

East Lancaster Neighborhood Association  
Minutes  
March 7, 2024

Attendance: Sue Fowler, Mary Sarabia, Mike Sim, Vern Golden, Chuck Westbrook, Officer Mark Jantz, Terry Motte, Peter Domine, Kimberly Castro, Olivia Dias, Jared Rogers and Michael Stoffey,  
Zoom - Chuck Hazlett, Susann Kaltwasser

Sue Fowler opened the meeting at 7:05 with introductions. Looking at the February 1 minutes, Chuck Westbrook moved approval. Mary seconded the motion and all voted approval.

**Police Report Officer** Mark Jantz announced that Debbie Agular had been promoted to Deputy Chief. She will be in charge of the detective division.

Officer Jantz talked about the recent community conversation on violence at the East Salem Community Center. There was good turnout and the main speaker, Ben McBride was well received. There will be two more community meetings and likely one more in Spanish.

With the time change Officer Jantz said it is also time to check smoke detectors and suggested we write the date on the battery so we know how old it is. Also if you have a security camera make sure the clock has been adjusted too.

He said that the Council had eliminated 4 police positions that were unfilled. However, there are still eleven vacancies left to fill. They recently hired 5 new officers. They hired 20 new officers in 2023 due to turnover. Currently there are 196 positions and 185 are filled.

The next Community Police Academy begins in April. It is 14 weeks long and takes 20 people per session. Susann had asked about doing something to promote Neighborhood Watch. He suggested we set up a special event to invite neighbors to recruit people to the program. He said it slowed down during the pandemic.

Clark Hazlett asked about an RV that had burned on Clay Street. Mary asked why they don't have the Police Liaison Committee. She said it was a monthly meeting of NA representatives who could learn and share.

**Councilor Report** - Councilor Julie Hoy was absent.

Kimberly gave a legislative report. She had a handout listing the various bills that passed. One had to do with the definition of a student that lengthens the time after graduation that a teacher can not have contact. Another bill dealt with revenge porn.

East Salem Community Center is moving forward. It got city permits, but there needs to be a search for historic artifacts. Susann asked if Rep. Kevin Mannix could attend a future meeting.

**Neighbor to Neighbor.** There was a slide show that included information about the program. It is free and designed to help issues between citizens. Anyone can call to see if your issue qualifies and set up a mediation. They have an 80-90 % success rate.

**Bylaws Review** Susann explained that the city requires a periodic review of our bylaws. We can appoint a committee or do it as a group. The board decided that we would all review the bylaws on our own and then discuss it at the next meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **a. Land Use - 4963 Center Street Apartment Appeal**

Peter Domine, city planner, explained the appeal process. Susann said we had two choices. We could withdraw the appeal or continue. She explained that our concerns can't really be addressed by the Council. Wetlands are handled by the Division of State Lands who issue permits. And the landslide issue is handled by Public Works staff after the developer has a private study done. So she recommends withdrawing the appeal. We can still pursue our concerns with DSL and staff. After several questions to staff, with several board members unhappy with the situation, a motion was reluctantly made to withdraw the appeal. Sue made a motion to dismiss the appeal. Mike seconded the motion. All voted approval. Susann said she would try to continue to get in touch with DSL about the wetlands.

**b. Mural** Committee still needs to meet. Vern, Sue and Susann have volunteered. It was suggested that we reach out to the schools for a design and help painting.

No traffic, parks or newsletter reports.

Susann said she wished that more members would become involved with land use cases. She at some point would not be available. She also said that the Council was going to be looking at possibly changes to the appeals process that would further limit citizen participation.

**Zoom** -Susann said that our subscription is due for renewal. Do we wish to continue? If so, Susann said she is willing to share the cost because she has used it for other meetings. Last year she just paid the whole amount. Chuck made a motion to pay \$80 towards Zoom. Vern seconded the motion and all voted approval. Susann abstained.

### **Neighborhood Concerns**

Susann repeated her concerns about needing more board members sharing roles. She said other neighborhoods use committees for land use or traffic. She is willing to help individuals with training.

Chuck reported that there are problems with the field lights at Blanchet. He says they need to be adjusted so that they don't shine into oncoming vehicles on Market. In general the brightness needs to be turned down. The gate at Academy Square was open. He doesn't know if it's temporary or permanent but it was nice to be able to use the light at D Street.

Adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Submitted by Susann Kaltwasser