

North Lancaster Neighborhood Association

Monthly Meeting

May 1, 2024, at 6:30 PM

Salem, Oregon

1. Call to Order / Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:31PM, 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	Present
Carl Engstrom	Member at large	Absent
Denise Currey	Member at large	Present
Kim Currey	Member at large	Present
Pamela Blake	Member at large	Absent
Bobby Ottis	Member at large	Present
Patty Tipton	Member at large	Present
Claudine Shaw	Member at large	Present

Attendees: Sgt Erik Ammon, Michael Hoselton

Neighbors: Liz Veysey, Paul Shumate, Rodger Haase, Tiffany Ottis

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from April 2024 were submitted for Board review on 4/27/2024.

Kim Currey motioned to approve. Bethany Crespin seconded the motion. The minutes from April 2024 were unanimously approved.

3. Police Report – Sergeant Ammon from Salem Police Department

- a. Community Violence Reduction Initiative (CVRI) conversation in Spanish with English translation was held at Chemeketa 4/19/24. June and August meetings will be scheduled to continue working on strategies. Email salempolicedept@cityofsalem.net to receive future notifications for upcoming meetings.
- b. Crime data and statistical information is being reviewed to allocate resources to problem areas. City has partnered with LexisNexis to assemble the data and provide user-friendly access to information. Visit <https://cityofsalem.net/crime-stats> and follow the link to view the crime map. Use the map's filters to focus on types of crimes, dates and areas. The map provides a general location of incidents.

Q – *What is the cost of doing this? Why doesn't the Salem PD do this in house?* Sgt Ammon will follow up with PD.

- c. Graffiti reports are funneled to different departments depending on its type and location. In public spaces and neighborhoods contact Graffiti Abatement at 503-371-4264 or email graffiti@cityofsalem.net. In any city park, report to Public Works Dispatch

at 503-588-6311. Hate speech graffiti should be reported to the police non-emergency line 503-588-6123, option 1.

Q – *Why can't a report to graffiti abatement be disseminated within the city?* Sgt Ammon will pass along the question.

- d. A procedural justice class will take place May 18th from 8-5. It is free and citizens will sit alongside officers to learn about key tenets. Send an email to daguilar@cityofsalem.net if interested in participating.
- e. Budget update – PD lost 4 sworn and 1 non-sworn positions and were forced to eliminate the mobile response team. Its officers have been reassigned within the department. Federal level funding was lost and SPD can no longer sustain a co-response model as the qualified mental health professional position was eliminated. The vacant graffiti abatement position was also lost. There is an expectation that another 10 sworn officer positions may be lost.

Comment – *The city could have more sworn officers if it wasn't so top heavy.*

Q – *Who do we contact for neighborhood watch?* Contact Community Engagement Officer Janz at 503-588-6175 to get started.

Homeless encampment reporting portal [HERE](#)

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

4. Councilor Report: None present – Councilor Julie Hoy advised Deanna that she had a scheduling conflict due to the budget meeting but shared the following:
 - a. Feedback from the revenue task force should be coming soon as their last town hall wrapped up.
 - b. Salem Housing Authority's waiting list will be open until May 19th.
 - c. City seeks community feedback related to Fairview Park development.
5. Salem Parks Update – Ray Joseph – Needed to reschedule his presentation to NOLA and will be on June's agenda. NOLA Parks Chair, Shirlene Gonzalez, updated board regarding last week's Parks Committee Meeting.
 - a. The committee met with the goal of laying out recommendations for projects and the upcoming grant cycle application.
 - b. There is a beautiful mural on a homeowner's fence that borders Hoodview Park, and it is an idea we are considering for graffiti abatement in a number of NOLA parks. The committee is learning more about the process and how to engage students in this type of project.
 - c. All NOLA parks except McKay need a bike rack. One is in city storage that was donated for Brown Road Park that will not be installed until the park design is completed. Shirlene is investigating whether it can be used in another park in the meantime. Bike club is a potential funding source for the others.
 - d. Brown Road Park is the only NOLA park with a pollinator garden.
 - e. Livingston Park has softball fields, but no benches. Additionally, it doesn't have a park shelter which is appropriate for the type of park. The board should consider a park shelter which is not a good candidate for a grant project, it would be a capital

improvement project (CIP) only. At next month's meeting, we will call the question of the addition of a park shelter at Livingston and possibly Lansing and if NOLA agrees to proceed, the requisite paperwork will be completed.

