

Minutes of **GRANT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

Board Meeting March 7, 2024 6:15 pm Broadway Commons and online via: Zoom video conference

AGENDA ITEM

#1 Introductions

BOARD MEMBERS:	PRESENT - P	ABSENT - A	EXCUSED - E		
JEANNE BOATWRIGHT	P	TINA HANSEN	P	SAM SKILLERN	P
MARK DECOURSEY	P	LAURA HERRMANN	A	AARON TERPENING	E
TIM FRANCE	P	TERESA JOSLIN	P	MARISSA THEVE	P
CHRISTOPHER HACKETT	P	NICK MASELLI	P		
LOLA HACKETT	E	SUSAN NAPACK	P		

Others present: Lindy Beaver, Kay Keys, Michael Pettit, Carol DeCoursey, Cynthia Kavanagh, Helen Vandenberg, Jean Palmateer, Anne Colao, Charlotte Scott, Erik Ammon, Nick Beleiciks, Carolin VanOrdin, Diana Cortes, Miranda Geist, Rubi Martinez-Sanchez and Scott Munford.

Sam reported that Marissa had been in contact with board member Elisa Anguiano. Right now, she has too many work and family issues in her life and is unable to fulfill her responsibilities to the board. She notified Marissa that, with regrets, she is stepping down. This leaves two vacancies on the board.

Christopher Hackett moved to *“Amend the agenda to move Item #5 to take place after Item #2 to allow Virginia Stapleton to get to another event.”* Tina Hanson seconded the motion. The vote was 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Christopher Hackett moved that *“We approve the February minutes with the corrections submitted.”* Teresa Joslin seconded the motion. The vote was 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Corrections:

#2 Great Story from Grant

- CORRECT: “Laura Herrmann said **the** she is getting new neighbors . . . “
- TO READ: “Laura Herrmann said **that** she is getting new neighbors . . .”
- CORRECT: “Lynn Takata was visiting from the Northeast Neighbors **association** . . .”
- TO READ: “Lynn Takata was visiting from the Northeast Neighbors **Association** . . .”

#6 Councilor Report

- CORRECT: “. . . I was at the opening of **Sequoia** Crossings this week . . .” **“Sequoia** is 60 units. . .”
- TO READ: “. . . I was at the opening of **Sequoia** Crossings this week . . .” **“Sequoia** is 60 units. . .”

#2 Great Story from Grant

- Jean Palmateer commented on how impressed she was with the Orchestra event at Parrish Middle School that she attended last night. It included the 4th and 5th graders from the Parrish elementary feeder schools along with the middle school students.
- Carol DeCoursey reported that on Feb. 24th, they came home in the evening to find a tent on Shipping and Cottage streets. They called the Police non-emergency number to report it, but did not get any response. Nearly 2 weeks later, she went to the Police Department and met with Officer Sean Bennett. Action was taken within hours and the tent, rubbish, and occupant were all gone. Officer Bennett’s contact number is 503.932.0867.

Susan Napack reported that she was invited to participate on a panel that did a presentation at a recent Willamette University Institute for Continued Learning session about the Street Painting

Program in Salem. She shared our Belmont Cottage Street Painting experience with the very receptive group.

- Diana Cortes, from the Boys & Girls Club mentioned that the upcoming Happy Hour Gala fund-raiser will be held on April 16th. All are welcome to attend. The get-together showcases the kids and programs at the club and will share information on how to get involved.
- Michael Pettit is the manager of the Super Stop Market and Gas Station on Capitol Street. This business has replaced the 7-11 Market, while still pumping 76 Gasoline. Michael is interested in sponsoring a neighborhood block party in July. He would like to get a street closure permit for Shipping Street between McCoy and Capitol streets. The company would provide a band, along with food and drinks, for free. Neighbors provided information and contacts at the city to learn about the process for a street closure. Sam expressed GNA's appreciation of the company's, and Michael's, interest in being involved and supportive of the neighborhood.

