

Minutes of **GRANT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

Board Meeting April 4, 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	P	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: Ray Quisenberry, Mira Karthik, Sara Beeson, Hazel Griffen, Peter Smith, Stacey Smith, Nick Beleiciks, Dan Siskin, Tammy Stanley, James Stanley, Matthew Groat, Shani Pettit, Michael Pettit, Kat Keys, Jean Palmateer, Anne Colao, Rubi Martinez-Sanchez, Diana Cortes, Carolin VanOrdin, Carol DeCoursey, Scott Munford, Collin, Ivy, and one neighbor.

Christopher Hackett moved to **“Correct the title of agenda Item #7 to Adopt-a-Block and approve the agenda.”** Tina Hanson seconded the motion. The vote was 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Christopher Hackett moved that **“We approve the March minutes as submitted.”** Tina Hanson seconded the motion. The vote was 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

#2 Great Story from Grant

- Sam Skillern has been elected Salem’s “First Citizen” by the Salem Chamber of Commerce.
- The North Salem High School (NSHS), all-girls, robotics team won the design category in the Oregon Competition held at the Oregon State Fairgrounds. They will be going to Texas to compete in the World Competition.
- The NSHS theater production of Chicago, has been invited to present an encore performance at the Elsinore theater.
- Three students from Willamette University were in attendance. They are collecting information on the revitalization of the Broadway Street area. They have been meeting with local business owners and came to our meeting to get a sense of the neighborhood involvement. Sam Skillern commented on the role that the July 1997 North Downtown Development Plan, which Grant Neighborhood board members and non-board member residents, played a considerable part in developing, spearheaded the revitalization.

#3 Neighbor Concerns

- A neighbor commented that there is word around the neighboring area, that the Jason Lee Methodist Church owners are looking at converting the church to low-income housing and/or a community center. At around 11:45 pm, on a day in late March, there was a shooting at the church property abutting Norway Street. Police did not find anyone, but did recover shell casings. Officer Groat said that he did not have any information about the incident.
- Mike Pettit brought up the late-night drag racing that regularly occurs on Capitol Street. He said the cars start at the light at the Market Street intersection and reach speeds up to 100 mph as they pass his business and continue on north. He said he did some racing as a young man and was able to judge the cars’ speed.
- Teresa Joslin reported that 1290 Capitol Street was boarded up and something was being done in the backyard, but she didn’t know what.

- Teresa Joslin has been in touch with the City of Salem regarding the removal of the RP-2 Parking Permit area along Gaines Street, between Capitol and Summer streets. She was told that the Neighborhood Association had to approve her contacting neighbors to determine support for the request. The longtime board members said they had never been asked to do this before, but Teresa said that was what she was told by, she thought, Kevin Hottmann, PE, at the City Public Works Dept. Teresa Joslin moved that ***“The Grant Neighborhood Association Board give her permission to approach neighbors with a petition to the City of Salem to remove the RP-2 Parking Permit area along Gaines Street between Capitol Street and Summer Street.”*** Christopher Hackett seconded the motion. During further discussion, Teresa explained that the Covid-19 pandemic that resulted in so many State of Oregon employees working from their homes, has greatly reduced the number of non-resident cars parking in this area. She no longer feels the need to have the permit system there and does not wish to continue to pay the fees for the resident permit. The vote was 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

#4 **Officer Report**

Police Sargeant Matthew Groat was present. He reported a fatal shooting at Wallace Marine Park this morning.

Meetings of the Community Violence Reduction Initiative will take place on April 19th at Chemeketa Community College at 6:00 pm in Building 2. The presentation and discussion will be in Spanish. The session will be available online or on CC-media.

The Neighborhood Watch program will be coming back. One individual is working on getting it setup. For information, you can contact Mark Jantz, the community involvement coordinator, at 503.588.6175. This program works well because neighbors know best who is supposed to be at their neighbors’ homes; recognizing what cars and people are familiar and which are not.

The Police Dept. has 100 volunteers that assist the department. Tasks performed include: helping with domestic violence victims; patrolling designated disabled parking spots; setting up speed reader boards; vacation time home checks, squad car cleanups, etc.

Neighbors asked if they can paint/cleanup graffiti. Officer Groat said yes. There is only 1 person left in the Graffiti Program and the Parks Dept. does not have staff to clean park facilities that are marked – leaving Public Works staff to do that. Before removing it, please take a photo and submit it online to the city’s graffiti abatement website so they can track patterns. Mike Pettit reported a huge uptick in graffiti on fences, blank walls, and businesses, including his, in the McCoy-Capitol streets area.

#5 **Councilor Report**

Virginia Stapleton was not present, but did provide an emailed report:

- Salem Fire Department will be the exclusive provider of ambulance service in Salem starting July 1, 2025. A committee will oversee implementation and operation under the Ambulance Operator Model recommended in a third-party study. The model capitalizes on the specialized skills of single-role paramedics and EMT Basics to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in EMS operations. The model projects sustainable net revenue over expenses and this model is projected to facilitate further investments into the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) infrastructure.
- Council approved a predevelopment property tax exemption to help the Micronesian Islander Community develop low-income housing at 2210-2230 Commercial Street NE. The development will include the first Center for Micronesian Culture in the continental US. Housing will be available not only to the Micronesian community, but other working families facing housing insecurity. The Non-Profit Low Income Housing Tax Exemption has 400 units that are developed or in pre-development.
- The North Waterfront/North Downtown area has become an area of redevelopment interest. The Salem Urban Renewal Agency Board voted to initiate the process to create a new North Waterfront Urban Renewal area to help with redevelopment. This is the first step in a 9 to 12-month process, with several opportunities for public comment. Urban renewal is designed to make public investments in designated

geographic areas to remove blight, improve property values and leverage private investment. Staff will draft a plan for review by the Agency Board before beginning steps to adopt a new urban renewal area.

- More than 100 people commented in support for the library. Testimony from the community clearly demonstrated concern and support for the library. Many individuals participated based on funding options presented to the Budget Committee Meeting on March 21. Two of the options referenced library closure. Four Options to achieve the necessary budget reductions were developed and presented to City Council in September and October 2023. Option 1 is the basis for discussion at the Budget Committee. We are not proposing closing the library. I, personally, received close to 400 emails and voicemails in support of the library.
- We have a City Council meeting Monday, April 8th, at 6 p.m. Not much is on the agenda, but we will have a dark sky's proclamation!
- On April 15th, we'll have a City Council Work Session that will look at options for allocation of opioid settlement funds.
- The Salem Revenue Town Hall Meetings are scheduled for April 10th, 6:30-8:30 pm, in South Salem, Baxter Hill Community Hall, 1780 Baxter Road SE; April 16th will be a virtual conversation. Sign-ups to participate will be coming soon. The last town hall will be April 23rd, 6:30-8:30 pm, in North Salem, Center 50+, 2615 Portland Road NE.
- There are multiple events planned to celebrate Salem-Keizer's Chinese Heritage during the Qingming Festival, see the city's website for details.
- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Blue ribbons will be hung from a tree in the north end of Riverfront Park during April and the Union Street Railroad Bridge will feature blue lights. This is the second year that the ribbons have been hung in Riverfront Park, after moving from the Capitol grounds. The project is organized by Marion County. Each ribbon represents a child victim of abuse.

Susan Napack brought information presented at the Neighborhood Chairs' meeting that she attended. The information that Councilor Stapleton reported, above, regarding the coming change to the city's ambulance service and the discussion about library services were also discussed at the chairs' meeting. Another topic was traffic and safety and the proposed Safety & Livability Bond of \$3-million. The money would be spent on sidewalks and pedestrian crossings. There is an online form available that people can fill out with recommendations of locations that need help. This survey will help to prioritize the chosen locations for construction and installations. The Parks Dept. will be making improvements to Fairview Park. The Youth Development Program is organizing a food collection. The city is sponsoring the drug-turn-in program for those with unused medications that they need to dispose of. This is provided to discourage dumping these medicines down the drain and into the city's sewage system.

#6 Revenue Task Force Report

Jean Palmateer returned to update us on the actions of the task force. A virtual public meeting of the group will be held online on April 15th and an in-person meeting on April 23rd at the Center 50+. The focus group's criteria are to measure: sustainability; impact to the local economy; impact on the environment; the timeline necessary; and, what is happening in regional peer cities. Forty options are being rated high, medium, or low. These include: intergovernmental agreements (i.e. state paying for city services in lieu of paying local taxes); a corporate income tax; a local option property tax; a local tax on marijuana; a local tax on cigarettes; fully annex all property within the Urban Growth Boundary; implement business license fees; impose a vacancy tax on vacant properties (acknowledging the fact that empty buildings draw activities that require police responses); implement local sales tax, and/or restaurant tax, and/or gas tax; sunset the old Urban Renewal Districts and put the properties back on the tax role; carbon tax; and, business growth tax. Community members are welcome to attend any of the task force meetings.

#7 **Adopt One Block**

Kat Keys was inspired by our last meeting, where the increase in neighborhood litter was brought up, to search for a solution. She found the Adopt One Block program. It has an online site to sign-up and take responsibility for taking care of picking up litter on one city block for one year. There is no cost. In return for volunteering, you will have a bucket with a supply of plastic bags, a pair of gloves, a grabber, and, if you wish, a sharps container, all sent directly to your house by Amazon. The program is coordinated by a tax-exempt organization that has corporate sponsors to provide the free supplies. You can adopt more than one block if you choose. Kat has information on how to properly dispose of the sharps containers. <https://www.adoptoneblock.org>

#8 **Super Stop Market – Block Party**

Michael Pettit said he is having the store hardscape repaved and the fresh surface might be a great spot for the National Night Out event on August 6th. He deferred further discussion for the summer block party to provide his wife, Shani Pettit, the opportunity to bring some information on how restricting the use of power landscaping equipment could affect those in the industry, which she has worked in. She said the restrictions would financially affect merchants, manufacturers, building workers, the elderly, low-income households and profit margins. Laura Hermann suggested that any program might need to address the biggest users of gas-powered equipment first, such as the school district, and city and state government. Portland has set up a phase out program.

