



## NESCA MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2024

**1. Welcome, Introductions, Announcements, Approval of Minutes:** Chair Stacey Vieyra-Braendle is currently at a conference in Florida. Vice-Chair Marilyn Moritz opened the ZOOM meeting at 7 PM. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

#### a. February meeting minutes

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

#### b. Committee Reports

- Land Use/North Campus *Ian Johnson* Report attached
- Transportation *Mai Vang* Report attached
  - Marilyn thanked Mai for the well-done report she submitted. Mai said this is why she joined NESCA, to get some of our concern addressed.
- Hoover School Liaison *Teri Lupoli* No report
- Watershed *Gary Pullman* No report

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

Traffic Concerns discussed at the February meeting, specifically at Summer/D and Capital/Market:

- Speeding/running red lights.
  - Focused enforcement but it was difficult to watch due to the one-way streets. He reached out to the Traffic Team who have various traffic control devices. The two-cable devices, usually placed on either side of an intersection, monitor the number of cars passing. Sgt. Hernandez would like to find out if they can also time them with the stop lights to determine the number of cars running through the lights. If it is found there are a lot of red-light violations at those intersections, they might be able to add red light photo cameras. Sgt. Hernandez is aware there are a lot of accidents in those areas, and if good data can be obtained, we might be able to ask for the cameras.
    - Question: Do the cables register when bicycles cross over them?
      - Cables are set up to register standard passenger vehicles.
- Bush Park Shooting
  - SPD is still receiving a lot of anonymous tips regarding potential retaliation, etc. SPD takes all tips very seriously and they go through the threat assessment program. They are making a point of visiting the schools, checking around the parking lots, and keeping in contact with school administrators.
  - Councilor Nishioka mentioned the SCAN meeting where about 150 people attended to discuss this event. She thanked the SPD and the S-K superintendent who were there. There was mention of the lack of school resource officers, which may have been helpful. The City and SPD do not have the capability to add those as that would have to be through the school district's budget and, of course, they do not

have the funds at this time. There is discussion about adding metal detectors at the school entrances which may reduce some issues.

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

- Emergency Medical Services:
  - The Salem Fire Department brought a new program to the Council for consideration which would be to change from contracted services with Falck and bring it back to SFD. There was a consultant who reviewed data and pointed out that we have a huge portion of residents who are with Medicare and Medicaid. With an aging population in Salem, there are a lot of medical calls. Not all calls are life threatening, but still a lot of calls are for medical needs. Falck is only a medical transport and does not provide EMT care. It is expected that by bringing these services back into the FD department, it will improve the timing so people can receive medical help and services sooner. There were almost 4,000 calls that Falck either did not get to in time or did not get there at all. That is clearly a problem. Having it in the fire department will improve call time. There is also work being done with the Call Center to improve the format used when asking questions to determine if the situation is a minor or major medical event. It will be a more efficient system and improve timing.
    - The Chamber was concerned that they had not had adequate time to review the information. They had a positive meeting with the City Manager and the Fire Department.
- Budget Committee Meetings:
  - There was a meeting last week and two additional meetings have been added. Linda feels this will be helpful as it allows each department more time to dig in a bit deeper into the needs, requirements, and issues. There are some new people on the budget committee and that has also helped.
- Revenue Task Force:
  - They are getting their standards, what to prioritize, and what information is needed to understand the situation. Linda watched their recent meetings and feels positive that they will be able to bring something forward to the Council. Whether it is a single thing or a group of possibilities, she does not know and is not sure the Task Force knows that yet either. See link below for the task force.
- “Dark Skies”
  - Linda and Councilor Stapleton went to the “Dark Skies” tourism learning program. They both actively want to improve reduced lighting, trying to improve to be more welcoming to migrating and night-time wildlife. Oregon now has the largest “dark skies” area than any other state, which is hugely significant.
- Community Violence:
  - There is a new consultant working on mechanisms for the “Community Violence Reduction Initiative.” She encourages everyone to attend the meetings. The goal is to get youth into programs that will keep them from getting into dangerous situations.

