

Minutes of GRANT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting January 4, 2024 6:15 pm Broadway Commons and online via: Zoom video conference

AGENDA ITEM

#1 Introductions

BOARD MEMBERS	PRESENT – P	ABSENT – A	EXCUSED - E		
ELISA ANGUIANO	A	LOLA HACKETT	P	SUSAN NAPACK	P
JEANNE BOATWRIGHT	E	TINA HANSEN	P	SAM SKILLERN	P
MARK DECOURSEY	P	LAURA HERRMANN	P	AARON TERPENING	E
TIM FRANCE	P	TERESA JOSLIN	P	MARISSA THEVE	P
CHRISTOPHER HACKETT	P	NICK MASELLI	P		

Others present, or on Zoom: Lindy Beaver, Nick Beleiciks, Ashley Dalen, Carol DeCoursey, Loren Doty, Matthew Groat, Kat Keys, Art Luna, Scott Mumford, Charlotte Scott, Dan Sisken, Virginia Stapleton, Leigh Tagy-Gaynair, and Carolin VanOrdin.

Christopher Hackett moved that ***“We accept the meeting agenda with the change listed below.”*** Teresa Joslin seconded the motion. The vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

The revision to the meeting agenda was to reverse the order of Item 7, GNA Bylaws Review, and Item 8, Board Member Reports.

Christopher Hackett moved that ***“We approve the December minutes with the corrections listed below.”*** Tina Hansen seconded the motion. The vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Corrections: #6 Salem for Refugees – Correction: Christina Korkow was identified as Krista Hoffman, and Krista in the first paragraph. #7 Recovery Outreach Community Center – Correction: Krista Hoffman was referred to as Krista Korkow in the first sentence.

#2 Great Story from Grant Neighborhood

- Charlotte Scott recognized the Graffiti cleanup in the Grant Neighborhood and made the comment that there is sufficient graffiti occurring here to keep the cleanup team employed full-time.
- Several neighbors reported seeing wild turkeys in the neighborhood. A bald eagle was also spotted.

#3 Neighbor Concerns

- Teresa Joslin reported that she has seen several different entities working on the condemned house at 1290 Capitol Street. Officer Groat stated that the Police are also aware of this property.
- Teresa Joslin asked if cars must stop when a pedestrian is attempting to cross the street in locations other than a marked crosswalk. The answer is yes.
- Sam Skillern reported that someone broke into his wife, Jennifer’s car. They had not noticed it until the Police stopped by and asked them if they were aware of the broken back window. Sam explained that not long ago the Kia manufacturers had made available an anti-theft package, which they had purchased. Thanks to the package, the car received damage to the window and the ignition, but the potential thieves were not able to start and drive away the car.
- It was observed that there has been an increase in the number of individuals sleeping in the alcoves at the Boys’ and Girls’ Club and other nearby buildings. Virginia Stapleton explained that the current programs are time-limited, and it is challenging to come up with additional funding to assist with this

issue. It was mentioned that the Church of the Park does have an outreach team that might be able to assist.

- If motor homes of 24 feet or more in length are parking on public roadways, the Police will deal with this. Please contact the Salem Police if such a situation is spotted. If you are not sure if the motor home is 24 feet long, the Police can measure it, so do not hesitate to call them.

#4 Officer Reports

- Officer Groat reported that the holiday toy drive went very well. There are a few toys remaining, and these will be used in special situations that arise throughout the year.
- Local mail thefts between August 1 and November 1, 2023, included 560 reports to the United States Postal Service, but only 60 reports to the Salem Police. The majority of thefts were from cluster boxes, and in some cases, it appeared that the thieves had used keys. 52% of the thefts were in South Salem. Officer Groat reminded us that any time a mail theft is reported to USPS, it should also be reported to the Salem Police. There is a site on which you may see the mail that is to be delivered to you, called "Informed Delivery."

#5 Councilor Report

- Virginia Stapleton reported that the City received 111 applications for the Revenue Task Force. On this coming Monday they will select the participants and on Tuesday they will make the appointments.
- City Council's current priorities are: to sustain services, to engage the community, to look at affordable housing.
- Related to homelessness and affordable housing, there will be a report on homelessness coming out in February; and there is a volunteer outreach group, called SOS, that works with the Salem Police.
- The City is overhauling the boards and committees.
- One focus for the City will be safety, including addressing gun violence.
- On January 10, the Budget Committee will meet. Nick Beleiciks will be the new representative from our area to serve on the committee.
- A \$2.8 million grant is available for infrastructure. These are federal funds.
- Teresa Joslin inquired if the City and State could possibly convert the Dome Building into affordable housing. Virginia stated that the building is for sale; the cost of setting up affordable housing there is beyond what the City can currently afford.

