



## NESCA MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2024

**1. Welcome, Introductions, Announcements, Approval of Consent and Minutes:** Chair Stacey Vieyra-Braendle opened the ZOOM meeting at 7 PM. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

### 2. Approval of Consent Agenda

#### a. January meeting minutes

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda and the January meeting minutes as provided via email. Motion carried.

#### b. Committee Reports

- |                         |                      |                 |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| • Land Use/North Campus | <i>Ian Johnson</i>   | No report       |
| • Transportation        | <i>Mai Vang</i>      | Report attached |
| • Parks                 | <i>Mike Beringer</i> | No report       |
| • Hoover School Liaison | <i>Teri Lupoli</i>   | No report       |
| • Watershed             | <i>Gary Pullman</i>  | No report       |

### 3. Salem Police Officer Report: Sgt. Erick Hernandez

- Lately officers have been responding to a lot of accidents. The number is way up and out of the ordinary. There have also been quite a few pedestrian accidents. Sgt. Hernandez believes there are various contributing factors for this, including weather, darkness, speed, and inattention.
- Recent speed stings in the last two or three months have had some success.
- Criminal activity is more located downtown, with car break-ins currently being the main issue. There are usually more car break-ins during the winter due to the longer dark hours.
- Regarding the recent shooting at the Fred Meyer parking lot: The primary suspects have been identified and are in custody. One suspect is still in the hospital with a guard for his safety (from possible retribution) and to ensure he stays in custody. He will be there until there is appropriate follow-up care available at the Marion County jail.
- Drug activity in the north parking lot near Yaquina Hall was mentioned. He had heard about this previously. SPD has suggested private security for the area. He will let his crew know of the neighborhood concerns about active drug use and sales that may be happening.
- Redlight running is out of control in Salem. Sgt. Hernandez was provided with several intersections in the area that seem to be especially bad.
  - Sgt. Hernandez doesn't know why there are so many infractions, but lack of enforcement resources is one possible reason.
  - In response to a question about specific locations, Sgt. Hernandez was told of several intersections that have problems. He will pass along our concerns to the traffic team, letting them know that there are problems all the time, but the infractions seem especially bad during hours when students are going to/from school.

- Sgt. Hernandez is unaware of hard data on why the redlight running has surged. He feels the pandemic did not help as during that time officers were told not to stop for simple traffic issues to eliminate close contact. Also, personnel levels were often low. The word apparently got out that Salem PD was not doing traffic stops which then led to people thinking that the laws were not important, increasing redlight runners and additional speeding issues. SPD is trying to get back to where they were before with their traffic teams. There may be some data available and, if so, he will get back to us with anything he learns.
- A suspect has been arrested in the homicide of a young man who was found dead in a car at Evergreen and D. It took about a month to tie the crime to an individual. The suspect was not 18, but they followed him for about two weeks and then were able to arrest him. He has since turned 18 and will be tried as an adult. The shooting was gang-related and was over turf.

#### **4. City Councilors' Report:**

Councilors were not able to attend this evening as they had another meeting this evening. They were unable to meet last night due to the Monday holiday.

#### **5. Guest Speaker(s): Elizabeth Thorley, City of Salem Public Works**

##### **Brain Banta, City of Salem Engineering Manager, Transportation Group**

- **Pedestrian safety improvement projects:**
  - New pedestrian crossing on Lancaster Drive at Manor Drive NE (near Weathers St NE). It is a part of a federally funded project that also includes crossings on State Street and River Road North. It was recommended in the 2018 the City Pedestrian Safety Study. This location has high traffic volume, speed, aggressive driving, high pedestrian volume, long distances between crosswalks, and poor lighting on the west side of the street. Historical auto/pedestrian crash data showed two accidents at this intersection since 2017, so it is hoped this will improve pedestrian safety. The proposal will include crosswalk striping, a pedestrian refuge island with landscaping, and a flashing beacon. New ADA ramps will be added as well as a new streetlight on the west side. They are currently installing one on Lancaster Dr. near Watson and Glendale (near Walmart).
  - Overview of the project:
    - Schedule – Entering easement acquisition phase currently, design has reached the 60% milestone, and they expect to begin construction in 2025. When it begins, there will be day and night work. There will not be any detours for traffic, but there will be for pedestrians.

Liz will let NESCA know when they are entering the construction phase of any of these projects

- Questions:
  - Who will be maintaining the landscaping and how tall will it be?
    - The City will maintain the plantings which will be low-lying shrubbery.
  - Will the flashing light be continuous or on demand when someone is crossing?
    - This will be push-button trigger for pedestrians to use when crossing.
  - Will there be new signage showing the change in the traffic pattern?
    - Yes.
  - Where on State Street and River Road will the other crossings be installed?
    - State and 21<sup>st</sup>.
    - River Road North near Fred Meyer.
  - Any further information about a crossing on Market Street?
    - There are crossings scheduled for Market and 19<sup>th</sup> and Market and 15<sup>th</sup>.
    - She will check on the crossing between Park and Lansing that was previously presented to NESCA.
  - With the increase in vehicle and pedestrian traffic due to The Jory apartments and the Delta Winds homes, there is a significant need for a crosswalk on D Street between 23<sup>rd</sup> and Park Avenue. Liz will send information to the Transportation Group for us. Brian suggested using the website (link posted below) which would be the correct way to provide information about desired projects.

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/shaping-salem-s-future/safety-and-livability-bond/safety-and-livability-bond-pedestrian-project-request>

The Fact Sheet for this and the other projects mentioned, along with the diagram of the planned Lancaster/Manor Street improvement, will be distributed as attachments to these minutes.

## 6. Other Business: Old Business

- Coffee and donuts at The Jory. 9 AM, Saturday, 2/24.
- Stacey mentioned meeting with Maddison, Assistant Manager at The Jory. They are very open to NESCA using the Community Center for our meetings as well as the Open House we are considering.
- The April NESCA meeting will be a hybrid in-person/ZOOM meeting in the community center at The Jory. It was previously announced that hybrid-in person meetings would begin in March, but Stacey will be out of town in March, so it is being pushed out for a month.
  - Ian has agreed to tech set up whenever he is in town.
- Open House
  - Discussions have been held about having an open house at The Jory for the residents there, but also for anyone in the neighborhood who would like to attend. We would like to invite the Mayor, our City Councilors, as well as other city service groups (public works, code enforcement, and others). We are currently waiting to hear back about the availability of the Mayor and Councilors and then we can go forward with additional planning. If there are other ideas on who to invite or would like to be involved in the planning, please let Stacey, Marilyn, or Teri know. We will need help with the outreach portion, going door-to-door, door hangers, etc. Maddie (Assistant Manager at The Jory) will send out the information to her tenants in a blast email when we get everything organized.
    - It will be important to have translators (Russian and Spanish) available.

## 6. Other Business: New Business

- Salem Parks Foundation grant request: If NESCA plans to submit a grant request for anything for the D Street Park, it will need to be completed soon as it must be submitted in April. It was suggested that Salem Parks should be contacted to determine what might be done that would fit with their planning.
  - Ian suggested that if we can determine possible projects and can get the timing right with the open house at The Jory, we might share these with those attending and ask for their opinions on which they would prefer for the neighborhood.
  - We need to ask City Parks group what projects they would support for the D Street park.
- Kiosk information
  - Marilyn puts information on the kiosk and then others take it down. She is wondering if we might get a sign to put up that says something about leaving the flyers but taking a picture of any items of interest.
- The Geer Park kiosk in the main parking lot was hit by a car and damaged enough it had to be removed. Mike has a call to Rob Romanek (Parks Planner) to determine if the City is going to replace it with their funds or if they are expecting us to do it. Mike will let us know what he finds out.
- Street cleaning, which provides funds into our communication funds, is to be done quarterly. This needs to be started soon so **someone needs to step forward and take responsibility.**
- More NESCA refrigerator magnets need to be ordered from Irma. They are paid for by our communication funds.
- Marilyn reported she ordered a NESCA banner from Irma, also from our communication funds.
- The old sandwich boards used to announce meetings need to be updated. They still show the meetings are held at Fresh Start Market. Irma will be contacted about what needs to be done to get the new meeting site information on them.

## 7. Discussion/Questions/Comments

- None