#9 **Street Painting**

Laura Hermann brought a proposal for another street painting in our neighborhood. The Neighborhood Association was reimbursed for the money we spent on the first one and many neighbors would like to use those funds to create a second one. Laura and some others who helped organize the Cottage & Belmont painting have been scouting locations. They like the intersection of Winter & Norway because it is part of both the Neighborhood Greenway and the Maple Winter Scenic Bikeway. A collaborative circle painting is one idea for the composition, as it would represent bike wheels and the intersection as a hub. The neighborhood also has a \$1000 gift to host a neighborhood celebration. Aaron suggested that an artist be recruited for the design. Laura had some samples of circle paintings that her students at Grant Community School had created and would like to build on that idea. Another proposed activity that could be provided at the painting party is to build Little Free Library boxes in the adjacent parking lot. Mike Pettit offered resources for the party. Christopher Hackett moved that ***“Grant Neighborhood Association move forward with planning a second street painting and that the interest group collect information and return with a proposal for the Association to consider for approval.”*** Aaron seconded the motion. The vote was 11 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions.

#10 **Board Member Reports**

- CERT - Lola Hackett was assisting with the current CERT class and was not present: Jeanne Boatwright presented Lola’s report.
 - The next series of classes will be held on Tuesday evenings, starting May 14 and ending June 25. These classes will be held at Free Church, 6994 Sunnyside Road SE, starting at 6 pm each evening and ending by 9 pm. If anyone would like to register for these classes, please contact me at lolahackett@yahoo.com.
 - We will also be holding two Stop the Bleed classes at Fire Station #6 (2740 25th Street SE, Salem), one on Thursday May 9, and one on Thursday June 6. Each class starts at 6 pm and will be approximately 90 minutes in length. CERT certification is not required to attend the classes. (The two classes are the same content so it is only necessary to attend one.)

- Communications/Outreach – Susan Napack:
 - Susan announced that the cards had been mailed to Grant residences and thanked Tim France for SAC's generous contribution to the printing cost. Michael Pettit said he did not receive the card so it is unclear if businesses were included on the mailing list. Nick Maselli volunteered to deliver cards to local businesses when he walks his dog.
 - She is looking for volunteers to set up and/or staff the booth at the Saturday Market. Nick Maselli, Teresa Joslin, Mark DeCoursey and Kat Keys all raised their hands to help. The booth for non-profits is no longer free, but costs \$15. Susan moved that ***“The Grant Neighborhood Association approve paying the \$15.00 booth fee for the Saturday Market.”*** Aaron Terpening seconded the motion. The vote was 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.
 - Susan proposed a questionnaire that would be available at the General meeting in May that would ask: How did you learn about the Grant Neighborhood Association? How would you like to be involved?
 - Susan asked if everyone still supported having a potluck at the General Meeting, like we did before the Covid epidemic. Christopher Hackett moved that ***“We include a potluck in our General Meeting.”*** Teresa Joslin seconded the motion. The vote was 10 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.
- Land Use Updates – Aaron Terpening:
 - The Cannery Project at the Truitt site along Front Street, will be one of the featured presentations at our General Meeting. To prepare, anyone can go to the City of Salem website and look up the land use application and access all of the documents that have been filed. <https://egov.cityofsalem.net/PACPortal/Permit/View/1159370> The application has not yet been deemed complete. Once that occurs, the GNA will have a limited time to comment on what is being proposed. A lot of Adjustments are being requested, including a reduction in parking spaces. The stadium that was discussed earlier in the development phase, is not in the proposal documents. As neighbors review the documents, you can funnel your questions and comments to Aaron at aterp1@gmail.com He will forward them to the developer ahead of time so that the questions can be addressed in their presentation at our meeting.
 - DevNW answered a series of questions about the Evergreen Church development:
 - ❖ Scheduled occupancy is aiming for mid-to-late summer;
 - ❖ Occupants will be veterans, most of whom will be local, and who will work with a community-based service organization;
 - ❖ Applications will start being processed about 2 months before the opening for occupancy;
 - ❖ There have been no changes to the plans.
- North Neighborhoods CPT – Sam Skillern:
 - NEN & Grant annual joint Neighborhood Cleanup on May 18th at the First Nazarene Church east parking lot on 16th Street. Sign-ups are available for volunteers.
 - The North Community Progress Team will be meeting this month at the United Way offices on Bliler Lane, just south of the North Salem Fred Meyer store. They will be sponsoring a second summer of the Salem Seekers program which will be hiding blown glass birds in neighborhood parks for folks to find and take home. It is family friendly, so bring your kids. The program supports increasing neighborhood residents use of the parks with the hope of reducing any park problems.
 - Sam brought up the Salem Parks & Recreation Board grant program - noting that the deadline for submitting a request was April 15th. Since we have not prepared an application, and the projects that have been most recently discussed would need a bigger budget than

what this program offers, it was suggested that we try to settle on a specific project and prepare an application for the fall SPIF grant program. If that should be awarded to us, we may be able to file in the spring with the SPRB, if we still need additional funds.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright