

East Lancaster Neighborhood Association
 Minutes -February 1, 2018, 7:00 pm
 Swegle Elementary School, 1751 Aguilas Ct NE, Salem

Board Chairs/Members Present		Representatives Present	
x	Susann Kaltwasser, Chair	x	Pat McDermott, Officer, Salem Police Department
x	Sue Fowler, Co-Chair	x	Nelson Morales, Compliance Services, City of Salem
x	Dale Basl, Vice Chair	x	Irma Dowd, Neighborhood Services, City of Salem
x	Chesta Bauer, Secretary	x	Alan Alexander, Salem Parks Foundation
x	Dave Steiner, Member-at-large	x	Doug Rodgers, Salem Transit Board/Cherriots
x	Mary Sarabia, Member-at-large	x	Chris Hoy, Ward 6 City Councilor
x	Clark Hazlett, Member-at-large		
	Mike Sim, Member-at-large		
Neighbors Present:			
	Garrett Berk		

A motion was made by Clark Hazlett and seconded by Mary Sarabia to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2017, meeting.

Police Officer Report: Officer McDermott mentioned that he grew up in Salem, has been a Salem police officer for seven years and is a big proponent of neighborhood associations. The construction of the new police facility is proceeding as planned. Information and updates on the project can be accessed at www.cityofsalem.net/police-station. This information can also be viewed on YouTube, Facebook, & Twitter. There have not been any specific issues in the ELNA area. There are ongoing issues with trespassing and criminal activities around the parks in the ELNA area, Weathers and Royalty. He mentioned that anyone in a city park after the posted hours are considered to be trespassing and if people are seen in the park after hours, they can be reported to the Salem Police non-emergency line by phone or online.

Garett Berk reported on the issues around Royalty Park. There have been people loitering, blasting music, smoking weed, drinking liquor, and doing drug deals. Citizens should not initiate contact with these people but should call the police if these activities are occurring or if there are issues with people hanging around in cars or other ambiguous situations around the park. The police came out to deal with some teenagers at the park on a recent night. A question was asked about when the noise ordinance was in effect and Officer McDermott said that excessive noise can be reported at any time of the day, not just at night. Everybody should keep their outside lights on all night. Susann mentioned that all crimes in the Salem area can be tracked on the website <https://www.crimereports.com/>.

There were questions about establishing a Neighborhood Watch Program, such as, what constitutes a Watch area, how many homes have to be involved, what if someone the area does not want to participate, etc. The response was that more than one home has to be involved and 10 would probably be OK. Susann mentioned that there will be a presentation on the Neighborhood Watch program at the March ELNA meeting. Questions about the program can be answered at that meeting. Also people can find all the criteria for this program at <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/start-a-neighborhood-watch.aspx>.

The City is hiring a number of new officers. It will be a while before they are out on patrol because of the training time.

Code Enforcement Report: Nelson Morales reported that there has been a lot of graffiti action lately. If anyone sees graffiti, they should call the graffiti hot line as soon as possible: 503-371-4264. Information on the City graffiti abatement program can be found at <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/report-graffiti.aspx>. It is helpful to take a picture of the graffiti and share this with the police so they can identify the person who is responsible for it.

Houses of interest in the ELNA area include the one that has been reported on several times before at 1640 Tierra Drive NE. At this time there is nothing going on there and the home owner is trying to sell the property. So far there has not been much interest in this property because the house will probably be a tear-down. The house at 4572 Swegle Road has been torn down and the owner is planning to try to subdivide the lot. There was a report of a homeless camp on private property on the corner of Swegle and Market but it had been abandoned when

Nelson went out to check on it. Nelson said if there are trespassers like this on your property, you should call 911 to report the situation. Since the camp was on private property, the owner is responsible for cleaning up the area, which he did. This area is considered a wetlands so the vegetation cannot be removed. Clark mentioned that the wetlands codes are too strict & they prevent cleaning out the blackberries, ivy, and other noxious weeds which can lead to a fire hazard in the dry season. Nelson said that wetlands are designated by the State LCDC. Property owners can take their concerns to them and work with them on removing invasive species.

Productivity report: There were 87 cases in this area; 61 of these were called in by ELNA residents. Most of the cases involved solid waste and junk.

Nelson was asked about a black Dodge car parked on Market Street which has been tagged several times but the owner moves it after it has been tagged. He said as long as a car is moved after a certain number of days, it can't be tagged again until it exceeds the allowable time to be parked in one spot. After a car has been tagged in the same spot twice, a ticket will be issued. It was reported that there is a hot tub sitting in a driveway for several years east of Plateau and Future. Also there has been a wrecked car parked near 24 Hour Fitness. Nelson said this is in the County and he will call them about it.