#6 Grant Community School

- Art Luna is the Community School Outreach Coordinator who works with Grant School. His role is to assist in obtaining resources such as food, clothing, and assistance with utility bills for children and their families. He reported that to date they have received excellent support from the neighborhood individuals and organizations. There are many ways in which volunteers can assist, and the best way to register to volunteer is via the social media page for Grant School.
- Susan Napack inquired about how the Neighborhood Association/neighbors can best connect with parents to let them know about the Association, and to learn about the family needs. Art described

the Title 1 Night, at which a lot of the school's families attend to learn about the school and available resources. Title 1 is a socioeconomic status, which represents federal funds.

- Laura Herrmann described a bench on the park/school property, along Winter Street, that needs repair. Christopher Hackett offered to look at the bench to determine what was needed and if he or a team could fix it.
- It was asked if parents have expressed concerns about homeless individuals near the school. Art said that encounters have been very rare.
- Art explained that there used to be a strong Parent Club that faded out during COVID and needs to be reinstated. He said that there are some interested parents, but they do not know what needs to be done to re-establish the program. A meeting location will also be needed since the school cannot provide space. Sam Skillern offered that some individuals who were engaged in the Parent Club when their children were in the school may be able to assist with getting the program running again.
- There is a desire to organize a project to teach families and the community how to give back. This would, hopefully, create more engagement and more satisfaction in the outcomes.
- There is the potential to engage students in projects and in the Neighborhood Association. Family members of Grant students are welcome to attend Grant Neighborhood Association meetings.

#7 Board Member Reports

- Lola Hackett reported that the next series of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes have been scheduled. The series of 6 classes will begin on Thursday, February 22, and end on March 28. The final exercise for the class, which is a mock disaster drill, will be held on Saturday, March 30. All the training will take place at Fire Station #6, on 25th Street. CERT is a national program, and the purpose of the CERT program is to train people in each neighborhood to be able to help themselves and those nearby in case of a disaster when professional help may not be immediately available. The Salem CERT program reports to the Salem Fire Department. Anyone interested in participating in the next series of classes should please contact Lola. People interested in volunteering to be victims for the mock disaster drill should also contact Lola. The new Salem Emergency Manager, Joe Hutchinson, has offered to attend our February meeting to provide a brief explanation about the role of CERT in the community. Mark Decoursey made the motion that ***"We invite Joe to our February meeting."*** Susan Napack seconded the motion. The vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.
- Susan Napack suggested that we might want to prepare a flyer rather than a postcard for our next neighborhood communication about meetings, since the cost of the postcards would be in the range of \$800. Tim France said that he could find some support for approximately half of the cost the postcard mailings. Tim and Susan will talk about this opportunity. Susan also explained that she recently prepared a package for a new neighbor and said that she would be willing to assist with this for other new neighbors if we contact her. Teresa Joslin offered to outreach to new neighbors in her area. It was suggested that we begin holding a brief meet-and-greet before each GNA meeting, starting at 5:45, including a snack and at least the executive members of the board.
- We currently have no Land Use Chair. If you are interested in this position, please contact Marissa Theve or Sam Skillern.

- The North Neighbors CPT will be held at the Boys' and Girls' Club next Wednesday, starting at 11:30 am. This group meets every second Wednesday; if you are interested in participating, please contact Sam Skillern.

#8 GNA Bylaws Review, Article VI Officers & Officers' Duties

- Marissa Theve reviewed Article VI of the GNA Bylaws. She has received feedback from various board members regarding business transactions. It was noted that generally business is conducted at the meetings. On rare occasions, we are presented with something from the City that needs a decision before we are scheduled to meet again, and in these circumstances, an email vote may be necessary. Otherwise, between meetings, discussions may take place, but decisions that require a vote are not made. One challenge is abstentions, because they reduce the number of voters present and may affect the quorum, also posing a challenge if the vote is close. Marissa expects to remove the proxy section from the Bylaws.
- In Article VI, Marissa will include these officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Land Use Chair, Outreach Chair, and Treasurer. Having co-officers will be included. It was also discussed that officers may delegate some duties if necessary.
- We need to discuss whether we want to identify board officers in advance of the General Membership meeting and have them voted upon at the same time as the general membership votes on the board members or continue to vote on officers later.
- The next/final topics to be covered in the review are: Committees, Trust & Agency Account, and Changes in Bylaws.

#9 Other Business

- Marissa Theve reported that the agenda preparation will become the responsibility of the Co-Chairs. This might not happen immediately, but it is being planned.
- Next Monday, there will be a memorial service for the three pilots from Afghanistan who were recently killed in a plane crash. It was noted that their families are all still in Afghanistan.

Christopher Hackett made the motion that, ***"Since there was no additional business, the meeting be adjourned."*** Mark DeCoursey seconded the motion. The vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Lola Hackett