

North Lancaster Neighborhood Association

Monthly Meeting

April 3, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Salem, Oregon

1. Call to Order / Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:33PM, followed by introductions of all present in person.

Board Member	Position	Attendance
Deanna Garcia	Chair	Present
Bethany Crespin	Vice-Chair	Present
Christine Potter	Secretary/Treasurer	Present
Shirlene Gonzalez	Parks Chair	Present
Dennis Will	Land Use Chair	Absent
Carl Engstrom	Member at large	Present
Denise Currey	Member at large	Present
Kim Currey	Member at large	Present
Pamela Blake	Member at large	Present
Bobby Ottis	Member at large	Absent
Patty Tipton	Member at large	Absent
Claudine Shaw	Member at large	Absent

Attendees: Sgt Erik Ammon, Mayor Chris Hoy, Councilor Julie Hoy, Matt Tracey, Dave Carlson, Michelle Vlach-Ing, Maria Hinojos Pressey, Bryon Pressey, Karla Winans, Irvin Brown
Neighbors: Rodger Haase, Mike Pfenning, Ginny Schlene, Liz Veysey

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from February 2024 were submitted for Board review on March 2, 2024.

Kim Currey motioned to approve. Shirlene Gonzalez seconded the motion. The minutes from February 2024 were unanimously approved.

3. Police Report – Sergeant Ammon from Salem Police Department

- a. Community Violence Reduction Initiative is the biggest talking point as well as response to violence in the community. Salem PD is putting out the fires when and where they can.
- b. [Neighborhood Watch programs](#) are encouraged. Contact Community Engagement Officer at 503-588-6175 to get started.
- c. Salem PD is looking for volunteers for various roles including Administrative Assistant, Disabled Parking Patrol, Domestic Violence Response Team, Graffiti Removal, Radar Reader Board Set-Up, Security Survey Team, Squad Car Maintenance, Vacation Home Check and Volunteer Bike Patrol. [Volunteer Application link here](#).
- d. Update on mail theft: An arrest has been made with the suspect in custody of US Marshalls. The suspect was arrested on multiple firearms charges, identity theft, forgery and possession of burglary tools. He also has 11 outstanding warrants for his arrest. Salem PD encourages neighbors to sign up for informed delivery with USPS and report mail theft when it occurs to both the postal service and police. [Salem PD Community Online Police Reporting link](#).

Q – *How did they get a master key?* Unknown

- e. Graffiti abatement – report via phone at 503-371-4264 or via email to graffiti@cityofsalem.net – include your name, phone number, location of the graffiti and a description of the graffiti. Attach a photo to your email if possible.

Q – *Is graffiti concentrated in this part of town?* The graffiti abatement is busy all the time and all over the city.

Q – *There was a shooting by McKay High School on Phipps the Monday before the Bush Park shooting. Why wasn't McKay on lockdown and the shooting went unmentioned?* Phipps is County (not City of Salem) but Sgt Ammon will report this back to work on improved communication.

Homeless encampment reporting portal [HERE](#)

Sergeant Ammon can be reached for questions by email: eammon@cityofsalem.net

4. Introduction of Mayoral Candidates: Chris Hoy & Julie Hoy
 - a. Chris Hoy: Prior to becoming mayor, Chris Hoy was on city council. To date, he has served on the council for seven years. He feels like some progress is going on but a lot more needs to be done. There is progress downtown with hundreds of residents moving in, commercial air service is now in Salem, and he launched the Community Violence Response Initiative with the Chief of Police with prevention efforts as a goal. The next CVRI meeting is scheduled for the 19th of April at Chemeketa in Building 2. This meeting will be in Spanish, translated into English based on previous feedback. The facilitator will not be present.

Q – *Who is the facilitator and what is he doing?* He is from Oakland and has done prior community engagement training and a lot of work in community violence disruption. He was engaged by Chief Womack. A half-time dedicated staff person (position currently open) will carry on that work going forward.

