

Minutes

Called to order at 6:28pm

Chair Pamela Schmidling presiding

Board members present: Pamela Schmidling, Nathan Soltz, Mark Olson, Jenny Hiatt, Janet Bubl, Geoffrey James, Kurtis Smith, Sue Reid; online: Al Tocchini, Muriel Meyer, Alan Meyer; Liz Backer is excused

Correction to December minutes: Alan's question was about improving Reed Road at Battle Creek

The Fairview Park graphics from Rob and the slides from the Fairview Refinement Plan presentation were not sent to us; they will be appended to final minutes when received

**December minutes approved without objection**

Police Report: Officer Donner (online)

- Was on vacation and then got pulled away for other work, but should be back to regularly attending our meetings
- Did toy drive, which provided for 200 children, had influx of toys donated to SPD beyond that, took those out on patrol on days leading up to Christmas and gave out to children
- Mail theft: not rising, but a continuing problem in our area and surrounding communities; between August and Nov 1 of 2023, 560 reported cases of this to the post office, Salem PD received 69, only 22 were reported to both USPS and SPD; 69% were community clustering mailboxes, only 6% of those were broken into, others were done using a key; 52% of the reports were in South Salem, generally assumed it's most common at nighttime, though the time of day is not given; make sure you're collecting mail every night, a lot of mail thefts only reported to PD after identity theft is attempted or occurred; SPD can't do anything that the postal inspector can do, but they can map the numbers better to better allocate patrol time
- Kurtis: any of this about master keys from USPS being leaked? Officer Donner: maybe leaked out, maybe stolen, but master keys are usually the issue; it is hard to track down and hard to know if mail is being stolen that way for sure though
- Al Tocchini: has anybody been caught or are there any suspects? Officer Donner: police catch suspects from time to time, no individuals they are looking specifically at for this though, there aren't any specific players, and it's hard to have evidence for this; they can try stings or using door camera video, but often get rerouted for violent crime or other issues
- Shane Matthews (guest): could we put trailcams on some mailboxes? Officer Donner: PD has cameras set up in various places around the city, not typically to target mail theft; there's so many cameras in neighborhoods now, it's not that hard to get video, but need to know about it quickly
- Jenny: some neighbors have found piles of mail on Hillrose and they have returned the mail, should they tell police or good to just return it? Officer Donner: good to know about it, likely nothing to do with a follow-up, but helps to know for mapping, online reporting would be best
- Pam: how many officers do we have now? Officer Donner: around 180, 24 short of desired
- Officer Donner: over the last year, done a trial schedule for officers, trying to better deploy officers, wasn't as successful as expecting, so back to traditional 10-hour schedule; kind of hit or miss, had people who liked both; the 10-hour schedule helps with officer wellness; hired 20 new police officers in a year, record hiring, have lost about that many from retirement/attrition though

-Pam: are the 20 new officers on patrol or in training? Officer Donner: in training; it takes upwards of a year to actually get someone on patrol; some of the new hires were laterals (hired from another PD), so it takes less training; critical number on patrol is 80, bare minimum, but that is really nowhere near enough, pretty severely understaffed most days; peak times start at about 2pm, by 6pm had a "page of calls" when their screen is full and every officer is at a call; do a good job of figuring out which calls they need to go to and delegating officers accordingly

-Sue: do new officers ride for a while with veteran officers? Officer Donner: yes, they'll be with them for four phases of learning and finish in observing from a distance, pretty standard with agencies to do that

-Officer Donner: uptick in stolen cars from people defrosting their car, leaving the key in it; if you need to warm it up, be with it or get a remote start

-Shane Matthews (guest): there was a spot at Wickshire and Kinsington where someone was arrested as a suspect for murder, were they from that area? Officer Donner: just happened to be found in that area, did not live around there

-Jenny: sign up for USPS informed delivery! It also helps combat mail theft

#### City Councilor report: Trevor Phillips

-Pam: Councilor Phillips can't make it tonight as he is at a budget committee meeting

-Pam: is it possible to ask the budget committee not to hold meetings on Wednesday nights? Think it would be good to rotate the meeting nights

Last Thursday of every night there is no meeting

-Nathan: Revenue Task Force meeting dates announced last night, appointees to be determined

