

Minutes of **GRANT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

Board Meeting February 1, 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	P	TINA HANSEN	P	SAM SKILLERN	P
MARK DECOURSEY	P	LAURA HERRMANN	P	AARON TERPENING	P
TIM FRANCE	P	TERESA JOSLIN	P	MARISSA THEVE	P
CHRISTOPHER HACKETT	P	NICK MASELLI	P		

Others present: Jeff Williams, Anne Colao, Joe Hutchinson, Nick Beleiciks, Leigh Tracey-Gaynair, Ryan Erickson Kulas, Lynn Takata, Julie Hanson, Cynthia Kavanagh, Matthew Groat, Carolin VanOrdin, Scott Munford, Mira Karthik, JoAnn Kobel, and one child.

Christopher Hackett moved that ***“We approve the January minutes as submitted.”*** Tina Hanson seconded the motion. Vote was 13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

Christopher Hackett moved to ***“Amend the agenda to place Julie Hanson, Transportation Planning Manager with the Salem Public Works Department, on the agenda as Item 2-B.”*** Aaron Terpening seconded the motion. Vote was 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. (Tim France had stepped out of the room)

#2 Great Story from Grant

- Laura Herrmann said the she is getting new neighbors, as the four homes built, or restored, on the adjacent lot are complete.
- Lynn Takata was visiting from the Northeast Neighbors association (NEN) and wanted to invite us to participate in and/or attend NEN’s annual Englewood Forest Festival at Englewood Park that will be held on August 10th.
- Susan Napack reported that three Grant neighbors have been appointed to the City’s Revenue Task Force: Jean Palmateer, Ray Quisenberry, and Kaitlin Strathdee. Jean and Ray are past members of the GNA Executive Board.
- Neighbor Nick Beleiciks is serving on the City Budget Committee.
- Former GNA Executive Board member, Paul Tigan is now serving on the Planning Commission.

#2-B Front Street Transportation Study – Grant Application

Julie Hanson, Transportation Planning Manager with the Salem Public Works Department, was present to ask for the neighborhood’s support for the City’s application to the Federal Department of Transportation (DOT) for a grant. The grant, which does not require any matching dollars, would fund planning efforts (not construction costs) to resolve the conflicting uses on the Front Street right-of-way from South Street to Division Street. This is the extent where the railroad tracks are within the pavement area, which causes conflicts between the trains, cars, pedestrians, and bicycles. In the mid-1990s, this area was identified as a potential high density residential area, but the transportation system does not currently support that use. The city had a similar DOT grant for the planning needed for the McGilchrist Street improvements, which are currently under construction. The planning work will involve all affected parties and populations – railroad, neighborhood associations, bus system, pedestrians, property owners, etc. This is a nationwide grant program, so the odds are small that Salem will be successful. It took 7 tries to get the McGilchrist Street grant. The letter of support would show that the community is behind the proposal to find a solution to the conflicts in this area. A neighbor asked if the railroad would possibly be removed, since, for the most part, the abutting properties no longer use the rail service. Julie said no, the railroad extends much farther north and south and is an

active transportation line. We have to determine a way to deal with it. Aaron Terpening moved that we **“Write a letter of support from the Grant Neighborhood Association for the City of Salem’s grant application to the Federal Department of Transportation for planning funds.”** Susan Napack seconded the motion. The funds will be used to resolve the Front Street transportation conflicts. Vote was 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention. (Mark DeCoursey)

Leigh Tracey-Gaynair, the Highland Neighborhood board chair who was in attendance, invited Julie to reach out to their board for support, since the project is on their border.

#3 Neighbor Concerns

- Following up on a question from a recent GNA meeting, Laura Herrmann said that she has asked the School District what is going on with the missing Grant Community School sign and if it is being replaced. She has not received a reply yet, but will keep us posted.
- Scott Mumford asked if anyone had resource information for a homeowner that needed assistance with painting and roofing their house. Neighbors suggested contacting: Center 50+; Salem Alliance Church’s program *Love the City*; Nextdoor.com - an online community connection; and, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Program.
- Lynn Takata brought a concern that NEN has regarding the recent changes that limit the ability for neighborhood associations to request that a land use decision be called up by City Council.

#4 Emergency Response – Joe Hutchenson.

