

Minutes of **GRANT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

Annual General Meeting May 2, 2024, 6:15 pm Broadway Commons and online via: Zoom video conference

AGENDA ITEM

#1 Introductions

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

Others present: Dee Rynerson, Kat Keys, Shani Pettit, Michael Pettit, Lacy Landecho, Walther Landecho, Dan Siskin, Peter Smith, Stacey Smith, Celine Coleman, Charlotte Scott, Bret Hammang, Ash Daven, Lauren Edmonds, Lindy Beaver, Carol DeCoursey, Virginia Stapleton, Anne Colao, Scott Munford, Carolin VanOrdin, Marlayn Madison, and Mescheal Heyman Tracy.

Tina Hanson moved to *“Edit agenda Item #6 to Revenue Task Force Report and Budget Committee Report with Virginia Stapleton presenting in place of Jean Palmateer, and Item #8 Truitt Cannery Development will be updated by our Land Use Chair, Aaron Terpening, in Trent Michaels absence.”* Mike Pettit seconded the motion. The vote was 27 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

#2 Great Story from Grant

- Laura Hermann mentioned that the Parrish Middle School Track team had a meet tonight with Adam Stephens Middle School
- Charlotte Scott commented on a painted fence in an alley between Capitol, Norway, Summer and Shipping streets that is beautiful and seems to have kept taggers from coming back and defacing the fence.
- Marissa Theve said the Envirothon Environmental Competition for high schools in Oregon will be held tomorrow, May 3rd, with the North Salem High School team competing. Envirothon is a program that provides mentorship, training, and competition in environmental sciences for high school students.
- Mark DeCoursey introduced Celine Coleman, who is on the ballot for the City of Salem, Ward 1, City Council position. Sam Skillern mentioned that Paul Tigan is the other candidate running for that position.
- Mike Pettit, manager of the Super Stop Market on Capitol Street, said that, sometime this summer he will be providing 10% discount offers.

#3 Neighbor Concerns

- A neighbor commented that trash bins are being taken from the streets to be used to haul belongings. Republic Services is not very willing/excited to replace the missing bins.
- Kat Keys said that in her Adopt One Block work at picking up trash around her block, she has discovered straws and foil drug paraphernalia in the Seed of Faith church parking lot. Mike Pettit added that he has heard reports (not specified as local) of Fentanyl being wiped on dollar bills which are then left on the ground and entice people to pick them up. Fentanyl can be absorbed through the skin, so this is a dangerous situation.
- A neighbor brought up concerns about 1065 Winter Street, where the abandoned house has been condemned by the city of Salem. Houseless individuals are trying to stay there. The owner, who lives in Washington, does not want to sell the property. City fines have reached over \$200,000. The owner has been contacted, in person, by Salem staff. The owner is elderly and does not have any legal

arrangements to deal with their affairs. So, it is a waiting situation right now. Neighbors said the structure is failing, including sections of the roof caving in and the foundation walls collapsing.

- Neighbors reported an incident of sketchy activity at the intersection of Shipping and Capitol streets that elicited a police response.
- A neighbor reported on a constant yard sale at 1265 Summer Street. There are bikes and stacks of tires. A lot of cars come through the alley stop briefly and move on. Neighbors suspect drug dealing. It was reported that the occupants previously were housed at Capitol and Norway but were kicked out. Board members recommended that City of Salem Compliance Services be called (503.588.6421) to investigate the site, as only 3 garage sales are allowed per house, per year. If city code violations are found, the investigation can expand to criminal investigations if evidence of that nature is observed.