- f. Livingston Park's plan currently includes a project to design playground improvements. During Shirlene's review, she noted that the forecast now combines the funding for similar projects in multiple parks and she sent an email to the city requesting that they not do that. The response was that they are leveraging the use of a single consulting firm and one public outreach effort for these projects. The public input process will begin next month. This is a Safety & Livability Bond project.
- g. Trail rehabilitation and/or replacement at McKay, Lansing and Livingston parks are also project candidates.
- h. Lansing Park picnic tables and sports benches were funded from Salem SPIF. We are waiting on an update on timing of procurement and installation. Additionally, we need an outreach effort to determine if Lansing is a good location for mobile soccer goals.
- i. McKay has graffiti issues and needs trail maintenance. There is \$488K in current FY budget for McKay Park design (to include restroom, shelters, sports field improvements) with proposals due mid-May. The plan is to construct the improvements in summer 2025. Still undecided is the future of the cement structure which could potentially be repurposed as a skate park. If feasible, such a plan would be reviewed by NOLA and if not desired, would be replaced with a lawn area and trees.

Q – *When you say design, this is still all on paper and so is the \$488K really for a proposal?* While Shirlene couldn't speak to that specifically, she will inquire to get more clarification.

There followed some general discussion of curiosity about actual spending on McKay Park and the suggestion that the Council should get a regular report on spending and progress against the proposals and projects. A consistent theme was concern over the amount of consulting dollars spent vs what could be accomplished internally by Salem Parks.

- j. Brown Road Park has graffiti and needs a bike rack which was discussed earlier. This park's project history in the capital improvement plan has changed significantly over time. The current plan has \$200K for FY2023, \$800K for FY2024 and \$500K for FY2025.

Q – *What is included in that?* The project is in park development phase 1 with \$200K allocated in the current year's budget. Shirlene asked for an update on progress and was advised that they hadn't spent the money. \$200K is enough to begin but not complete the design phase.

- k. Other Brown Road Park:
 - i. There are ongoing efforts at Brown Road Park to manage the non-native white poplar growth. The goal is to remove the stumps and return in the fall to address regrowth and to plant new trees.
 - ii. Bethany has suggested a Brown Road Park planting party and is following up with the master gardener to coordinate and schedule.
 - iii. Shirlene requested an estimate for a light
 - iv. Need to restock the neighborhood library
- l. Fairground Area Acquisition – the city is looking to purchase land in NOLA or NEN neighborhood for another park.

- m. Park Committee's recommendation for prioritization of projects
 - i. Add sports benches at Livingston
 - ii. Add pollinator garden at Lansing (an example pollinator garden is in Brown Rd Park)
 - iii. Add pollinator garden at Livingston

Deanna made a MOTION for Shirlene to submit a grant application for sports benches at Livingston. Christine seconded the motion, and it received unanimous approval from the board members present.

- n. Graffiti: Frequent reporting of graffiti and *frequent* presence in the park are deterrents to graffiti. Shirlene would like to develop a pattern of volunteers to visit the parks to photograph and report graffiti in our neighborhood parks. Volunteers will be requested one month at a time so there is no pressure of long-term commitment. The following neighbors volunteered to walk the parks at least one time before our next meeting.
 - i. McKay Park – Deanna
 - ii. Brown Road Park – Liz
 - iii. Lansing Park – Michael
 - iv. Livingston Park – Bethany

Q – *Was the community garden worth putting in Brown Road Park?* Through a partnership with Marion Polk Food Share there is a garden coordinator. Dennis said he was impressed last summer with what they had grown. *Could a community garden be added at Lansing and Livingston?* Bethany will ask her Food Share contacts. Shirlene said it was absolutely worth it. Some neighbors have no space at all to garden and the community garden gives kids exposure to this activity.

