



Minutes of the Meeting
Of
Thursday, February 15th, 2024, via Zoom only

Executive Board Members Present: Bayard Mentrum, Chair; Shirley Robertson, Treasurer; Jess Cruz, Community Liaison Chair; Kaethe Mentrum, Secretary/Park Chair.

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

Absent with excuse: Don Jensen Land Use Chair; Pedro Mayoral. Phyllis Abbott-Cavota, Vice Chair; Becca Strieper

City Personnel: Gretchen Bennett, City Advocate for the Homeless

Police Officers: Sgt. Jacob Pratt; Sean Bennett; Kevin Ramirez

Guest Speakers: a. Scott Archer, Deputy City Manager b. Kevin Hottmann, City Traffic Engineer c. DJ Vincent, Chair of Church @The Park

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 another shooting in the neighborhood.

Officer Sean Bennett said they were going to have a reduced staff and they lost one abatement person who got married and had a baby. They are not going to replace her any time soon. Kaethe asked him about the dog that was killed on the property that Mr. Patel manages on Fisher Road but he did not know anything about it.

First Guest Speaker: Scott Archer: He brought up budget cuts including police, library hour cuts, park maintenance and services cuts for starters. They are looking at all kinds of other things to cut.

He brought up the tree availability for planting by volunteers. They want to plant more trees in the neighborhood and there is a log in site online on the tree planting list and you can add your name in to get a tree.

Bayard brought up most of the streets have curb tight sidewalks so there is no planter strips to add trees. He asked what to do about that? Scott looked it up and said the city permits trees on private property if there are no places to plant next to the street. Then Bayard started with the questions:

1. About the document Scott sent re the city has no say in where shelters go and it's up to the state. Bayard asked him when he read it, it looks like that document is only re emergency shelters. So, what about permanent, long term shelters? To that, Scott answered he did not know and will look it up and let Bayard know.
2. Bayard asked him why isn't the city selling some of the vacant, unused properties to pay off the city debt of millions of dollars? He said it has been discussed but no decision has been made. They only had one revenue meeting so far, so it's still too early to tell.
3. Bayard also overheard the revenue committee talked about putting the payroll tax out on the plate. Bayard said he hopes the city won't do that because it was overwhelmingly voted down after the city spent thousands of dollars to put it on the ballot. Scott responded saying only one person brought it up that he knows of.
4. Bayard said he understands the state is going to possibly give \$5 M to the city based on lack of taxable property. Bayard also said he heard it's going to go into the general fund so how do we know where the money is really going? Scott said there will be accountability.

5. Bayard said NGNA suggested when we had the infrastructure money, the city could have built more mental and drug treatment facilities, and the county could have provided the staff and medical supplies. But that seemed to be ignored by the city. Scott thought it was a good idea but said there is no money for that now.
6. Bayard brought up the fact that the homeless are continually being located here in Northgate when we've already had our share. Mayor Hoy said the whole city should be working together to solve the problem. But it seems to be all coming to this area. Even the other neighborhood associations don't want to talk about this because they are not getting any homeless.

Second Guest Speaker: Kevin Hottmann. He talked about his internet link for people to locate the status of the street in your neighborhood. Currently, there is nothing in Northgate. But a lot going on in West Salem. Bayard brought up the fact that we signed up for improvements on Fisher Road to Silverton Road from Devonshire. He said that is going to be a big expensive bond measure later, like possibly over \$24 M, but did not know when. It will go all the way from Silverton to Sunnyside. This was also brought up by Jess. He said he's seen a wheelchair bound person going around a puddle in the middle of the road and was dangerous. Then Kevin talked about where to put additional stop signs and reduce speed signs. They are working on it. Bayard asked him if the traffic cameras pay for themselves and if they do, why not more? Kevin said they are debt neutral but don't make a lot of money. Bayard said the tickets are expensive, but he did not respond to that.

Third Guest Speaker: DJ Vincent: He talked first if anyone want to ask questions about the existing shelters. Bayard asked him about using the DMV Parking Lot for more RVs, what about even overnight. Bayard explained about the RVs being parked around the neighborhood. Usually, they come Friday afternoons because they know the city won't remove them until the first part of the following week or even later. Then they move a couple of blocks away and park again in another neighborhood. Gretchen said they are not allowed to park for long at the DMV building due to state's ordinance. DJ brought up the Lana Ave property and said he already bought it. He said he looked at 50 other properties, but this was the best. According to Mr. Vincent, the property is already fenced in, flat, paved and has utilities. Bayard asked him all those 50 properties and you couldn't find any outside our neighborhood and DJ replied no. But he said there was one at Northwest Salem he likes and planning on going in with someone. When Bayard asked where the property was, he said he didn't have the address but will let Bayard know. Michael also brought up about having some RV parking somewhere else. DJ explained this shelter is for 55 plus seniors and will be serving 40-50 singles or couples. Bayard asked him if the city donate this property to him and he said no. It was private property owner who sold it to him at a cheap price. Randy asked for the address. DJ couldn't answer so Kaethe responded saying it says "1200 Lana Ave" on the site plan. DJ confirmed that it was that address. He said the property will have tents for the showers, wash/dryers and meeting areas and another tent for the meeting area. But he is thinking about changing the tents to something like pole barns. Then Jess came in and told DJ he appreciates his work but does not like the idea that Northgate is being targeted. And Kaethe agreed. Michael brought up saying he likes what DJ is doing but it's not fair that all this is going on in NE and nothing in west Salem. Bayard said he doesn't like this whole idea because we are being dumped on and the other neighborhoods don't care and saying, "don't beat a dead horse." When Bayard asked why wasn't this brought up a long time ago when you first found out and Gretchen said, "when are we supposed to tell you about it, because it just happened." Bayard said it cannot have "just happened" because DJ bought the property, has site plans and brochures already so it was going on for a while. Then Kaethe said to Gretchen she gave her a list of city owned properties and said there was a lot to choose from, however, Gretchen replied they are all occupied. All other properties did not work out due to grading issues, wet land, etc. Then it was time to stop. It was after 7:40 p.m.

Bayard called for a vote to adjourn the meeting, Kaethe made a motion to start the vote and was seconded by Bill and the rest said "aye."

The next board meeting will be March 21st, 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 February 1, the Minutes of January 18th, 2024, have been approved. It was seconded and voted yes by Phyllis, voted yes by Randy, Shirley, Bill, Becca, Michael and Kaethe
- On February 19, 2024, the letter to city officials have been seconded by Michael who also voted for it, followed by Shirley, Randy, Bill, Jess and Kaethe. This letter tells the city that NE Salem has had enough homeless shelters, and they must be evenly distributed all over Salem. Complaints made about C@P submitting hub shelter information only one day before the meeting. Then at meeting, DJ Vincent informed NGNA he had bought the property in Northgate already. The City never warned us no matter how many times they said they would in advance.
- On February 29th, 2024, vote for flyer bringing people together so that City will evenly distribute homeless shelters at south or west Salem instead of just at Northgate for equity. Those who voted for the flyer were: Michael who seconded and voted yes, Bill, Jess, Shirley, Phyllis and Kaethe.