#4 **Neighborhood Association Bylaws Updates and Revisions**

Marissa Theve explained that a subcommittee of the Neighborhood Association Board had been working this year on reviewing the 2013 edition of our bylaws and cleaning up language and updating them to current practices and technology. Notice of the two proposed revised editions, and copies thereof, were available at our online website for about a month. Copies were placed on each of the tables at this meeting. Edits and additions were highlighted in blue. Marissa pointed out the major changes, which were common to both versions and included a new board officer and two additional board chairs, these being: Treasurer, Outreach Chair, and Land Use Chair. The lone difference between the two versions was that one provided a voting age for the General Membership to be 18-years old, and the other did not specify any age limit. Aaron Terpening moved that ***“We open a discussion on the age limit issue.”*** Tina seconded the motion. The vote was 22 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Mark DeCoursey was concerned that children could add extra weight to their parents’ position on an issue that the child does not understand. Kat Keys commented that we have a definition of who is a member, so an age definition seems acceptable. Laura Herrmann said that, with no age limit, children could have a stake in the neighborhood they live in. Her children and students often have thoughts and opinions about given situations and an understanding that we don’t acknowledge. Bret Hammang said that a topic may generate interest, but we should consider the capacity to vote. Mike Pettit advised that we encourage children to persuade their parents to attend the General Meetings and vote. Nick Maselli asked, if these children were allowed to be recognized as voting members, could they be allowed to join the Board, where the monthly decisions are made? He supported them coming to participate, but not to vote. Charlotte Scott remarked that we have an age limit of 18 for many other activities and she feels it is appropriate in this situation, also. Virginia Stapleton asked what topics do most votes involve. Board secretary, Jeanne Boatwright, replied that, at monthly meetings, where board member votes have a recurring impact, most votes involve spending authorizations and comments/positions about land use issues. Wally Landecho suggested that having no voter age limit could be a slippery slope with complicated and long term affects. Dan Siskin asked if this is a problem that we actually have.

Peter Smith moved that ***“We approve the version of the amended Bylaws, as proposed, that establishes the age limit for voting at 18-years old.”*** Charlotte Scott seconded the motion.

The discussion continued on this motion. Susan Napack said that she was on the fence, but she agreed with Laura regarding civic involvement for kids. Wally Landecho said he appreciates kids learning civics. Brett Hammang asked if we are looking for an answer to a problem that we do not have. Shani commented that a lot of things don’t happen – until they do. The vote was 11 in favor, 9 opposed, 0 abstentions.

#5 **Election of Neighborhood Association Board Members**

Sam Skillern said that all of the current 13 board members are consenting to stand for reelection. He stated that Mike Pettit has become a regular attendee at our monthly meeting and had expressed

an interest in joining the board earlier this spring, but was willing to wait until this meeting to be elected to the board. Susan Napack nominated Kat Keys to be a board member since she has, also, become a regular attendee. Kat accepted the nomination. Both nominees have articulated their interest in being involved in working to support and improve our neighborhood. Aaron Terpening moved that ***“We approve the slate of candidates for the Neighborhood Association Board that includes the 13 current board members and the 2 new nominees.”*** Tina Hanson seconded the motion. The vote was 22 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

#6 Revenue Task Force Report and Budget Committee Report

Jean Palmateer was unable to attend, so Virginia Stapleton volunteered to provide us with information on these two topics.

The Revenue Task Force has had three town hall meetings in different parts of town. The one at the Center50+ had the biggest attendance. There were multiple stations with different for the attendees to vote on their support level by marking the presentation boards with dot stickers. The revenue streams could 1) cut services, 2) sustain current service levels, 3) sustain the current service levels and add a small amount of additional service. The payroll tax that had been proposed last year was estimated to generate \$29,000,000 per year, where the budget needs \$51,000,000 per year.

A statistically valid survey was completed with a portion of Salem residents. The returned information showed that more than 50% were satisfied with their quality of life and just under half were satisfied with the value of services provided by the General Fund. Taxes on businesses and those who use specific services were preferred. Interest in paying more for city services were ranked as: 1st Fire; 2nd Police, 3rd Parks, and, 4th Library. Homelessness is the leading issue that respondents want the city to deal with. Three-quarters of commenters had at least some knowledge of the city’s money issues. The next meeting of the task force will be on May 21st at 6:30.