#3 Neighbor Concerns

- Multiple neighbors commented on the increased amount of trash and garbage they are seeing on our neighborhood streets, including both dog and human fecal waste. Some of them take a bag with them when they walk and try to pick up what they can. Michael Pettit commented that from the Safeway on Center Street, and going north on Capitol Street, there are no restrooms available for the public. He, and other establishments in the area, have had to shut down their restrooms after they were trashed too many times. Susan mentioned that Highland has a regular trash pickup schedule. Michael said that if we start one, we would be welcome to put 5-6 bags of collected trash in his dumpster.

#4 Officer Report

Police Sargeant Erik Ammon was present. He reviewed some of the Police Department staffing shortages. There are five positions that are currently vacant, but that will not be filled. The staff currently numbers less than 200. There are future officers working their way into service. 16 are in basic training and 5 are in field training with other officers. 11 officers have been lost to attrition or injury.

Today was very hectic with the fatal shooting of 1, and injury of 2 others, at the southwest corner of Bush's Pasture Park this afternoon.

The SPD Citizen Academy will start in April. Anyone interested can sign up on the SPD website or call 503.588.6002 for more information.

The Police Chief, Mayor, and City Council are working on the Community Violence Reduction Initiative. The first community meeting was held Wednesday. Ben McBride is facilitating the meetings and discussion. The skill sets he brings are: public safety, bridge building with communities, and starting meaningful conversations. Additional neighborhood meetings will be coming. Data is presented and strategies, preventions, interventions, and diversion activities are discussed to find ways to calm communities.

The department is bound by law to provide patrol staffing. Other activities, such as the gang task force and community action, suffer when funds are short.

Many neighbors expressed a lot of concern about the street racing that takes place on too many nights on Capitol Street and also on Summer Street.

After questions from neighbors, Sgt. Ammon detailed the Owner's Trespass Letter of Intent, that is available for property owners. It allows trespassers on their property to be arrested. If the owner is absent, the call can come in from a neighbor, so long as the letter has been filed with the SPD. The documents have to be renewed in 12-month cycles.

#5 Councilor Report

Virginia Stapleton was present, but needed to leave early to attend the opening night of Tuck Everlasting at North Salem High School, that her daughter is involved with.

She had the following items to report:

- The Payment in Lieu of Taxes proposal before the State Legislature has pretty much died;
- A 3-hour Bike Summit was held last Friday. The meeting was with bicycle advocates and discussed what was working and what was not going so well.
- A meeting on Monday with the Superintendent of Public Schools included discussion about both the school budget issues and the city budget issues. It also included conversations about potential strikes at both institutions.

She attended the regional Council of Governments meeting this month that was held in Grand Ronde. Items discussed included a report on the Youth Free Fare program in Salem that has now ended. It provided youth up to 18 to ride for free on the Cherriots bus system. During its duration, bus ridership was up 168%.

- The first Town Hall meeting on gun violence had a good turnout.
- The city's supplemental budget plan cut 33, currently vacant positions across all departments. Some money will be shifted to the Police Department to help with the meetings on gun violence.
- She will be involved in a Dark Sky meeting with planning staff on Monday.

#6 Introduction of Quiet Clean Salem

Marissa Theve brought a handout sheet with Frequently Asked Questions and the draft of a letter of support for this movement. She had a PowerPoint program to accompany her presentation. Quiet Clean Salem (QCS) is reaching out to neighborhoods for support. Their focus is to work at ways to reduce and/or eliminate gas powered leaf blowers. Gas powered landscaping equipment is the largest single source for carbon emissions. Restrictions and the move to electric powered equipment would help with compliance with Climate Action Plans.

The factors cited are: noise pollution, and its health effects; air pollution, exacerbated by the lack of regulations on the toxins that the small engines release; and, the increased effect these two pollutants have on those operating the blowers. Economic incentives could be made available to encourage the transition to electric equipment. Statistics indicate that the financial cost to switch is recouped in less than 1 year. The movement is occurring nationwide with cities, counties, and states working to make changes. And, the types of changes vary. Some are immediate all out bans while others are phased out over a period of time. Some are seasonal, or day and time limits for gas powered use.

Susan moved that ***“Grant Neighborhood Association provide an endorsement letter of support for the Quiet Clean Salem position.”*** Tina seconded the motion.