- b. Julie Hoy: Center Street has been home for the last 32 years and Julie Hoy has enjoyed being a City Councilor. The Revenue Task Force has been meeting and they are making progress. You will see a change in ambulance service as Salem Fire will take over the service. The union is hoping that the Falck folks will join up with Salem Fire as employed emergency service personnel. She recently contacted code enforcement to report a noisy manhole cover in her neighborhood and it got repaired pretty quickly. She reiterated that when you call and say help me please, stuff gets done. Hoy was seated on the council 18 months ago and questioned things she was seeing. She believed an imposed payroll tax was inappropriate and her no vote along with standing up for the people of Salem is something she is proud of.

Q – *Would you support an ordinance to ban panhandling? And what can we do to deal with homelessness in our neighborhood?*

[Chris Hoy] No, such an ordinance is considered unconstitutional. To curb homelessness, don't give panhandlers money or items. If you want to contribute, donate to an organization that works in that area. They know how to distribute. We haul away tons of trash every week. A lot of it is stuff well-

meaning folks are donating (ex. piano, mattresses, couches.) You can also volunteer time in a winter warming network or by cooking meals for example.

[Julie Hoy] I agree with a lot of that but draw a line. I've travelled to places where panhandling is not allowed, and it is a pleasure. Unconstitutional? I'm not sure, but it is definitely unsafe.

Q – *Do you believe Salem has a gang problem?*

[Julie Hoy] Yes. We also have a community problem where people feel disconnected. Family issues are at the core that creates this need for connection which gets to a deeper issue which is relationship and wholeness between people.

[Chris Hoy] There is a problem with not having youth involvement. The schools aren't doing enough. That's why we are doing the CVRI to find alternatives to the involvement.

Q – *What opportunity do you believe there is to having a satellite library?*

[Chris Hoy] There is only one in West Salem, and reductions are being made there to support the main library. We have to prioritize. Satellite usage is quite low and we may be faced with the hard decision to reduce that service. It is a difficult choice.

[Julie Hoy] The rumor of the library closing is not true, and we are hoping it won't. But we have to get real about the budget and how we are spending money. There is a line item for Culture and Tourism. Why can't we take money from that and put it to the library? A message was sent to the CFO to inquire and it looks like some of that could happen. Let's take a look at the budget framework and find the right way to fund services.

Q – *What source of revenue is used to maintain the Riverfront Park amphitheater and do you think it should change?* [Chris Hoy] All parks maintenance is funded by the general fund. There have been times in the past where funds came from other sources but a prior council changed that (it may have come from transportation.)

Q – *Do you support a third bridge?*

[Chris Hoy] I didn't support the last one. We probably need a third one but it shouldn't fall wholly on Salem. Counties and ODOT should contribute.

[Julie Hoy] I agree that a third one is needed due to traffic, and also with what Chris said. This shouldn't fall on the city and we need to arrange funding from multiple agencies, the sooner the better.

Q – *What do you think each of us as neighbors can do to support the mayor?*

[Julie Hoy] Communicate, talk with us and tell us about the needs. We need to engage with disconnected residents and welcoming Neighborhood Associations are good at this.

[Chris Hoy] Be informed and engaged with the Council and Mayor. A lot of people are responding to rumors. Share your thoughts, volunteer, participate on boards and commissions to be involved and make a difference.

Q – *There are a lot of committees out there, are they built up where there is representation from each ward?* [Chris Hoy] It depends on the specific rules of the commission. We are currently reviewing them.

Q – *Sharing thoughts and communicating – What is the best medium to do this, and to whom?*

[Chris Hoy] It depends. To get to me, the best way is a direct email. Send neighborhood issues to Irma. Calling the office is also effective.

[Julie Hoy] Anything works. When you are on council, you get a city phone. As to equity, in our ward it's a big deal when people volunteer from this area. We do need to work on equity. Ward 6 has the most people in the least space and less than 2000 people vote.

Q – *Regarding panhandling being unconstitutional, other states have determined that isn't true. What part of the constitution?* [Chris Hoy] The first amendment. Referred to 2015 Reed v. Town of Gilbert. (*CP editorial comment* - A deep dive into the topic can be found in the linked [Columbia Law Review article](#).)

Q – *Is there someplace I can see line-item detail of where the 300M bond funds are going?* Bonds can only be used to pay for construction, not operating costs. A plan to operate a satellite office would require a source of operational funds. But the plan was for two libraries and fire stations. On the [website](#), you can see projects and what has been completed. Historically Salem has worked towards a goal of spreading out to all wards and has actually implemented an equity score that considers census data. A dog park in Geer Park is coming as well as Silverton Road improvements. (Draft Proposed Community Improvement Bond Project Staging attached)

Q – *Why was the Falck contract terminated?* They were not fulfilling staffing requirements and the city was paying overtime to firefighters to cover the shortage.

5. Introduction – Judicial Candidates: Matt Tracey, Dave Carlson, Michelle Vlach-Ing

- a. Dave Carlson is running because he sees a need on the bench that is not currently being met. 60% of cases are civil (divorce, probate, lawsuits, etc.) while only 25% of current judges have their primary experience in civil law. This means that the court is out of balance, and he would like to help resolve that with his experience in civil litigation. The baby boomer generation is exiting, and the biggest transfer of wealth is coming. Right now, the system isn't set up to handle that and will have to do more with less. Carlson wants to encourage mediation for probate to improve efficiency.
- b. Matt Tracey has spent the last 3 years as a full-time judge pro tem, and has heard nearly ten thousand cases. Prior to that, he served as Assistant Executive Director at the Public Defender's office and as a modest means attorney handling family and probate matters. He asserted that everyone should have an inherent right to be heard, and that it is scary to speak in court; most people don't want to speak in public. Tracey brings the following to the bench: patience, making sure people feel heard, explaining laws and rules and why the court is making its decision. The court has to make hard decisions and it's important to encourage mediation which brings a better resolution for everyone while being a less scarring process that conserves resources. The court also deals with mental health issues and pseudo-criminal behavior; their job is to make sure individuals

understand what is happening and make right decisions according to the law. He focuses on remaining neutral and has an interest in safety. Every judge becomes a general practitioner and can't specialize.

- c. Michelle Vlach-Ing has been a resident of Oregon for over 20 years. She came to Salem to attend Willamette University and stuck around. She clerked for a judge out of law school and served as a plaintiff attorney, seeing many cases go through arbitration with federal litigation experience too. Later she focused on business law and banking and partnered with a patent law attorney in an international law firm here in Salem. Vlach-Ing learned how to be able to shift gears and learn various fields of law. When considering what's in her heart, she feels a calling to serve as a judge because she has experiences that many people can relate to. When she started in family law and got involved with mediation, she found that dealing with people's issues on a day to day basis is different than working with businesses and her focus became maximizing a positive outcome for as many people as possible. She checks almost every box in adverse childhood experiences but had supportive teachers who encouraged her.

Q – *You are each running for District 3, position 11. Is that the only open seat?* This is the only open seat where there isn't an incumbent.

Q – *What is the trend in Marion County in criminal cases?*

[Vlach-Ing] Whatever people are complaining about – a lot of drug cases (dealing) and unauthorized use of vehicles

[Carlson] Property crimes, but not statistically huge

[Tracey] A large number of domestic violence cases, there was a post-pandemic uptick. Also DUI prosecution and firearms.

Q - *How do you become judge pro tem?* [Tracey] Judge Perez was my predecessor at the Public Defender's office, and I was hired by a presiding judge.

