



Minutes of the Meeting  
Of  
Thursday, January 18th, 2024, via Zoom only

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

General Board Members present: Becca Strieper, Michael Hoselton, Joanne Barnhart, Randy Ray.

Absent with excuse: Jess Cruz, Community Liaison Chair; Don Jensen Land Use Chair; Pedro Mayoral, General Board Member.

City Personnel: Irma Coleman, City Community Liaison

Police Officer: Sgt. Jacob Pratt

Members: Eduardo Angulo

Guest Speakers: a. Chief Trevor Womack b) Jessica Blakely and Sarah Baldwin

The meeting began about 6:05 p.m. by zoom. Bayard asked each to introduce themselves.

**Update from Sgt. Jacob Pratt:**

Officer Sargent Pratt updated us on what happened last month. The policemen were involved in a toy drive to present toys to the children whose parents were not able to afford Christmas toys for them. They went to shelters and schools to give away presents to these children. It said it brought a lot of joy to them. It was all good and the officers enjoyed doing this too. He said there were left over toys, so they had a lot to give. On top of that, he proudly said they gave a homeless family a place to live. That made the officers feel good.

**First Guest Speaker: Chief Trevor Womack** had some surveys and showed slides of the outline of programs and what happens next. He referred to them as he described how gun violence is now a major problem factor in Salem more than anything else. He asked for the community to get engaged. When asked how, he said a. They must have general awareness of the problems of gun violence. b. Be engaged in problem solving. It is important to identify who might be engaging in this work in the most effective way. To develop a nonprofit who looks after 16–25-year age group. This age group has the highest risk for shootings and violence. When asked how they got the guns, the chief indicated usually they were stolen.

The chair asked the chief since the court shows how much higher crime rate is in NE Salem, are they going to have a higher percentage of police officers here. He said he is trying but he may have to lay off four positions due to budget cuts.

About a gang task force, the chief mentioned they are doing that anyway but called a gang group.

After the chair mentioned a problem about a judge who had a criminal case and since he didn't know the criminal's record, he let him go even though the criminal had a long record, Chief Womack said there should be more of a coordination made between judges and the police/prosecutors to be more effective.

One of the tell-tale signs for gang related territory is graffiti. Eduardo mentioned they ask officers to stop by schools and parks and continue building up relationships with children like at Fun Friday so that kids and police get to know one another and not as adversaries. Then Kaethe came up with Thank Law Enforcement Day.

**Second Guest Speaker: Jessica Blakely from Salem Housing Authority (SHA) with Sarah Baldwin** were the next guest speakers.

She said the concept began in February 2019, then she shared progress in 2021 by bringing in a plan to show us what SHA wished to build in Northgate. She was excited to tell us that now, they are in the final stages, ready for an open house on January 30th at 1 p.m.

She talked about the fact that windows of the residents all face the courtyard and not the other surrounding neighbors. She said most of the units are one-bedroom units except for four units which have two bedrooms. They have one community center. The idea they have is to bring nature to the residents by color and a landscaped courtyard. They have a natural play area for the kids.

Jessica mentioned that the residents who will be staying in these units are not straight from the street, living in tents. They lived in shelters for a while before they wanted to move on into improved conditions. There is a long waiting list of people who are waiting for admittance. They may bring a friend to stay for a little while but not to live. They do not allow people to come directly from the tents. Nor do they allow drugs, thereby they cannot be actively drugged. They need to stabilize somewhere else. The admitted people have all been tested for drugs and must be clean. When the chair asked what if they have mental issues or drug issues, Jessica responded by saying they need to get treatment until they can return or not. These residents can stay as long as they want so long as they follow the rules.

The apartment complex at 2950 Broadway St. N.E., which has 54 one-bedroom units and six two-bedroom units

The residents will have a case manager and site assistant available at all times. The positions are funded by the state at \$600,000 per year for the next 20 years.

Tenants will receive subsidized rent through housing vouchers or Permanent Supportive Housing rental assistance, with half coming from the housing authority and half from Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services. The age group is 18 and above.

Phyllis mentioned she really appreciated what they are doing.

Bill asked if there were children and Jessica said some have children. They allow pets as companions and have a special place for dogs to run.

Jessica referred to Sarah Baldwin to tell us what Sarah is doing. She said she is doing a lot.

Bayard asked the rest of us if there were any concerns to discuss. Since they had none, 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 7:35 p.m.

**The next board meeting will be February 15th, 2024.**

Note, on-line voting which always starts with Bayard calling for a vote and Kaethe makes a motion to start the vote. We have taken time off in December so any votes made in December will show in our January minutes.

- On December 3, 2023, voting took place, it was realized an important subject that should have been implemented into our October minutes was omitted. When Bayard asked the Mayor to help reduce the exorbitant permit fee for Northgate Wesleyan Church which is humanitarian and a nonprofit, the Mayor said No. Bayard called for a vote to revise our October Minutes. Kaethe made a motion to vote. This can only be voted by those who were present at the October meeting as they witnessed this. They were: Shirley, Jess, Becca; Randy, Bill and Kaethe.

Shirley seconded and voted yes. Other yes votes were from Jess, Randy, Bill, Becca, Shirley and Kaethe.
- On December 5, 2023, the November 2023 meeting minutes was approved. It was seconded and voted yes by Jess. Then followed Shirley, Randy, Phyllis, Joanne, Bill and Kaethe.
- On January 23, 2024, sending a group letter to City officials requesting the City to disperse homeless shelters to South and NW Salem, other than Northgate like they promised. We received a second and a yes vote from Shirley and Phyllis, yes votes from Bill, Becca, Jess and Kaethe.
- On January 25, 2024, sending a group email to Jose Gonzalez with a bcc to Hamadi Jackson (suggested by Michael) to ask what they will do to help Northgate after receiving a response to our group letter to City officials regarding enough homeless shelters placed in Northgate. Seconded and voted by Bill, followed by yes votes from Shirley, Don, Jess, Randy, Michael, Phyllis and Kaethe.
- A letter to city council as well as city officials suggesting that stores start putting their inventory of spray paint into locked cabinets to prevent minors and suspicious people from easily getting them at the stores.

On January 30, 2024, the letter was seconded and voted yes by both Shirley and Bill. Then, Pedro, Randy, Phyllis, Don and Kaethe.
- Michael abstained from voting saying he wants the contents of this same letter go to the state level. On 1/30/24, Bayard and Kaethe said the contents of this letter to be addressed to city, county and state unless someone objects by end of Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Without any objection, the said letter will be sent to City, County and State after January 31st, 2024.