Salem Parks Foundation: Alan Alexander told us about the Foundation's grant program which provides funds for improvements to Salem's parks. The grants are due to the Foundation by April 30th. The Foundation raises money for these grants and all of this money goes into park improvements. The guidelines are broad in interpretation of what qualifies as an improvement or enhancement. Neighborhood Associations can decide on what the needs are, whether they are small individual projects or projects that will required matching funds from the City. NA's should work closely with the City Parks Department in developing the grant, especially if matching funds are required. ELNA will need to improve any grants for parks in its area. Susann says this will be on ELNA's March agenda so people should bring ideas for projects to this meeting. Alan said that every couple of years they tackle a major project and this year it is improving McKay Park. A new playground is being planned and the City Parks Department is asking for community input on the type of equipment. He handed out a flyer on this that said that for more information people should contact Toni Whitler at 503-588-6211 or twhitler@cityofsalem.net.

City Councilor Report: Chris Hoy reported that the short term rental (such as Airbnb) registration due date was December 31, 2017. There were 35 registrations. These rental facilities will have to pay the City transient occupancy tax the same as motels and hotels.

The downtown parking limitation of 3 hours maximum until 9:00 pm has been changed to 8:00 pm. This will help with people parking downtown for events, dinner, etc. The historic train depot restoration project at the Amtrak site has been completed. It will be a Greyhound station.

The Brown Road NE south end improvements will be starting next year. The sidewalks and bike lanes will be extended to Sunnyview.

The Fisher Road connection to Market Street is proceeding. There will be two stop signs installed to slow traffic, one at Beverly Avenue and one at Devonshire Avenue, and there will be two dynamic speed reader fixtures placed on Fisher Road, also to slow traffic.

A tree planting project at Weathers Park is planned for April 7, 2018 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. This project is being conducted with the trees being supplied by the Friends of Trees organization. Everyone is invited to come out and help with this project - Chris said, "It's fun!"

Improvements of the State Street corridor between 17th and 12th are being planned. The street will be one lane with a turn lane. This is intended to make the area more people friendly. The County is planning on improving Center Street from Lancaster to 45th. There are no sidewalks there at this time.

The City is looking for applicants for its Boards and Commissions. Susann said that the Planning Commission needs more variety in the people serving on it, not just real estate and developers, etc., but other types such as disabled persons. The current openings for boards and commissions can be found on the City website at <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/view-current-board-and-commission-openings.aspx>.

The City IT outreach person will be making a presentation about the City website at the February 7th meeting of the NOLA neighborhood association. It was suggested that this presentation would be helpful for ELNA also.

The garbage rate will increase. One option being suggested is that the 20 gallon can be picked up every other week instead of every week and this would decrease the rate. There was discussion about the recycling issues. Since China is not accepting a lot of the recycled materials they were taking, a lot of the things put in the blue can are being burned instead of recycled. Other Asian countries are starting to take up the slack on recycled materials so this situation may be changed in the future and people should continue to recycle the applicable items.

Parole and Probation: This presentation will be made at the March meeting.

Neighborhood Watch Program: This presentation will be made at the March meeting.

ELNA Webpage and Facebook Page: We pay \$129.00 for Yahoo to host the ELNA website (the green shaded one). This could move to a free website, however, there may be ads on the site also. Registering the domain name would cost \$10.00. Kenny Larson could come to the April meeting to discuss our website. Other NAs maintain a Facebook page but that requires someone to submit content and monitor the site. The question is, should we move to a free site? The City website for ELNA can only display and change agendas, minutes and bylaws. The City will pay for the Yahoo site in May from ELNA funds so we should make any decisions about changes before then. It was decided this will be on the agenda next month.

Use of Communication Funds: 1-Day Sign Update: Susann reported that the original amount of \$922.00 was what she agreed to pay for the ELNA communication materials she ordered from 1-Day Sign. The owner of the company said the final cost of the order is \$95.00 more because he forgot to add on the shipping costs. Susann has sent him an e-mail but got no response. He wants the \$95.00 but Susann feels like we did business based on our agreement to pay \$922.00 for the materials we ordered. Irma Dowd said that the City has paid 1-Day Sign the \$922 from ELNA funds so \$95.00 is the amount that is in contention now. Susann will try once again to contact the owner to discuss this overage with him.

Committee Reports:

Land Use: No active land use issues.

Transportation: Doug Rodgers said they are still looking for people to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee. This will consist of nine people from the Salem-Keizer area to help with policy development. The Committee will probably be meeting quarterly: March, June, September and December. Doug said he doesn't know when the State funds for the Saturday and evening service will be available. He said it could be not until next July. Cherriots will have to apply for the funds.

The Cherriots LIFT ride service has been taken over by a Utah Company called Logistics Care.

Parks: The Royal Oaks Park crime situation was discussed in the Police Officer Report.

Other Business:

Irma Dowd is the new Neighborhood Association Coordinator. She worked for 10 years with the Public Works Department and she worked in several different positions that involved helping people to get assistance in contacting the right people in the City to get problems or issues resolved. This experience has been very valuable in her current position. She started her current job at the end of October and she has been attending three or four meetings a week. Irma also mentioned that she is bi-lingual so she can translate agendas, letters, flyers, etc., for us, if necessary.

The Salem-Keizer school bond will be on the March agenda.

We currently have a balance of \$364.00 in ELNA funds.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.