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/boards-commissions/other-advisory-groups/2024-revenue-task-force>

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

- “Dark Skies”:
  - An amazing tidbit to add. The sanctuary was just granted and is 2.5m acres in SE Oregon and is the largest in THE WORLD.
- Revenue Task Force:
  - Three community meetings are coming up where people can participate.
    - April 10<sup>th</sup> South Salem
    - April 16<sup>th</sup> Virtual
    - April 23<sup>rd</sup> North Salem
      - Go online to the City of Salem website for more information.
- State of the City Address:
  - Wednesday, March 20 at noon. CCTV and the City’s YouTube channel.
- Transportation System Plan Advisory Committee:

- Virginia is working with Mayor Chris Hoy and Councilor Micki Varney (Ward 8) on regional planning. Included in the planning will be City of Salem, City of Keizer, Cherriots, and Marion County who will work on a plan together to help address the climate crisis through our transportation systems. Everyone will need to come to an agreement on the plan, hopefully within the next 9-12 months. Once this is accomplished, the City can kick off the Salem Transportation System Plan update by looking at our plan and our design and adopting the new one.
- SKAT Safety Action Plan:
  - Virginia also serves on this committee, and they will be having a meeting this week. A lot of transportation safety plans are in the works.
- Concerns at Lee Mission Cemetery and Englewood Park:
  - The young man killed at Bush Park and the one who died at Englewood Park were both buried at Lee Mission Cemetery. There have been concerns expressed about gang retaliations at the cemetery and the park. The SPD Chief, Mayor, City Manager, and Virginia are all involved in conversations about this. She wanted to bring that concern to us so everyone will know they are aware of the concerns and are trying to help as much as possible.
- Homeless Camps:
  - Hawthorne between Market Street and Sunnyview and one next to the American Red Cross building that is getting larger. She will see if she can get the SOS team out there to help.

Question:

- Regarding the change to Salem Fire, adding ambulance services back into the department and the involvement of the Chamber. Was the Chamber there during the regular comment period or what was their purpose?
  - They wrote a letter to the City and said that the City did not ask them for their input, which is not a usual practice. As Falck is a business and a member of the Chamber, it is assumed they were there to protect the interest of one of their members.
- Regarding homeless camping: It has been noticed there is more camping happening around Cascades Gateway Park again. Linda mentioned that Corey Poole of SEMCA reports all the time. Also, regarding the issues in the parking lot at Coastal Farm Supply, SPD is trying to get all the businesses at that location to coordinate and hire a single security system so they can post No Trespassing signs. Previously it was only in one area.
- What happens to Falck if the change is made?
  - They would no longer have a contract with the City and so would no longer be providing any services.
    - It is hoped that some of the EMTs who live here will apply with SFD.
  - Will the City have to buy all new ambulances?
    - Yes, but there is a grant for three or four. The city will need to buy enough more to have a total of seven. However, the new firetrucks will be here soon and SFD is hoping to be able to sell the older trucks, using funds from those sales to help with the purchase of the new ambulances. It does not appear there will be a huge expenditure for the new ambulances, if any at all.

**5. Guest Speaker: Chris Wolfe, City of Salem Code Enforcement Officer**

With the nice weather, the workload for Code Enforcement will become busier. When there are more people out and weeds and grasses getting taller, there are always more calls. Currently there are five officers to handle the whole city. There is a new hire who is still in training, working with smaller violations. One of the officers has been removed from regular rotation and is working directly with Building & Safety, addressing house fires, building safety, etc. There are two multi-family inspectors who work with apartments, shelters, etc. Officer Wolfe does not anticipate losing any staff with budget cuts.

Questions/comments: Marilyn thanked Chris for so quickly taking care of the situation on 24<sup>th</sup> near Market that she reported.

Officer Wolfe reported that he has been busy working on several larger projects, the biggest being a house that is just outside of NESCA (behind the 7-11 on Market/17<sup>th</sup>) that had an RV and boat in the back. The house has been cleaned up and is now being sold. Virginia mentioned she had been going to ask him about this property and thanked him for

getting it improved. Chris mentioned that the person who bought that property (and who now has it for sale) also bought the property on D Street (across from the mall) that is near McDonalds. Dumpsters have been there, and more work is in process.

Chris mentioned that since there is a lot of overlap between Code Enforcement and SPD regarding the homeless and encampments, he is including the links for reporting to Code Enforcement and then also one specifically for the camps. That link will go directly to Salem PD.

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/community/neighborhoods/report-concerns/code-enforcement>

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/shaping-salem-s-future/housing-shelter/help-with-problem-properties/report-concerns-about-homelessness#:~:text=Call%20the%20non%2Demergency%20police,at%20503%2D588%2D6123>.

#### Comments:

- Mike Beringer thanked Chris for the work that has been done in their neighborhood near Geer Park. He said it is amazing!
- Marilyn had heard there is only one person doing graffiti clean-up for the whole city and questioned if this is accurate.
  - Virginia said that currently there are two positions, but it is hard to keep someone in that position. She is not sure if that second position will be cut in this current round of budget cuts but thinks it might be.
- Did Salem get any funding from the Legislature as was requested?
  - No. Tom Andersen's bill did not get out of committee. Mayor Hoy is negotiating with the State for the use of one lane of State Street as it goes by the Capitol. They need a lane for additional security, so they are going to basically "rent" a lane from the City for a couple million dollars a year. That money would go into the General Fund.
- Marilyn welcomed Amador Aguilar. He let everyone know that he had several young people in the studio with him who were listening to this meeting. These young people are working with their parents as the language barrier is what keeps them from more participation in the NA meetings. There are two businesses who are working with EnLace and are close to the NESCA neighborhood who will be working on how to connect with our group. Amador said these young people are learning what is happening in the city by listening to the meetings and hearing the reports from SPD, the Councilors, and Code Enforcement. They are key to helping their parents become more involved with community projects.
  - There are two sites in Northgate who will be hosting Make Music Day with several different groups.
  - EnLace is planning a Cinco de Mayo celebration which will be an inside event in Northgate.
  - ZOOM is good, but they need to increase technology capabilities for their communities. In person is also good. Amador feels that between events and meetings, confidence and participation can be increased with people coming together and learning more about each other.

#### 6. Other Business: Old Business

- Open House
  - Marilyn announced that NESCA will be doing an open house at The Jory at the end of April. We will be inviting the Mayor, Councilors, various organizations (Salem Harvest, Make Music Day, etc.). We plan to have Spanish and Russian interpreters available.
- Salem Parks Foundation
  - Grant decision is pending.

#### 6. Other Business: New Business

- None

#### 7. Discussion/Questions/Comments

- Marilyn asked if anyone would be interested in having the two candidates for Virginia's City Council position as guests at a NESCA meeting. After a quick poll of the NESCA board, it was decided to extend the invitation. Virginia offered to help with connections to the two individuals and will provide their contact information to Stacey.

There being no further business and no announcements, Marilyn thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was then adjourned. **The next scheduled NESCA meeting will be a hybrid meeting, in-person at The Jory Community Center and via ZOOM, on April 16th at 7 PM. The ZOOM meeting link will be provided to those on the NESCA email distribution list prior to the meeting.** The ZOOM link is also available on the City website: [association/north-east-salem-community-association-nesca](http://association/north-east-salem-community-association-nesca)

Transcribed from ZOOM recording.

Attending:

Marilyn Moritz\*, Lynn Cardiff\*, Mai Vang\*, Gary Pullman\*, Mike Beringer\*, Ian Johnson, Annie O'Rourke, Amador Aguilar, Sgt. Erick Hernandez Salem Police Department, Linda Nishioka Ward 2 City Councilor City of Salem, Virginia Stapleton Ward 1 City Councilor City of Salem, Chris Wolfe Code Enforcement Office City of Salem, Irma Coleman Neighborhood Association Coordinator City of Salem,

\*NESCA Board Members

- **Other Website Information:**

- To report homeless camping: <https://form.cityofsalem.net/s3/homeless-camping-complaint>
- To Contact the SOS Team: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Home/Components/News/News/399/>
- To report homeless concerns: <https://www.cityofsalemn.net/government/shaping-salem-s-future/housing-shelter/help-with-problem-properties/report/concerns-about-homelessness>
- To sign up for weekly updates regarding homeless: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/tracking-progress-on-homelessness-efforts.aspx>
- To report graffiti: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-graffiti.aspx>
  - [503-371-4262 Graffiti Response team](https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-graffiti.aspx)
- The link for the crime statistics: [www.cityofsalem.net/crime-stats](http://www.cityofsalem.net/crime-stats)