Discussion amongst the neighbors present was quite mixed between supporters and those in opposition. Opposition concerns were raised about the cost of companies to make the changes, the ability to work on large properties without needing multiple battery packs to complete the job, concern about how many batteries it would take to complete a day's worth of work, and, how to charge the batteries between job sites. Others agreed with the noise and air pollution problems and described how it affected their life. Several expressed a desire to get more information, including from groundskeeping companies, to learn how it will affect operations. Finding a company that has made the change was also requested. ***With those requests expressed, the motion and second were withdrawn.*** Michael Pettit said he knew folks in the business and would see if he could find someone to come speak with us at a future meeting. The suggestion was made that, perhaps, QCS should assemble a community panel to discuss the positive and negative sides of the effects and implementation processes. Sam asked for anyone interested in forming a Grant Neighborhood committee to collect information. Lindy Beaver and Marissa volunteered.

#7 GNA Postcard

Susan Napack brought 3 mockups for the front side of the informational postcard that will be sent to every address within the Grant Neighborhood Association (GNA) boundary in April. The card provides various contact options for neighbors to interact with GNA, including an online monthly newsletter, and also lists the full year calendar of our in-person/Zoom meeting dates and meeting location. Two included iterations of an historic map of the neighborhood boundary. The third used our Logo. Jeanne moved that ***“We approve the #2 version, that includes a map, with Susan making slight adjustments, that were suggested, to the extent of the map and the intensity of the background.”*** Mark seconded the motion. The vote was 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

#8 Land Use Chair

Sam reported that Aaron Terpening had expressed his interest in serving as our Land Use Chair. Christopher moved ***“To approve Aaron Terpening as the Land Use Chair for Grant Neighborhood.”*** Susan seconded the motion. The vote was 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

#9 Revenue Task Force Report

Jean Palmateer was present to inform us on the work this task force is just beginning to undertake. She and four other individuals represent Ward #1, giving our ward the largest cohort on the task force. She stressed that the role of this group is to find revenue sources, not to determine the priority of funded services. (The city has a website that allows input that will give Salem a sense of citizen priorities. Susan Napack will get the website address and post it on the Grant internet sites.) They will be considering many revenue sources. The task force will evaluate them based on equity issues and the amount of money that could be available. The meetings are available on You-Tube. Jean will return each month to update us on progress. The meetings will continue through June.

#10 Board Member Reports

- CERT - Lola Hackett was assisting with the current CERT class and was not present:
 - Sam gave a brief explanation of the purpose for taking these classes and how the training benefits the neighborhood in the event of a disaster. Sam committed to start his own CERT training when he retires from work in about 11 months.
- Communications/Outreach – Susan Napack reported on:
 - The Highland Neighborhood Spring Kids Clothing Swap will be at the Center 50+ on March 30th from 10:00 to noon.
 - Highland is having a neighborhood trash & litter pickup on April 20th.
 - Highland is organizing a Garage Sale Day for June 8th. A map will be produced and distributed with locations of the yard sales. Neighbors are encouraged to have joint sales. There is a link to register in the email newsletter and on our website.
 - The annual plant sale at the Deepwood Mansion grounds will take place on March 22-23. SCAN is having a booth there and is inviting other NAs to participate by sharing information handouts and/or by helping to staff the booth.
- Land Use Updates – Sam Skillern reported on:
 - The Evergreen Church building redevelopment is moving along. He will contact DevNW and see if someone can attend our meeting to give a detailed update and timeline.
- North Neighborhoods CPT – Sam Skillern:
 - NEN & Grant will hold their annual joint Neighborhood Cleanup on May 18th at the First Nazarene Church east parking lot on 16th Street. Accepted items for disposal, recycling, or reuse include: metal, wood furniture, tires, small household items that are reusable, bicycles

and bicycle parts, and, garbage items that will not fit in a curbside receptacle. Volunteers are needed for set-up and take down, as well as staffing the event.

Marissa Theve reminded the Bylaws sub-committee that the next meeting is Monday, March 11th, in the Europe Room on the 4th floor of Broadway Commons.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright