about the homeless people, most of whom are addicted. When Sean said more affordable housing is needed, Bayard said he had heard some people do not wish to be walled in, and Sean said that is a case-by-case matter and all individuals are different. He said it is a slow process for the City to help these people.

Scott Archer explained who he is, his role and said he will be going around the other neighborhood associations to introduce himself. He started working at the City about two months ago. This position is a newly created one. He works over many departments, pulling them together as one. He has neighborhood association responsibilities, Parks & Recreation, City Library, Center 50+, Youth Education, Public Art, etc. He brings people together to give it "synergy". He said he has 32 years of leadership experience with public agencies, including four cities, one county and school district mainly in the Willamette Valley, with a focus on public services providing community programs. He said we are all trying to learn together. Diane asked a question (which was before his time at the City) about why City of Salem was contracting companies for example, tree removal from out of state when we have local companies. He said the preference is to do it locally. After Scott said he had to work regarding the homeless issues, Kaethe asked with all the mentally ill homeless people around, to have them sitting at sidewalks, how is the community going to be able to protect themselves? Scott said he will provide contact information for such matters later.

Kaethe also said the NE side of Salem has more homeless shelters and the south has about 3 and NW has one. Why is the City allowing and approving the nonprofits like Jimmy Jones to make new shelters here in the NE side? Equal disbursement was promised but not followed through. Scott said he hears this message loud and clear.

Dylan McDowell was next as speaker. After he introduced himself, he thanked NGNA for inviting him. He said he was on the board making decisions on which association gets funded from Salem Parks Improvement Fund (SPIF) grant for extra park amenities. He said there is a total of \$60,000 SPIF money each year that is being awarded to different N/As. However, not all associations are taking advantage of this and that is why he is going around to different associations to inform about it. Dylan showed slides of what SPRAB does and its capacity for the community parks. He also asked people to volunteer for the city parks. He informed Amanda Sitter is the new volunteer coordinator for those who wish to volunteer to help with parks.

Kaethe told Dylan or other city officials about Hood View Park where there was graffiti on the fences. A local artist was willing to cover the graffiti with art. NGNA approved using Community Engagement money for paint and anti-graffiti sealant. On being permitted to paint art mural on fence by both City

Parks and the owner of the fence, painting section by section began. Kaethe said she painted the mother and baby deer. The City officials all said they need to go and see this mural on the fence.

When Bayard asked if any neighbor has some issues, Diane Crawford said that the city has not resolved the issue of illegal parking at Northgate Avenue. Kaethe said she will ask Nelson Morales, Manager of Code Enforcement to investigate. Bayard said a lot of vehicle owners put their hoods up to make it look like they are having mechanical issues so they can stay there.

Kaethe said Danette Ficken could not make it as she had to take care of her 10-year-old son.

Kaethe reminded everyone that on August 24th, there will be a potluck informal get together at Northgate Wesleyan Church, North Annex at 2405 Carleton Way NE at 6 p.m. Diane asked if specific potluck should be brought but Kaethe said she will just leave it up to the individual.

Bayard called for the meeting to adjourn, Kaethe made the motion for a vote, seconded by Bill. All said aye and the meeting ended around 7:20 p.m.

Note, on-line voting which always starts with Bayard calling for a vote and Kaethe makes a motion to start the vote:

- On July 14th, 2023, Minutes of the June 15th meeting was approved by: Jess who also seconded it, Shirley, Bill, Randy, Pedro and Kaethe
- On July 19, 2023, the Board voted to allow NGNA staff to get signatures at Fun Friday of July 21st. Those who voted were: Shirley who seconded and voted, Phyllis who also seconded and voted, Jess, Becca, Don, Randy, Michael and Kaethe.
- On July 28, 2023, a vote was made to send NGNA's letter to the owner of 3663 31st Avenue NE, to advise them to caution their tenant to control their dog more seriously. One of our board members has been troubled due to a possible pit bull that becomes loose and bit the mailman. It seems some neighbors are saying it bit twice already but for now since we are not sure, in the letter we have not stated twice. We are asking the owners of this property who live in Keizer to take accountability and responsibility in conveying this message to their tenants.

The board members who participated are: Phyllis who seconded and voted yes, Don, Becca who also seconded it, Shirley, Jess, Randy and Kaethe.

**The next informal potluck get together is 6 p.m., Thursday, August 24, 2023 at Northgate Wesleyan Church, North Annex.**