



## NESCA MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2023

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

Chair Mike Beringer opened the ZOOM meeting at 7 PM, introducing all those attending. A motion was made and seconded to approve the September meeting minutes as provided via email. Motion carried.

### 2. Salem Police Officer Report: Sgt. Eric Hernandez

Sgt. Hernandez apologized for missing last month's meeting. As he setting up to attend, he got called out on a SWAT call.

- Nothing new with the Police Department currently. They did just start the rollout for next year's scheduling rotations for officers. The department will no longer be working 12-hour shifts for patrol; going back to 10-hour shifts. There will be two day shifts, four swing shifts, and two graveyard shifts. The shifts will be somewhat overlapping which provides more coverage, especially at shift change times. There seems to be an uptick in call volume during the 12-hour shift change times which causes less patrols on the streets. Response time is terrible as a result and the 10-hour shifts should give greater response time.
- Last Saturday an officer noticed a vehicle leaving at a high rate of speed following a burglary at a restaurant/bar on Lancaster. As he was pursuing it, the car subsequently crashed into a fence on Center Street. One suspect was chased through the neighborhood and tracked by one of the bloodhounds. The suspect was captured in the 800 block of Bieber under a thick pile of blackberries. (Side note: Part of the chase involved going through the yard at the home of a NESCA Board member, who was unaware of all the excitement until the next day when informed by a neighbor!) It is felt the person arrested was most responsible, but they received good information and believe it's only a matter of time before the other suspect is apprehended.
- Wet weather has brought a huge uptick in car crashes. Sgt. Hernandez reminded everyone of the need to be more cautious on wet streets.
- They have been doing more traffic patrols on Park, D, 21<sup>st</sup> to Hawthorne and in North Salem in general.
- SPD does try to check in on camps when they pop up, especially on sidewalks, but most often are referring situations to the Outreach Team. They are better able to work with the individuals as they have developed more of a rapport with some in the camps, resulting in more willingness to listen and possibly accepting the help being offered.

### 3. City Councilors' Report: Virginia Stapleton

Virginia said things have slowed down a bit.

- A new Commercial air flight out of Salem took place which was exciting.
- The new Public Works Operations building was opened.
- Work Session is scheduled for next Wednesday at 6 PM.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> follow up to the budget conversation regarding possible cuts. Staff will be providing their ideas on budget cuts as well as answering some of the questions from Council from the last meeting,

- How to preserve the unhoused services in total?
  - Trying to preserve and increase the SOS Team funding.
  - Staff vacancies
- City Council meeting next Monday.
- Various boards and commissions are meeting and taking care of their business.
- Homeless Camping and Issues:
  - Hawthorne Park and Ride:
    - Virginia was thanked for her part in getting the homeless camp/RVs at the Park and Ride situation resolved.
  - D Street Park/Yaquina Hall parking lot:
    - The neighborhood alerted authorities early and was able to get this camp cleared up before it got out of control.
  - Virginia expressed concern about camping at the Market Street overpass now that the weather is getting rainy and colder. It's not known what ODOT will do this winter, but Virginia will follow up on this.
  - Warming Centers:
    - The Presbyterian Church downtown has told the city they won't be doing a warming center this year, which will cause some problems. Apparently, they are having problems getting volunteers to help with this cause.
      - Lucy Beringer (wife of NESCA Chair Mike Beringer) is on the Board at the Salem First Nazarene church on Market. Mike will discuss this with her to see if there's any possible help available there.
    - Arches wants to get a large tent to put on their downtown parking lot. They are working with the fire department to see if they will be able to put heaters in there.
      - Ian suggested talking with the Forest Service, BLM, and OEM to see if they might loan one or more of their huge fire tents now that fire season is over. The tents are heated (cooled in the summer).
- Congratulations to Councilor Stapleton on getting the Geer Park grant for the skate park was approved!

#### 4. Guest Speaker: NESCA Annual Meeting, no guest this evening.

#### 5. Committee Reports:

##### a. Land Use

*Ian Johnson*

- Nothing is happening at the North Campus property. Ian sent a note thanking DAS for maintaining the Center Street property.
  - There are a lot of directions from the Governor on vacant property (buildings). The Center Street property doesn't appear to be high on her list at this time. Ian will continue to check in with DAS at least once a month so we can be aware of any changes.
- Dome Building
  - A challenging building with astronomical renovation costs to bring it up to current office building standards. It's not prime space for offices due to condition problems and there are currently so many other vacant office spaces available. Due to its historical value, there is a lot of interest around the state in preserving the building. The non-profit group Restore Oregon will no doubt be watching this closely. A few years ago it was on their "most endangered properties" list. Ian said it's nothing to be worried about at this moment.
- Newport Grill Building
  - It has been painted and new business(es) are going in there, however, nothing was received through Land-Use. Wondering why?
    - Ian will find out. His understanding is that it wouldn't be required to have Land Use if it's going to be used for what it's already zoned for and not modifying the building. If it's being changed but is within permitted use by zoning, there would be nothing come through Land Use. They would have to get permits so Ian will find out who the Planner is and why it didn't trigger any Land Use information.

- The space is being converted into a sales office and used car lot and part of the building will be a café (not a large restaurant as was there previously).

b. Transportation:

*Mai Vang*

- At last month's Cherriots board meeting, discussing how they are improving their compliance with Title 9 and safety.
- Regarding Title 9, they mentioned that if they had more time to review and more funding, they would be able to implement Real Time Tracking (although Mai is not sure how they overlap) so this is on their radar. Currently they are in the Idea phase so there is no real movement on this currently.
- Cherriots is looking for people to serve on the state-wide transportation improvement advisory committee. Mai will put the application into the group chat to be distributed.
- With the campers and RVs moved out, the Market Street Park and Ride is now closed with parking moved to Market and Savage.
  - Due to the potential of future problems with safety and health issues, Cherriots decided to close their lot there. Campers may return and will be dealt with, but access for motorhomes is closed off. ODOT will address this.

c. Parks

*[no chair]*

d. Hoover School

*[Teri Lupoli]* (no report)

e. Watershed

*[Gary Pullman]*

- Spending a lot of time at Bush Park
  - The annual Art Fair will be held in mid-September next year (from mid-July). The plant sale will tag along with that.
    - This change coincides (and possibly conflicts with the Mt Angel Oktoberfest).
    - Another possible conflict is that there are a lot of school and cross-country events at that time that fill up the Mission Street parking lot.
- The creek looks good.
- Peace lecture tomorrow at Willamette University.
- The City Club is having discussions on moving toward electric transportation.

f. North Campus

Ian Johnson [no additional report]

## 6. Other Business: Old Business

- **Pending from 8/15/2023:**
  - 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE – private street or not?
  - Ian has reached out to Irma Coleman for a clarification of the status of 25<sup>th</sup> Street between D and Center Street, whether it is a city street or a private road.
- Re the CCR issue discussed last month.
  - Background: One of the neighbors discovered there was a racially restrictive covenant on his deed.
    - Ian found it is likely tied to the plat, not the deed.
  - Ian reported he spoke with Bill Burgess, Marion County Clerk. We may want to put on an event in partnership with other NAs, perhaps at the library, to discuss racially restrictive housing in Salem with that history. We could then ask Bill to explain the legal way to remove this language since it is managed through his office. The language can be struck off so it wouldn't show up on a title report. Historically, the language must remain as reference on the actual title, however. Recent legislation that would allow this language to come off, effective January 2024, by getting an Order from a Circuit Court judge. Bill offered to come to a NESCA meeting to discuss this further if we would like.
  - Ian suggested we pend this and think about it a bit and bring it up again as there are a lot of ways to go.
    - Teri suggested that the letter Ian wrote, describing the situation as well as the current laws that make the situation moot, should be in the newsletter. If there are people who want more information, we could consider doing an event. Mike concurred with that opinion.

- Motion was made/seconded/and approved to use Ian's letter on this topic in a newsletter.

## 6. Other Business: New Business Annual Meeting and Election of 2023-24 Board Members

A slate of officers was presented with a motion made and seconded to approve as presented. Motion carried.

New board is as follows:

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| • Chair               | Stacey Vieyra-Braendle |
| • Vice Chair          | Marilyn Moritz         |
| • Secretary/Treasurer | Teri Lupoli            |
| • At-Large            | Lynn Cardiff           |
|                       | Mai Vang               |
|                       | Gary Pullman           |
|                       | Mike Beringer          |

Discussion was held on the Goals for the 2024 year. Ideas included:

- Continue to monitor North campus, Center Street property.
- Parks improvements and possible Salem Parks Foundation grant
  - Use the giant walnut tree that is being held back for NESCA to add two benches and two signs or 4four benches to the D Street Park.
  - More trees in the neighborhood
  - Host an event in one of our parks (requires planning to being in early January).
- Work with Hoover School, possibly check with the parents' group.
- Safer streets and crosswalks, pedestrian friendly sidewalks
  - Look for opportunities with Land-Use cases when driveways, etc. are planned, to see if we could ask for a crosswalk, a light, etc. Developers are very often very receptive to working with neighborhoods when letters are sent in favor or the project to the Planning Commission.
  - The neighborhood plan, approved by the City Council, also provides some leverage to help.
- Outreach to add NESCA membership.
  - Possible door-to-door to our neighbors in the new private homes.
  - National Night Out
  - Talk to Annie Andersen (The Jory) about their community having their own NNO event their or at the D Street Park
- Charitable Drives (two or three)
- Litter Patrol
- Host a candidate forum (possibly in conjunction with another NA)
- Information via newsletters/minutes to the community
- Fulfill NA requirements for the city.

When the Board has finalized the Goals and they are submitted to the City with our Annual Report, a full report will be provided to the community in the minutes. NESCA has 60 days following the Annual Meeting in which to submit the Annual Report.

## 7. Discussion/Questions/Comments

There being no further business, Mike thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM. **The next scheduled NESCA meeting will be held via ZOOM on November 21 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 will be the NESCA Annual meeting with the election of the new board. Guest speaker for this meeting is currently pending.

Submitted by: Teri Lupoli  
NESCA Secretary/Treasurer

Attending:

Mike Beringer\*, Teri Lupoli\*, Lynn Cardiff\*, Gary Pullman\*, Stacey Vieyra-Braendle\*, Ian Johnson, Mai Vang, Jim Lupoli, Sgt. Eric Hernandez Salem PD, Virginia Stapleton Salem City Council,

\*NESCA Board Members

- **Other Website Information:**

- To report homeless camping: <https://form.cityofsalem.net/s3/homeless-camping-complaint>
- To Contact the SOS Team: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Home/Components/News/News/399/>
- To report homeless concerns: <https://www.cityofsalemn.net/government/shaping-salem-s-future/housing-shelter/help-with-problem-properties/report/concerns-about-homelessness>
- To sign up for weekly updates regarding homeless: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/tracking-progress-on-homelessness-efforts.aspx>
- To report graffiti: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-graffiti.aspx>
  - [503-371-4262](tel:503-371-4262) Graffiti Response team
- The link for the crime statistics: [www.cityofsalem.net/crime-stats](http://www.cityofsalem.net/crime-stats)