#### Committee reports

Traffic – Alan Meyer: regarding the motion requesting a 35 mph zone and no left-turns that passed last meeting, thought it would be appropriate to contact Faye Wright NA; spoke with Syliva Machado, their chair; they discussed the proposal at their neighborhood association meeting but didn't have quorum, but the board members and neighbors in attendance were supportive

Land Use – Geoff James: no new applications; city attorney has proposed amendment to council rules; the city attorney says if a neighborhood association gets excited about a project, they'll show up with several people to talk, and suggests changing rules to have only one person be allowed to speak; Geoff says if this is adopted, we would have to adapt so that we don't each say we are representing MNA, just that we are there as individuals who belong to the neighborhood association

-Kurtis: will the call-up rule change affect us too? Geoff: probably; Nathan: yes, probably, because Trevor has used that a lot for us

**Geoff James moves that we oppose the rules changes affecting call-ups and public testimony from boards/groups and that we send a letter to the city council to that extent; seconded; approved unanimously**

Parks – Muriel Meyer: sent in final application for 24-25 SPIF grant for future Fairview Park, noticed this grant had more information required than usual, one of the questions was how involved we were as a neighborhood association and all the things we've done as volunteers; Muriel listed all the things we did and thought it was good that they asked that; we will hear in April if we got it

CERT – Pamela Schmidling: nothing, still haven't heard from the new manager; Pam says she gets the impression the city has other ideas of what he should be doing as he is also the emergency manager

Liquor License Applications – Pamela Schmidling: none

Transit – Bob Krebs: absent; Pam following up with him to confirm his interest in continuing to serve

Communications – Jenny Hiatt: not much new, waiting to send newsletter until we get the slideshow from Zach with the Fairview development; will also add information about mail theft and USPS informed delivery; will fix Zoom link issue that came up tonight, glad to see it works though

-Alan Meyer: Zoom works better than thought it would, thanks and congratulations, would like room setup to change a little so everyone can be seen on camera

#### Hours

Jenny Hiatt: 10; Alan Meyer: 1; Muriel Meyer: 10; Geoffrey James: 1; Nathan Soltz: 3; Sue Reid: 1; Pamela Schmidling: 12

#### Announcements

-Geoff: about a month ago, city council held joint meeting with Marion and Polk Counties and SKPD at Anderson room at the library, it was all about the report on data about shootings in Salem; the key was they had a graphic with a map of Salem and the shooting locations highlighted; most of the shootings were in NE Salem, Morningside had none; SWAN also had none or almost none, we are a very safe neighborhood

-Shelly E. (guest): finished Salem citizen police academy, please apply; the questions we asked Officer Donner were all asked and addressed during the academy, please consider applying when they send out notice; met 6-9pm every Wednesday for 16 weeks, spent all Saturday one week at the shooting range, one at state police academy, one at situation simulation training; Shelly says she works for the city and learned a lot; had a lot of city staff members there, though it's really designed for the larger community, but it was about 50/50 city employees; one other neighborhood association was represented there; Alan says that he and Muriel did the first academy; Pam says she did too; Jenny will add the academy information to the newsletter; Shelly says they do it twice a year, had good turnout, and officers appreciate it

-Ben Fryback (guest): regarding the speed limit change on Commercial, wondering if there will be other changes too? It's hard getting police to enforce the speed limit right now; also, buffer bike lane project stops south of Madrona

-Kurtis: there's a city sidewalk in-fill project and would like to see our neighborhood get some of those resources;

-Ben: Medford has shovel-ready plans that were presented to their council that they can do as they get funding; would be nice to see physical changes to streets and a similar approach in Salem

-Kurtis: the city is looking at narrowing roads on McGilchrist and building bicycle lanes that are on the same level as sidewalks

-Geoff: asks if Ben would be willing to serve on a subcommittee to look into this and Kurtis could serve as chair, they both say yes

-Ben: city has no bike-ped oversight board, didn't look like anybody reviewing the plans road a bicycle;

-Janet: Madrona went through to Commercial in 1988, it was originally thought it would be a major bike thoroughfare

-Ben: says city council has made good choices but the engineering side seems to be where it has been lacking

-Geoff: Virginia Stapleton was reelected council president and she is the leader of Salem Bike Vision, they're doing some big projects that are city-funded, mostly central and north Salem, would like to see some of those come to south Salem; appreciate seeing that city council is supporting protected bike lanes

-Ben: ODOT is requesting for input on HWY 99E, doing a few improvements there

Adjourned at 7:30pm

*Respectfully submitted,*

APPROVED