Joe Hutchinson started his service as the City of Salem Emergency Response Manager in June of 2023. His past experience was in corrections and emergency management. He is responsible for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program at the city. The first post-pandemic class just graduated in November, producing 23 new CERT members. The next session of classes will commence February 22nd and end with a practice drill on March 30th. Space is still available for anyone interested. Tina Hanson asked about emergency preparedness for apartment dwellers. Joe recommended that you get to know your fellow apartment neighbors and, also, the on-site or off-site management. You should know what management has in the way of emergency preparations. If either the apartment neighbors or management have questions, they can contact Joe. For yourself, he highly recommends a battery or solar powered generator. Mark DeCoursey asked about how a generator would work for an apartment dweller given its size. Joe said you can get a solar one that is about 12”x15”x8” that will provide an electrical plug-in and a phone charger port and will last for 8-12 hours on a single charge.

A child in attendance asked about the preparedness for an Electro-Magnetic Pulse. Joe replied that they have no experience with it, and it would probably be treated like any other power outage/surge.

#5 Officer Report

Salem Police Officer Matthew Groat was present and remarked that it has been a busy and violent week. There is an upcoming town hall meeting on gun violence sponsored by the Salem Reporter that will be held at the Elsinore Theater on Thursday, February 15th at 6:00 pm. (*Tickets are free through the newspaper’s website.*) The department is getting an analysis of Salem’s crime data that will be discussed in a series of community meetings beginning March 6th. The Marion County Sheriff’s Office, Marion County Juvenile Department and the District Attorney will also be involved with these meetings. Marissa Theve attended the last quarterly neighborhood chairs meeting where this was discussed. She cited some of the statistics that were presented regarding those involved in criminal acts that included: ages of victims and suspects, gender, housing status, previous or current involvement with the criminal justice system, gang affiliation, etc. Most of those involved have been in the system and those who are on supervised parole are less likely to offend. Gang affiliation is a high risk, but that group is relatively small in Salem.

#6 Councilor Report

Virginia Stapleton was not present due to meeting conflicts. Marissa Theve read her report.

I thought I'd reach out to you all and give a written update since I can't attend your meetings this month due to conflicting meetings. Since many of you watch or attend our Council meetings, I'll give you a look forward.

Upcoming motions:

- I will be making a motion at the Feb 12th meeting to direct staff to implement pedestrian lead times on all crossings in our downtown core and to commission a study on other opportunities to increase pedestrian and bicycle safety in that same area. The Downtown Urban Renewal Agency already dedicated \$200,000 towards this effort and my hope is that some of the safety measures will be in place by the busy summer months.
- At that same meeting Councilor Nishioka is planning on making a motion regarding the City's policies on public art. I know many of you will be interested in supporting that motion, as you know I am a huge supporter of finding ways to increase public art around the city and will be working alongside Councilor Nishioka to get this motion to pass.

Other news:

- The Revenue Task Force had their first meeting this week with many more to come. We will also have listening sessions and surveys which I hope many of you and others will participate in.
- Legislative session is kicking off soon and I'm hopeful we'll see meaningful work around measure 110 and payment in lieu of taxes.
- I recently joined the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance and look forward to the work that will be done there this year.
- Every Councilor is having small group meetings with City staff to talk about the future of our EMS services in the city. My meeting is later this month, and I will report back what I can next month.
- The Council has a retreat planned for the 24th of January. These are really important days where Council can work through trainings and work on personal growth. These are not open to the public and we do not talk about city business. In the past this is where we have done DEI training or reviewed our code of conduct/expectations.
- I am serving on a work group focused on Wallace Marine Park with Councilors Varney, Hoy and Gwyn. We have our second meeting later in January. This group is trying to find a way to conclude camping at the park without causing further harm or trauma to the folks living there now, nor a cascading negative impact to the surrounding areas. This is sensitive work that will take time and resources.

I did want to say that I was at the opening of Sequoia Crossings this week, it was amazing to be there and hear about all the ways that this work, the continuum of care, is working. Sequoia is 60 units that will pull from folks currently at temporary or emergency shelters, thus opening up beds in those locations to folks still on the street or in their cars. You can read more here: [What's that development on Broadway Street in Salem, Oregon? \(statesmanjournal.com\)](https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2024/01/11/sequoia-crossings-salem-oregon/7061237001/)

I hope you all have a wonderful month. Please let me know if you have questions. I'll see you all in March, if not before.

Marissa added some other information:

- There will be a Spanish language Resource Fair at Center 50+ on February 6th.
- Folks in Salem asked why their streets were not plowed during our snow-ice event in January. The streets had been plowed, but the plow blades have to be raised about 1-inch off the surface in order to not get caught on irregular surfaces or manhole lids.
- Avelo Airlines is celebrating. They have provided 56 flights, serving around 14,000 passengers.

#7 Highland Neighborhood Association

Leigh Tracey-Gaynair, Chair, and Ryan Erickson-Kulas, Secretary-Treasurer, were in attendance. They said that they have provided a mailer to their community with information about HNA. The goal being

to spark increased attendance, which is usually just the board and 1-3 neighbors. They were following GNAs communication example and commended it.

Ideas have been floated for collaborations between the HNA and GNA. Some suggestions are:

- Children's Clothes Swap at Center50+ sometime in March or April (need to get target age range);
- Earth Day Clean-up. Last summer it was on Saturday 9am-11am;
- Community Garage Sale Day. Publish a map of individual sites and, maybe, have a blocked off street at a central location for a communal area of sale, too. Last year's was June 8th and had 23 sites;
- Work on anti-violence issues and graffiti. Include HNA, GNA and NEN;
- Art installations along the Maple-Winter Bikeway;
- Have a NA group table at the Saturday Market;
- Join Salem Soup Squad.

#8 Board Member Reports

- CERT - Lola Hackett brought information about:
 - The class that starts Apr 19th will be in person. The disaster drill will be May 7th and anyone who would like to participate as a victim or observer is welcome. The classes and drill will be held at the airport Salem Fire Station #6, on 25th Street SE.
- Communications/Outreach – Susan Napack reported on:
 - She got information from Art Luna, the Grant CSOC, about the outdoor bench repair discussed last month. He confirmed that it is located on school property, so he is checking with the principal to see if we can volunteer to fix it. She told him that Christopher Hackett is an experienced carpenter/woodworker and is willing to work on, and oversee, the project.
 - Next month she will have designs for us to review of the informational postcard about GNA and our meetings. We will make a decision on the preferred choice.
 - Our Zoom account for our meetings needs to be renewed. The annual cost is \$149.99. Susan Napack moved that we ***“Authorize spending \$149.99 to renew our Zoom account for a 1-year period.”*** Tina Hanson seconded the motion. Vote was 13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. Laura Herrmann asked if there might be any way for Grant, Highland, and NEN to share a single Zoom account since we all meet on different days of the month. We concurred that it might be worth exploring.
- Land Use Updates – Marissa Theve and Sam Skillern reported on:
 - Truitt Bros Cannery site. They had a meeting with Trent Michaels about the proposal's updates. The soccer field is unlikely. The features will include: a mix of marketplaces; lawns; the oldest structure which might be a winery; a food hall for food trucks (similar to The Yard on east State Street); 2-story townhouses; and, multi-family housing. It has kind of a European streetscape historical look with mansard roofs, brick, and it is very open and friendly. The buildings are set back from the river so access to the river is available for residents, visitors, and the neighborhood community. The developer is very savvy and is incorporating light, the natural environment, landscaping, and solar into the design. Mark DeCoursey asked about their position that there will be no families in the living units. Marissa Theve said that the units will be market rate, meaning no low income, or subsidized housing, but she did not recall it being said that families would not be allowed. Aaron Terpening mentioned that it is not currently in an urban renewal district; the closest one being just to the south, across Mill Creek. This means they would not be asking for government funding, which would trigger certain housing requirements, such as income-based rents. He added that, any developer of private property can reach out to the neighborhood association. But, the association has no real power or influence, unless there is a request to the Planning Department for a change to a land use code requirement from what is allowed on the site. We will be inviting the developer to our Annual Meeting in May. Leigh Tracey-Gaynair, and Ryan Erickson-Kulas, from the Highland Neighborhood, asked to be invited to attend that meeting, so they can hear the presentation, too.

- Sam Skillern asked Jeff Williams if he had any information on the progress at the Evergreen Church/ DevNW project that is across the street from him. He said that, since their August start, they have been progressing non-stop with lots of workers. They are currently building an ADA ramp at the front doors. The north side windows have been replaced with ones that allow for emergency escape. They gutted the building and, basically built another building inside of it. A neighbor asked if it was still going to house veterans – the answer is yes. DevNW plans to host an open house once it is completed.
- North Neighborhoods CPT – Sam Skillern :
 - This group hosts a lunch meeting for folks from the North Salem High School feeder area, which includes the Grant, Highland, and Northeast Neighbors boundaries. It is for anyone who wants to come who is interested in, and cares about, the neighborhoods. It is on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and the location varies, so get ahold of Sam to find out where it is on any given month.

#9 GNA Bylaws Review – Articles: VII Committees and IX Changes in Bylaws

Marissa Theve presented the proposed edits, which are minimal to these two small sections.

For the committee section, it clarifies the members of committees can be from the general membership. It also allows any committee to select its chair and set its meeting schedule outside of the regular GNA meetings.

For the bylaws section, it clarified and simplified the publication notices to allow them to be either paper and/or electronic versions.

Susan Napack moved to “*Adjourn the meeting.*” Christopher Hackett seconded the motion. Vote was 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright