



## NEN General Meeting Minutes 3/12/2024

### **Call to order: 6:30 PM via Zoom**

Board attendance: Lynn Takata, Joan Lloyd, Leslie Polson, Ken Similia, Erin Grimm, Delana Beaton. Ken Similia, Cindy Kimball, Lelanya Kruger

**Total Attendance:** 24

### **Guest speakers:**

Sargeant Smith, Salem Police Department  
Linda Nishioka, Salem City Councilor Ward 2

### **Announcements:**

1. The Annual Neighborhood Trash Clean Up will take place on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 9AM to noon. At the Church of the Nazarene Parking lot located on 16<sup>th</sup> Steet at Market street.
2. Free art classes will be held at the Court Street Christian Church for those who are interested in working on the mural at McRae Park. (Time, date, and more locations for art classes TBD)

### **Action:**

Joan Lloyd made a motion to approve the February 2024 meeting minutes. Delana Beaton seconded the motion. February 2024 minutes unanimously approved.

### **Sargeant Smith's Report**

1. Since 2024, SPD has hired 5 new officers. In April, they expect to hire 4 more officers. They will be close to being fully staffed.
2. The community is invited to participate in the Salem Police Department's Community Police Academy. The purpose of the program is to enhance understanding and communication between the community and the police through in-person classes about police services, programs, procedures, and policies. Classes are limited to 20 participants. Classes last for 14 weeks and take place on Wednesday evenings from 6-9 PM and three Saturday classes. If you are interested in participating: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/community/safety/police/get-involved/community-police-academy>
3. Community Violence Response Initiative: SPD is collecting data on trends of violent crime in Salem, so they know where to focus their attention.
4. Traffic on Market Street at the 21<sup>st</sup> street block: During a 5-day period, the average speed throughout all hours of the day is around 30 MPH. However, there were 37 vehicles that exceeded the speed limit by 20 MPH and 2.7% exceeded the speed at 60 MPH or more. The SPD traffic control unit is aware there is a problem and working to educate individuals on the importance of obeying the speed limit.
5. Marion County DA will no longer prosecute a criminal for breaking into cars until they have been arrested 15 times for this crime. If you experience a vandalized or stolen vehicle, please report it to the police. If you have video footage of the crime, please tell the police and you can submit to the police via email, or an officer can come to your house to obtain the footage for evidence.

6. Discussion about tools to help students in schools. Delana suggested:
  - a. Bringing back Truant Officers to schools.
  - b. Bringing back Resource Officers to schools.
  - c. Reinstating SPD Gang Officers

Sargeat Smith said the first two were the responsibility of the Salem Keizer School District.

Lynn suggested that citizens testify at the Salem Budget Committee meetings or write a letter to their city councilor and request that the city budget support the funding of two SPD Graffiti Abatement Officers.

**Linda Nishioka, Salem City Councilor Ward 2:**

1. The city of Salem hired a consultant to evaluate the city's ambulance services provided by Faulk Northwest. Faulk NW has received fines of over \$200,000 for their slow service in transporting patients. The consultant recommended eliminating Faulk NW and reinstating the ambulance service back into the Salem Fire Department. The city of Salem plans to write a grant for the 7 ambulances they will need to acquire. The final decision to move to this new model will take place at the city council meeting later in March.
2. Short Term rental report: Salem has approximately 300 short term rentals of various formats, including Air B&B and single-family homes renting out a room. Each is supposed to file an annual "conditional use permit". This permit requires applicants to send TOT funds to the city. Currently, only 16 short-term rentals are up to date on their permits.
3. Marion County reported to the city council on alcohol, vaping, and tobacco use in Salem. It appears that younger and younger kids are using alcohol and vaping and acquiring both products from their parents.

At the next NEN meeting we will host candidates for various elections that will take place in May 2024.

**Next meeting:** April 9, 2024, via Zoom.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:15PM

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Kimball 3/26/24