



## MEETING MINUTES

---

Thursday, February 8, 2024, 6:30 pm  
North Neighbors Resource Center  
945 Columbia St NE, Salem

### **Present:**

#### Executive Committee Members

Leigh Tracey-Gaynair, Chair  
Ryan Erickson-Kulas, Secretary & Treasurer

Heather Ames, Member At Large

#### Guest/Association Members

Sarah Vick  
Celine Coleman  
Rick Kokel  
Rob Romanek, Parks Planning Manager, City of Salem  
Tracy White  
Cathy Hornaday  
Dr. Irving Brown  
Virginia Stapleton- Ward 1 Councilor

Hamadi Jackson  
Duncan Beevers  
Ana Brown  
Rick Brown  
Theodore Corgini Greenbaum  
Savanah Swaray  
Daniel K Swaray  
Brandon Gould- Salem PD

### **Minutes**

1. Motion to Amend Agenda to Allow all Candidates Present for Elected Office to Speak
  - a. **Motion:** Leigh Tracey-Gaynair
  - b. **2nd:** Rick Kokel
  - c. **Vote:** Unanimously Passed
2. Introductions
3. Highlights from Highland Neighbors
  - a. Love the LED street lights
  - b. Great seeing stumps being grounded down post ice storm for new trees
  - c. A gang intervention project is launching
  - d. Fantastic to see so many people attending the meeting today
  - e. New Highland Park equipment installed!
4. Approval of Minutes
  - a. **Motion:** Ryan Erickson-Kulas
  - b. **2nd:** Leigh Tracey-Gaynair
  - c. **Vote:** Unanimously Passed
5. Reports/Updates
  - a. Salem Police Officer
    - Community Violence Response Initiative has launched
      - Community input meetings upcoming end of Feb and beginning of March
    - Instances of mail theft via personal and community mailboxes
      - Recommend locking mailboxes, report mail theft, collect mail every day
    - Can always be reached at [bgould@cityofsalem.net](mailto:bgould@cityofsalem.net)
  - b. City Councilor(s)
    - Looking to do a study on downtown traffic flow; first since 1997; goal to increase pedestrian safety; part of Vision Zero
      - Downtown urban renewal is funding the study

- Hoping to make it easier for public art in the city as there is a lot of red tape now
- Revenue task force launched; hoping to have recommendations at the end of summer
- Payment in lieu of taxes from state a focus of the legislative cycle
- Council retreat later this month
- Gun violence town hall next week
- Sequoia Crossing opened and 6 tenants moved in this week.
- City council rules update
  - Developers get 15 min, 5 min for NA and then 3 for everyone after
  - Limited amount of call ups and remove items that council has no legal basis; can still go to planning commission and land use board of appeals;

## 6. Guest Presentation

### a. Rob Romanek, Parks Planning Manager

- Upgrades to the River Road Park tennis/pickleball court are coming via the 2022 \$300m bond
- Tennis courts will be improved at River Road Park this summer
- Survey will be sent out around the project and more broadly how to improve the park
- Tennis court will be resurfaced
- Currently there is no lighting on the court and only lighting in the parking area
- Will do lighting study and likely replace 6 lights with 4 LED with light pollution shielding
- Replacing tennis nets, anchor straps, and hardware
- Plan to paint pickleball lines but still pending survey
- Summer 2025 targeted Highland Park tennis courts with lights too

### b. Ward 5, Ward 1, and Mayoral Candidate Forum for those that reached out to HNA and attended the meeting including:

- Hamadi Jackson, Ward 5 Councilor Candidate
- Michael Hoselton, Ward 5 Councilor Candidate
- Celine Coleman, Ward 1 Councilor Candidate
- Virginia Stapleton, Ward 1 Councilor Candidate
- Julie Hoy, Mayoral Candidates

### c. Highland NA Board/Committee Chairs Updates

- Quarterly Chairs Meeting Recap
- Postcard Mailing- 2,571 postcards went out
- Heritage Committee Report
  - Discussion of having residents opt in vs opt out of photos being included in the brochure
  - **Motion to amend earlier HNA decision. This vote would give residents the ability to opt out of inclusion in the brochure after receiving the letter and would remove the requirement to opt in to photo inclusion in the brochure:** Leigh Tracey-Gaynair
  - **2nd:** Heather Ames
  - **In Favor: 13**
  - **Opposed: 1**
  - **Motion Passes**
- Clean Up Crew- January outing canceled due to weather but targeting April near Earth Day
- Spring Kids Clothing Swap Event
  - We are a GO! for the event, March 30, 10-12 at Center 50+, the same room we were in for the gift drive.
  - Chemeketa and City Neighborhood services will be tabling and handing out swag. Irma mentioned getting reusable bags printed to share at the event.
  - Helping Hands has also been invited to table. They will be accepting anything left after the event.
  - Center 50+ is accepting clothing donations in advance of the event
  - Ryan Erickson-Kulas can also accept clothing donations if they are brought to the next HNA meeting
  - The initial post on Facebook got 1.7k views -which is huge for us. Most posts don't get more than 100 or so.
  - We will need volunteers to help sort clothes, and help regulate the line. We will need to make sure only a certain number of people are let into the swap area at a given time.

- We'd need volunteers to:
  - Sort clothing by size (about 5-6 volunteers)
  - Manage lines if there's a big turnout.
- Materials needed:
  - Gloves to sort clothes
  - Tables (from Center 50+)
  - Boxes/reusable bags for people to fill and take home
  - Garbage bags to transport any leftover clothing to designated community organization accepting donations

d. General Board Updates- N/A

7. Neighborhood Concerns

- a. Discussion of light pollution which can be reported to the city
- b. Garage can and garbage were dumped near school near Columbia street
- c. Loud helicopters over the past 6 months

8. Land Use- N/A

\*Next monthly meeting: March 14, 2024

**Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to get connected and stay informed!**

<https://www.facebook.com/highland.neighbors.salem>

<https://instagram.com/highland.neighbors.salem>