6. Committee Reports & Board Business

- a. Transit – Rodger Haase:
 - i. Electric buses are now on the road for testing and training.
 - ii. Cherriots has expanded security cameras with enhanced properties and better video quality.
 - iii. The scholarship program for riders 18 and under is continuing
 - iv. Kuebler link route introduced which will run every 20 minutes during weekday peak periods ---- visit [Cherriots web page](#) for details.

Q – *Where are the buses plugged in at night?* Keizer has induction chargers while those at Del Web are plugged in.

- b. Traffic – Deanna Garcia (no report)
- c. Land Use: Application submitted for Evergreen Townhomes a 7-townhome development at 2441 Evergreen Ave NE by attorney representing Jose Gonzalez. Details will go out to board for review and comment to Deanna and Dennis.

- d. Parks – Shirlene Gonzalez:
 - i. Parks Committee meeting to take place prior to May board meeting. Goal is to come up with another grant opportunity.
 - ii. A student of Willamette met with Shirlene regarding a project on either McKay Park or Fisher Road Park. The student has great questions and wanted background on the playground and needs of the neighbors. Shirlene is excited to know of a student who is interested in community park and engagement.
- e. Quarterly Chairs Meeting – Deanna Garcia:
 - i. Suggestions for Safety & Livability Bond projects can be submitted until April 15th
 - ii. Gilchrist & 22nd closed through July – businesses are still open and accessible
 - iii. Try IWingz Mac & Cheese
 - iv. Phase 1 of Salem in Motion - collaborating with Keizer & Marion County to increase transportation options and reduce climate impact
 - v. Full Quarterly Chairs Meeting notes attached

Q – *What's going on with the crosswalk by Walmart?* Pieces to complete the beacon are on backorder.

Q - *Is there an update on Sunnyview & Hollywood?* The design was reworked, Deanna will follow up with Kevin on the status of the project.

Q – *Is the livability form part of the bond and is there an existing list of the projects?* Yes. Refer to the city website, bond projects spreadsheet.

- f. Salem Seekers – Deanna received an email from Pamela Garland who introduced herself and her program that hides glass birds in local parks to encourage activity in the park. She asked if NOLA wants to sponsor an event at McKay which would include 30 birds to be hidden in plain sight, QR code tags and advertising for the event. Cost to NOLA is \$450 if we agree to proceed.
 - g. National Night Out Event – Typically NNO is first Tuesday of August. We have access to more resources if we hold our NNO on Wednesday. MOTION from Shirlene to schedule NOLA's NNO on the 1st Wednesday in August. Bethany seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.
 - h. A representative from Salem parks will speak with NOLA in May regarding Livingston parks.
7. Open Forum for any discussion

Q – *Are truancy cases heard in juvenile court?* They haven't been heard in several years. A change in the law removed the ability to prosecute truancy.

8. Close of Meeting / Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:14PM.

Draft Proposed Community Improvement Bond Project Staging (in Millions)

