

East Lancaster Neighborhood Association

Meeting Notes - March 1, 2018, 7:00 pm

Please note:

Due to confusion over the move of the official ELNA meeting, some members met at the alternate location of Chavez Elementary School. Others who did not get the message met at Swegle Elementary School.

Neither meeting reached a quorum, so no actions were taken. The following are the notes from both of the meetings.

Location: Swegle Elementary School

Present: Chesta Bauer, Chris Hoy, Earl Perry Dana Canning, Garrett and Jessica Berk, Jane Aiken.

City Councilor Report: Chris Hoy reported that the Weathers Park tree planting activity is planned for April 7, 2018, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. The trees will be supplied by The Friends of Trees and all who are interested in beautifying the park or learning how to plant trees are welcome to participate. These trees will contribute to the goal of increasing the tree canopy in northeast Salem.

The City had the first meeting of the Peak Hour Task Force. The specific areas this committee is looking at are: how big is the problem; peak hour congestion; doable things that will help to relieve congestion. A traffic study showed that there was a 200-250% increase in the commute time - from 5 to 11 minutes.

The Downtown Homeless committee met. It is estimated that there are about 3500 homeless people in the Salem area. The committee is taking comments from the public and downtown businesses. The committee is charged with coming up with solutions to deal with the homeless issue in the downtown area. A question was asked about where homeless people come from. Chris said that the population included a variety of people: people who have moved to Salem looking for work, veterans, and people with mental illness and substance abuse issues. The majority are males in the 40 to 50 year old range. Chris discussed services that homeless people need such as getting an ID when they don't have a permanent address, lack of transportation, need for various social services, housing, and training for jobs.

The Transportation Committee will be meeting next Tuesday to discuss how to be better partners with Cherriotts bus service. The issues to be discussed include bringing in Cherriotts staff when reviewing new developments so that Cherriotts can start to plan on how to provide bus service to the development or to comment on how the development will affect bus services. Also, they will discuss ways to streamline bus service by keeping traffic lights on green when a bus approaches so that there is not so much stopping and starting. It was commented that another helpful change on the buses would be to have better (bigger, brighter) lights on the back of the bus to make it more visible when it is pulling out into traffic.

Chris reported on the changes to the recycling services that will be implemented immediately. The market for recycled materials has changed considerably and these materials are being rejected by countries that once purchased them from the U.S. Right now a lot of the recycled materials are being burned in the Marion County incinerator. There will be a new education initiative to inform people of what can and can't be recycled. This information will be mailed to customers to explain the situation. A proposed pilot project is being discussed to test the efficacy of having garbage being picked up every other week like the recycling can schedule. Customers will be asked if they want to participate. A comment was made that this might not be feasible since a lot of things that used to be recycled will now be put in the garbage. Chris mentioned that Salem has the highest garbage rates of any city in Oregon. This is because all our garbage is sent to the incinerator and the tipping fees are high. There are concerns with incinerator and tipping fees are being renegotiated.

Municipal Court Candidate - Jane Aiken

Salem Municipal Court Judge Jane Aiken attended the meeting to discuss her candidacy for Municipal Court Judge that will be on the ballot in May. Judge Aiken has served as the Municipal Court Judge since 2006 and she is running again for another term. She discussed her Four Year Strategic Plan to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Salem Municipal Court. She will be presenting the results of this plan at a stakeholder

meeting next week. Judge Aiken listed the many changes and improvements that have been implemented as a result of this plan. More information on her candidacy is available at <https://www.judgejaneaiken.com/>

Committee Reports:

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 look at how transit services can be improved and give recommendations to the Transit Board on these issues. He received seven applications by the deadline. It was decided to extend the deadline to the end of March in order to receive more applications. The Committee will probably meet about five times per year. Doug also mentioned that SB 1536 was passed by the legislature; this bill requires that Transit Board members be appointed by the Governor.

Doug made the comment that the amount of printed material he gets from the City before his Neighborhood Association (NOLA) meeting is way too much. He suggested that this material not be sent out unless somebody says they need the information. He also suggested that materials could be sent through e-mail.

Other Business:

Chris Hoy said that a Bridging the Gap Town Hall Forum will be held at McKay High School on March 8th starting at 6:00 pm. This is a group of organizations such as churches and the Salem Leadership Foundation and citizens who are working to engage the community with local City officials. The discussions will include a variety of issues that are being addressed to improve the lives and the social environment for Salem/Keizer citizens, such as homelessness, affordable housing, jobs, etc. Everyone is invited to participate in the meeting.

Garrett Berk reported that they are proceeding with the Neighborhood Watch program for their community near Royal Oaks Park. He said that about 20 people have responded. Garrett mentioned he lived in a good neighborhood but the people who use the park can present problems. He said that the police have been very good about responding to issues such as people staying in the park after the 10:00 pm closing time and cars parking for extended periods of time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Location: Chavez Elementary School

Present: Sue Fowler,

Sue called the meeting to order at 7:?? Since there was not a quorum, the minutes from February will be approved at the April meeting.

Police Officer Report:

Neighborhood Watch:

Parole and Probation:

Salem-Keizer School Bond:

Meeting was adjourned at ??