Q – *Are spaces on the lottery system?* People signed up and historically have made a deposit. The spaces are first come first served. If hours were contributed to garden upkeep, sometimes a deposit was returned. On the [Marion Polk Food Share site](#), there is a link to sign up to be a garden coordinator. If we are planning for more gardens, coordinators will be needed. Next month, Bethany will update us on the garden.

6. Committee Reports & Board Business

- a. Mural Funds expire next month. Design elements will be circulated for approval. A Northgate neighbor from Northgate has designed several murals and will be asked for help with NOLA plans. Deanna has sourced volunteers.
- b. In February 2023, Patty proposed a beautification project at Lansing Park where a fence (6' tall and 160 linear feet) along private property lines is constantly under attack by graffiti artists, has mismatched paint and could use a fresh coat of paint. Patty contacted Salem Parks to inquire about sourcing materials. She has sourced volunteers and received neighbor approval to have the fence painted. An estimate for primer, paint and materials is \$400. Patty reported that she has secured funding and needs to speak with Jennifer at city services regarding the details. We will table further discussion on expense and volunteers until June. Then Patty will have an outline of the financial resources, costs and volunteer resources prepared for that discussion.
- c. Transit – Rodger Haase – See the Cherriots news on pages 7 & 8 -- visit [Cherriots web page](#) for details.
- d. Traffic – Deanna Garcia (nothing new to report)

- e. Land Use – Dennis Will
 - i. Information regarding the Evergreen project was distributed to the NOLA board last month. No one present had anything to discuss about it.
 - ii. 2826 Evergreen – rezoning efforts are underway to resolve issue with parceled property that hasn't been properly validated.
 - iii. An email was received regarding a property just outside NOLA's boundary. The property owner built mini cottages on his land without following proper process.
- f. NANNO Event Planning is underway, and we have secured August 7th as the event date. The location is McKay Park and times are yet to be determined but probably 6-8PM.
 - i. Volunteers are needed. Confirm availability and strengths for assignments (ex. organizers, PR and social media, attend NNO kickoff event, pick up equipment from Public Works, set up, staff booth, float between tasks, crisis management, food service, clean up, drop off equipment at public works.) Volunteers will receive a t-shirt.
 - ii. Entertainment may include the Folklorico group that participated last year as well as the Islander group from McKay High School, but we are also looking for school performers and maybe a local DJ. We may have a dunk tank.
 - iii. An email will go out to non-profits and community organizations to secure the date and their participation. We are seeking food trucks and/or food sources. We may allow other vendors to participate, provided they pay a price, and those funds will go to a cause NOLA endorses such as Marion Polk Food Share.
 - iv. Outreach & Communication: we will make a flier for this event and share on social media

7. Open Forum for any discussion

- a. Liz appreciated NOLA for bringing candidates in last month. It was informative and it would be good to consider including even more candidates for various positions in the future.

Q – Could we get the judicial seat to potentially make graffiti abatement an obligatory community service? Are there other ways to get the resources without always having to pay for them? Deanna will contact juvenile court as a potential resource.

Q – Can we request that Nelson Morales from code enforcement speak with us, and Officer Mark Jantz regarding Neighborhood Watch?

- b. Bobby Ottis was cited for parking three vehicles in his driveway. He called and spoke to a supervisor who came out and observed eight similar violations in the neighborhood but explained that they won't cite those other neighbors unless there is a complaint. Due to damage to multiple vehicles by people speeding down Walker Road, the Ottis' solution was to park all vehicles in their driveway. But one disgruntled neighbor filed a complaint. Bobby has a court date on May 21st. Deanna reported she has also communicated with code enforcement about the issue. She was advised to request a variance from the City Council. Deanna will follow up.

8. Close of Meeting / Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:33PM

CHERRIOTS - Neighborhood Association News

Route 22 launches May 5

Beginning this month, the Salem Area Mass Transit District will be operating its new Kuebler Link bus route, connecting south Lancaster Drive and south Commercial Street. By connecting these two key arteries, Cherriotics is not only enhancing mobility but also fostering greater economic activity and social interaction within the community it serves. Route 22 is strategically located to provide convenient travel options with other Cherriotics routes: 6, 8, 11, 18 and 21. Route 22 provides service every 20 minutes during weekday peak service times. It operates seven days a week, serving key destinations along Kuebler Boulevard. Up to four buses serve Route 22. At 25 feet in length, these vehicles are smaller than the standard 35 or 40-foot-bus. The smaller size allows access to areas that a typical bus could not.

The introduction of the Kuebler Link is expected to have a significant positive impact on the community, reducing traffic congestion, lowering carbon emissions, and providing a cost-effective alternative to car travel.

Cherriotics welcomes new chief technology officer

Art Boulanger brings over three decades of extensive information technology leadership experience to his new role as head of IT. His career has spanned both the private and public sectors, giving him a unique perspective on leveraging technology to drive innovation and operational efficiency. Throughout his career, Boulanger has embraced emerging technologies like cloud computing, AI/machine learning, cybersecurity, data analytics and mobile platforms. He is a strong believer in building highly collaborative IT teams that partner closely with stakeholders across the organization. With his combination of corporate and public sector IT leadership experience, Boulanger is well-positioned to strategically guide the organization's technology vision and execution.

The annual APTA mobility conference wraps up today in Portland

The annual APTA Mobility Conference brings together transit leaders and industry experts to discuss the critical priorities and challenges facing bus and paratransit systems in today's rapidly evolving mobility landscape.

With rising costs, workforce shortages, the transition to zero-emission fleets, and evolving mobility patterns impacting transit agencies across the country, the conference provides a vital forum to share best practices and strategies for the way forward. As the mobility environment rapidly shifts, events like the APTA Mobility Conference ensure that transit agencies can adapt and thrive to continue providing essential transportation services in their communities.

Cherriotics competes at the International Bus Roadeo

A team from Cherriotics Maintenance competed in APTA's International Bus Roadeo this week in Portland. This event is a unique learning opportunity for operators and maintenance teams to engage with other transit agency professionals up close and personal. The Roadeo is a competition of driving skills and maintenance disciplines; it is a training and networking opportunity for all attendees.

Cherriots announces call for artists to celebrate Hispanic/Latiné Heritage Month

The Salem Area Mass Transit District, known locally as Cherriots, seeks local and regional artists to participate in a project celebrating Hispanic/Latiné Heritage Month.

Hispanic/Latiné Heritage Month is observed annually from September 15 to October 15, celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of individuals whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. This project highlights the vibrant Hispanic/Latiné culture through artistic expression by wrapping a full-size Cherriots bus with the selected artwork.

"We are excited to announce the launch of our community call for artists as part of our celebration of Hispanic/Latiné Heritage Month," said Board President Maria Hinojos Pressey. "This initiative is a wholehearted tribute to Latiné culture and its profound impact on our community. We hope to provide a platform where art and cultural heritage unite to visibly remind us of the diverse and rich tapestry that weaves our community together."

Earlier this year, Cherriots launched its "Heritage and History in Transit" initiative, joining dozens of other public transit providers in recognizing Heritage and History Recognition Months. This is the second of three buses that will be wrapped to recognize and celebrate the broad and diverse community served by Cherriots. In February, the agency wrapped a bus to honor Black History Month. The unifying theme of this initiative is "Connecting Cultures, Creating Community."

For the next bus wrap, Cherriots is requesting submissions from artists who are passionate about celebrating Hispanic/Latiné heritage and culture. This call is open to all artists, with a special encouragement for submissions from individuals who identify as Hispanic/Latiné and are actively engaged with Hispanic/Latiné communities. Applicants must be residents of the Mid-Willamette Valley or have strong ties to the area.

Artwork must be original and appropriately honor Hispanic/Latiné culture and heritage.

Submissions should be scalable to fit the dimensions of a bus. Vector images are preferred as they can be scaled up or down without affecting quality.

To participate, submit a digital portfolio of the proposed artwork and a brief description of how the concept celebrates Hispanic/Latiné heritage.

Entries must be received by July 12, 2024.

All submissions will be reviewed by a panel of members from the local art community, Hispanic/Latiné community leaders, and transit agency representatives. The winning artist's work will be featured on a bus for Hispanic/Latiné Heritage Month and up to four months following.

Artists interested in applying may send their submissions to kirra.pressey@cherriots.org, by July 12. For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.cherriots.org/callforart/>