Category	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032	Total
Sites for Affordable Housing / Library Branches											
Sites for Affordable Housing / Library Branches						\$ 0.50	\$ 1.50	\$ 0.50	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.50	\$ 7.50
Affordable Housing Opportunity Funds	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 10.00
Civic Center Earthquake Safety											
System Upgrades		\$ 0.70	\$ 1.05	\$ 2.50	\$ 6.00	\$ 1.55					\$ 11.80
Seismic Retrofit	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.20	\$ 1.80	\$ 7.50	\$ 10.00	\$ 4.10					\$ 25.60
Renovation		\$ 0.10	\$ 0.15		\$ 0.50	\$ 1.30					\$ 2.05
Fire											
Fire Equipment	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.00									\$ 26.00
Fire Stations						\$ 1.00	\$ 1.50	\$ 5.50	\$ 1.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 14.00
Technology and Cybersecurity											
Efficiency		\$ 0.10	\$ 0.40								\$ 0.50
System Replacement / Cybersecurity	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.25	\$ 9.50								\$ 10.00
Resiliency						\$ 1.00	\$ 4.62	\$ 1.50			\$ 7.12
Park Upgrades											
Playground Facilities		\$ 0.48	\$ 1.92			\$ 0.36	\$ 1.44	\$ 0.36	\$ 1.44		\$ 6.00
Athletic Courts	\$ 0.60	\$ 3.73									\$ 4.33
Restroom Facilities	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.35	\$ 2.19	\$ 2.34							\$ 4.93
Shelters	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.27	\$ 1.06		\$ 0.05	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.60	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.55		\$ 2.76
Sport Fields	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.13	\$ 0.77		\$ 0.05	\$ 0.41	\$ 1.86	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.37		\$ 3.69
Parking Lots	\$ 0.20	\$ 1.34									\$ 1.54
Dog Parks				\$ 0.11	\$ 0.49	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.44				\$ 1.10
Paths and Trails	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.45	\$ 1.00			\$ 0.10	\$ 0.45	\$ 0.45	\$ 0.45	\$ 1.10	\$ 4.06
Streets and Sidewalks											
Pavement R&R	\$ 0.40	\$ 3.82	\$ 2.93	\$ 3.27	\$ 1.90	\$ 4.39	\$ 3.87	\$ 2.33			\$ 22.91
Bridge Rehabilitation	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.71	\$ 0.31	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.82	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.60			\$ 2.89
Bicycle / Pedestrian Improvements		\$ 1.50	\$ 1.50	\$ 14.25		\$ 0.50	\$ 0.75	\$ 2.33			\$ 20.83
Urban Upgrades			\$ 1.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 20.80	\$ 6.97	\$ 10.75	\$ 6.10	\$ 68.62
New Street - Marine Drive		\$ 1.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 8.53					\$ 23.53
Sidewalks	\$ 1.83	\$ 1.83	\$ 1.83	\$ 1.83	\$ 1.83	\$ 1.83	\$ 1.83	\$ 1.83	\$ 1.83	\$ 1.83	\$ 18.25
Total	\$ 18.69	\$ 31.34	\$ 30.80	\$ 40.11	\$ 37.87	\$ 39.54	\$ 40.76	\$ 23.50	\$ 19.89	\$ 17.53	\$ 300.00

Quarterly Chair's Meeting
March 28, 2024
Notes submitted by NOLA Chair - Deanna Garcia

Mayor - Chris Hoy

The city is in the middle of the budget process 18 member including 9 citizens and councilor from every ward - many new committee members, so it will take time to get people up to speed. The City Manager will release a recommended budget in April.

Concerns were widely expressed regarding a library closure. A member of council made the request of what the budget would look like if public safety were to be fully funded. One of the three scenarios included a library closure. It was never truly proposed, just part of a DRAFT scenario to answer the question posed by the councilor. There are difficult decisions ahead; however, none have been made.

Since each ward has a member representative on the budget committee, maybe the member can provide a report out on what's happening.

The Revenue task force - just beginning - will start digging into what they want to consider.

There are several town halls being held in April (in-person & virtual options), flyer near the sign-in sheet.

Salem Fire Chief - Mike Niblock

Ambulance transition - Medicare/medicaid capped what could be billed for transport, in addition, 2016 legislative changes allowed for the recoup of federal funds - GEMT \$4.3 million. This made using a third-party subcontractor no longer sustainable long-term for the needs of our city. SFD has stepped over the last 27 months due to lag with 3rd party provider. SFD to resume services in the next 16 months to be provider of record, and will attempt to retain Faulk staff to capture skills level. Consultant hired to conduct study & write RFP with goals to provide more service hours per week (1080) with dynamic employment using computer modeling based on historic call volumes and digitized response cards. SFD is not trying to make profit, fully staffed through EMS funds would be 50-70 staff. They just hired 11 new recruits (most were laterals), There are currently 11 vacancies. Faulk expressed concerned with employment GAP during the transition - although they plan to stay on & staffed until June 2025. It is possible that rates & fees for patient transport will be increasing. Impact will be minimal 20% copay if patient is insured. Recruitment process has begun to replace Chief Niblock, who is retiring in the fall.

Some discussion regarding CAD system (PD report beam?) is not doing it's job with out-of-state plates, requiring some manual entry including birthdates. There is a timeline to fix, with 165 interface glitches to work through. A lot of data to work out, but getting there.

Chairs

Morningside has newer Board members and are seeking ideas for boosting attendance. Suggestions included: newsletters, mailings, events (clothing swap, mural painting, NNO, Salem seekers in park), social media, using the newspaper (Salem reporter).

There was a huge turnout at last SCAN meeting due to recent shooting, drug bust and increased graffiti presence.

Reminder that Englewood Forest Festival is August 10th. Booth space was full in less than a week.

United way senior housing pods under construction in ELNA near Swegle school. 1st section of pods almost complete. Set rent @ \$500 includes utilities, applications being accepted now. One home will house on-sight staff who manages the facilities. Limited parking for residents. There will be 40 pods once the project is complete.

Staff announcements:

Elizabeth Kennedy Wong - Mayor/City Manager's Office

Chief Communications Officer Elizabeth Kennedy Wong encourages attendance at the Revenue task force town halls. Weekly newsletter sent via eblast on Friday will include details from most recent council meeting. She welcomes invites to upcoming NA meetings.

Lieutenant Dowd & Deputy Chief Aguilar - Salem Police Department

Since Aguilar's promotion to Deputy Chief, Lt. Dowd will be community engagement lead. Cards were passed around for the graffiti hotline. SPD newsletter includes details about a major arrest in mail theft, list of victims names are on the SPD website of mail recovered. Another community engagement event for CVRI will be held in Spanish in April.

Irma Coleman - Neighborhood services

Street painting murals - funds expire end of June. GET IT GOING!

Events are happening all over, please reach out if you would like flyers to help advertise yours or other events.

Rob Romanek - Parks

Fairview park - 28 acres purchased by city in 2016 with master plan. Revisit/refine the plan this fall due to significant changes in the surrounding community, the audience is the entire city. See flyer on table near sign-in sheet. The event has passed, but the survey is open through the end of April to discuss options for this park. They are seeking diverse feedback.

2022 Bond included the paving of two parking lots at Minto Brown (Lots #2 & #3 includes dog park) Please be mindful of construction for the next couple months.

The city will be working in Brown Road park this summer on poplar trees damaged by ice storm. Master plan for park is still underway, the standing water issue will be addressed once the storm water basins are connected. More can be discussed at May NOLA meeting when park staff come out to talk about Livingston Park updates.

Julie Hanson - Traffic Planning

Residents still have an opportunity to provide input on the Safety and Livability Bond Pedestrian Project. Deadline extended until 4/15 due to technical glitches and partner agency request. Hard copy forms available in English & Spanish - See flyer near sign-in sheet. McGilchrist & 22nd closed April 1 - July. Avoid if possible.

Work is starting on the Transportation System Plan. No date for public outreach event. Phase 1 of Salem in Motion - collaborating with Keizer & Marion County to increase transportation options and reduce climate impact.

Laurie Shaw Cesarez - Youth Development

Details about 1000 soles program. Drive through prescription drug day coming up at dayspring church. Another national DEA day in April to turn in prescription drugs. Check weekly newsletter for details.

Care corp - summer leadership program for high school students collaborating with Ike Box.

Heidi Miller - Center 50+

Wow Van is scheduling for summer months

Generations over dinner - great neighborhood , contact Heidi if interested in scheduling.

Sarah Murray - Salem Housing Authority

Opening multiple waiting list. Details will be posted on socials and housing website.

Sequoia crossings is getting full and meeting goals

SHA staff were invited to train at National Housing First Event, a true honor to be recognized.