Mayor Hoy moved more than \$1M from the Transit Occupancy Tax (TOT) account to fund the library. The contingency fund has been reduced to support graffiti abatement. The cost of about \$700,000 per year to supply water to city parks is being cut. This will mean no irrigation, drinking fountains, bathrooms, or splash pads at local parks. This does not affect the large city parks, i.e. Bush’s Pasture, Riverfront, etc., which already receive TOT funds to operate. It was asked what it would look like if only strategic parks were shut down, but there was a real equity concern in doing that.

Many Salem residents express a “Homelessness Concern” but that is not defined as being a negative or positive concern. Do they want more help to be provided, or do they think there is too much and it needs to be controlled? A neighbor asked if community service could be used to pay off fines or citations. Virginia said that while Salem has a Municipal Court, we do not have a jail, so those types of accommodations have to go through Marion or Polk County. The next Budget Committee meeting is May 9th.

#7 Board Member Reports

- CERT - Lola Hackett was not present:
- Communications/Outreach – Susan Napack:
 - Susan pointed out that there were questionnaires on each table for feedback and how to get involved with GNA activities.
 - The NEN-GNA Cleanup will be held on May 18th at the First Nazarene Church on Market Street. Metal, tires, bicycles and parts, and trash that is too large to fit in a curbside trash container can all be brought for recycling or disposal.
 - Grant is planning another street painting over the weekend after July 4th. We have funds available to do this but some have to be spent prior to June 30th. Susan moved that ***“We authorize Laura Herrmann to proceed with planning and preparing the application to the City for a street painting project, and we authorize accessing \$1,500 of City Engagement Funds and \$1,000, awarded to GNA from Travel Salem that is in our T&A account, for the***

project. In addition, we authorize organizing a block party in celebration of the street painting with additional funds to be provided for that purpose by Travel Salem.” Aaron Terpening seconded the motion. The vote was 21 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.

- Nick Maselli commented that, when he was passing out the postcards to local businesses, that Susan had prepared and mailed to neighborhood residents, the business folks were very unhappy with the ROCC that has moved into the building on the southeast corner of Market and Broadway streets. There has been a huge uptick of concern about the activity around the place and in the local area. Peter Smith commented that his wife, Stacey, walked by and went in and spoke with the staff and told them the services are fine, but all the loitering is not good. When Peter came by the place about ½-hour later, the loiterers were gone.
- Land Use Updates – Aaron Terpening:
 - Aaron explained that Trent Michaels had forgotten that he was asked to be at this meeting to discuss The Cannery Project at the Truitt site along Front Street. He did send Trent a list of 28 questions that he received from neighbors. Aaron will bring that information to a future monthly meeting as soon as he gets the reply; hopefully at our June meeting.
 - Regarding a discussion earlier in the year about rule changes to call ups by City Council for land use decisions, he has looked at what problem was being fixed, how frequently did the call ups occur, and, how much time was wasted on these. The rule change addresses decisions made by staff or the Planning Commission that the City Council cannot change. Appeals of staff decisions go to the Planning Commission for Review and decisions by the Planning Commission go to the State Land Use Board of Appeal (LUBA) for review. Virginia Stapleton commented that, appealing a decision to Council, attempts to change the process from a judicial one to a political one. The decision has to be looked at from a legal perspective, not opinion. Neighborhood Associations think that City Council can help them legally; but they can't. Neighborhoods have to appeal to LUBA not the Council. City Council voted to start the process to clarify and implement the rules.
- North Neighborhoods Community Progress Team (CPT) – Sam Skillern:
 - The next meeting of the North Neighborhoods Community Progress Team (CPT) will be Wednesday, May 8th from 11:30 to 1:00, at the Seymore Center at Catholic Community Services, 3745 Portland Road, NE, #190. Lunch will be served.
 - Sam brought up the historic Jason Lee Methodist Church (intersection of Jefferson St., Winter St. & Fairgrounds Rd.) that was discussed last month. He and Aaron Terpening will be trying to contact the responsible party and learn what is happening or planned. He said there are no longer any church services being held there and the food bank is gone. Susan Napack commented that it would be good to establish a contact because the proposed street painting is adjacent to the church property and the City will require their consent, along with the other abutting properties.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright