

Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association
Minutes
February 15, 2023 7PM
Gathering Space
Liberty Christian Church

The meeting was called to order at 7PM by co chair Alan Alexander.

Minutes were approved as circulated.

Salem Police Officer - Kevin Hill

Community Violence Reduction Initiative collected data from the city of Salem and Marion County. Violent crimes are trending upward A consultant reviewed data, identified problems and made recommendations on how to attack the problems. You can find the information at

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/community/safety/police/building-trust-with-the-community/community-violence-reduction-initiative>

He reported that mail theft is on the rise and shared some statistics. A copy of the key to the group mailboxes is used in most of the thefts. Thefts occur mostly at night Many victims do not know their mail has been stolen until they get fraudulent charges. He encouraged neighbors to sign up for informed delivery, pick up their mail daily and report any mail theft. You should report theft to the Salem Postmaster, the US Postal Inspector General www.uspsaig.gov and the Salem Police Department You can call the non emergency number or do an online report <https://www.cityofsalem.net/community/safety/police/crime-and-other-police-reports/file-a-police-report> with no suspect. Please leave a time frame the police can call you to ask about the theft Mail theft is a state and federal crime. A neighbor asked about installing a small cluster of mailboxes. It was suggested they call the post office.

A neighbor mentioned speeding in school zones on Browning, Skyline and Liberty.

He was asked by a neighbor about an incident of a fight and glass throwing in the area of Camellia and Cunningham that was reported on a Facebook page she follows. He was not aware of the incident.

Councilor Vanessa Nordyke

She shared a powerpoint

The CASA Superhero fun run on Sunday June 2nd 11AM at Riverfront Park

The city council appointed the members of the Revenue Task Force on Monday evening and voted to eliminate 33 vacant positions including fire, police, SOS and library positions. Councilor Nordyke and Gwyn voted no, opposing certain cuts. The Council approved the installation of the traffic light on Liberty Road at Davis which is being paid for by infrastructure bond money and systems development funds. Alan Alexander reported that he received an email from Gary Mysak, traffic engineer program manager that he will attend our March meeting to report on the progress of the installation of the light. Linda Miller will email him with questions the neighborhood association would like him to include in his presentation. Neighbors would like to revisit safety issues on Browning with the lack of sidewalks including at school bus stops.

The Council approved \$135,000 for the acquisition of a van and some staffing for a Mobile Outreach Van that reaches out to the unsheltered with wound care services and other medical help that normally might send them to the emergency room. From February 1st - June 30th 2023 they served 417 people.

Sequoia Crossing, which is a supported, permanent housing complex, has opened with 60 affordable housing units for those who have been homeless. They are vetted and there is case management services on site. The Housing Authority used a variety of resources to fund the project and it took years to build. It is located off Broadway St.

She talked about the 3 micro shelter sites located in the city and managed by Church at the Park.

The city has entered into a memorandum of understanding to upgrade the baseball/softball fields at Bush Park. They will be adding artificial turf which will extend the playing season.

She reported that the Warming Network hosts hundreds during cold weather.

It was reported that the Navigation Center which is managed by the Community Action Agency had 33 exits to positive destinations. 73% of exits lead to positive destinations.

During our recent snow/ice event the city had 2 crews operating 24 hours per day. They put down 1,700 cubic feet of sand, spread 3,000 gallons of deicer over 3,000 miles of lanes

All affordable housing units are full

There is a bill in the state legislature to fund fire and police protection for all state buildings in Salem. This was introduced by former city councilor, Tom Anderson, and has bipartisan support. The state legislature in Washington State funds payment in lieu of taxes to the city of Olympia

The unpaved parking lot by the Minto Brown dog park will be paved. There will be some non native trees removed that will be replaced with appropriate native ones.

There is a proposal to turn the former Statesman Journal building downtown into community space with affordable housing on upper levels

Salem Parks Improvement Grants - Alan Alexander

Our most current grant request for Pickleball markings on the sports court at Sunnyslope Park was approved. The cost is \$5,000 and funded at \$4,000. The neighborhood association will need to find funding for an additional \$1,000. They also approved 2 seasonal gaga ball pits for both Sunnyslope (if a suitable spot can be found) and Secor Park with the neighborhood association funding \$500 of the cost. The seasonal gaga ball pits cost \$750 each. Alan will ask for a grant from the Salem Parks Foundation for the \$1,500 needed.

A neighbor mentioned that the sports court at Sunnyslope Park is in bad condition and was concerned about how the pickleball lines would be laid out. He shared examples from other Salem Parks

Alan was asked about the shade structure for the playground equipment at Secor Park that was approved last year for \$7,000 and now is expected to cost \$17,000. The parks department is looking for additional funding for the project including projects that came in under budget and projects not completed.

Land Use - Henry Neugass, Land Use Chair

The empty field across from Kaiser Permanente along Kuebler Blvd. is now posted No Trespassing. It is owned by the CEO of a health organization and he could discover no plans for development.

The application for development of the property at the corner of Cunningham and Kurth is still incomplete.

Henry attempted to speak with the developer of the property at Kurth and Browning who is located in Portland. He was hesitant to speak with Henry. The developer was not sure how they were going to sell units. There appears to be an access via a cul de sac at the end of Mesa. It is not clear where a 2nd access to the property will be. The developer is required to notify all neighbors living within 250 feet of the property as well as the neighborhood association.

He also said there is a plan in the city council to stop councilors from calling up land use issues for council review.

Alan reported that he just received information about a 150 proposed multi family development at 5871 Liberty Road S that is still before the planning commission

Jackie Leung - South Gateway Neighborhood Association Co Chair

She shared the goal of working with the Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association to have a family friendly scavenger hunt during Spring Break 2025 with a passport being picked up at participating businesses or downloaded. Neighbors would get stamps from participating businesses and the opportunity to visit certain areas and find certain things. There would be the opportunity to win small prizes and to get to know neighbors and neighborhoods.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 18th 7PM and the neighborhood association has permission to meet again in the Gathering Space at Liberty Christian Church with Bruce and Linda Miller hosting the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Miller
Secretary

Those in attendance:

Alan Alexander
Sally Cook
Bruce & Linda Miller
Henry Neugass
Gary Knighten
Councilor Nordyke
Councilor Gwyn
Officer Kevin Hill
Tom O'Bayley & son
Rex Miller
Elena Guevara
Michele Paulsen
Lisa Geirmo
Jeanne St, Pierre
Jackie Leung

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