

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

	<b>Board Chairs/Members Present</b>		<b>Others Present</b>
x	Susann Kaltwasser, Chair	x	Officer Susan Slivkoff, Salem Police Department
x	Sue Fowler, Co-Chair	x	Chris Hoy, Ward 6 City Councilor
x	Chesta Bauer, Secretary	x	Doug Rodgers, Salem Transit Board/Cherriots
x	Mary Sarabia, Vice Chair		
x	Dave Steiner, Member-at-large		
	Clark Hazlett, Member-at-large		
x	Mike Sim, Member-at-large		
	<b>Neighbors Present:</b>		
x	Chuck Westbrook, Mahogany Ct. NE		
x	Tony Gonzalez, Market St NE		

**Introductions/Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for the October meeting were approved with the following corrections: (1) Mary Sarabia, not Bryan Hughes, reported on the tree on Royalty Drive that looked like it would fall down. (2) Nelson Morales's name was corrected to Nelson (not Hector!). Dave Steiner made the approval motion and Mary Sarabia seconded it. The motion was approved.

**Police Officer Report:** Officer Slivkoff reported that there was no major activities in our area during the past month. She emphasized that this time of year sees an increase in auto thefts. She said that people shouldn't leave their car running in the driveway in order to warm it up in the morning unless the car is locked or, better yet, don't leave it running outside. She also reminded us once again to not leave anything that can be seen inside our vehicles. Items should be put in the trunk or, better yet, not left in the car.

There have been a lot of calls about people sleeping in their cars; there were two reported in McKay park. Doug Rodgers, Chair of the North Lancaster Neighborhood Association where McKay Park is located, said that people have been calling him with complaints about drugs and other illegal activities in the park. He didn't know if these activities have been reported to the police. Mary reported on a person sleeping in a car in front of Blanchet High School. There is an orange sticker on the car which means it is in the process to be towed if it is not moved. Also, there are two motor homes parked on Clay Street behind the Cypress 76 station. A blue motor home has been there about one month & a yellow one moves around but comes back to the area. This has been reported to the police but nothing has changed yet. Mary also mentioned that a house at 4175 Market Street NE took out the lawn in the front of the house and put in a cement pad for a motor home. This is a code violation as a motor home can only be parked in a driveway that leads to a garage. This situation should be reported to the Salem Compliance Office.

It was noted that there are often reports on the Next Door website of shots being fired. Officer Slivkoff said that the police will investigate if there is a witness to shots being fired but a lot of times the noise is caused by fireworks. There was mention of the concession stand that was vandalized at McKay High School. Officer Slivkoff will look into it. There was discussion about the issue that has been reported at previous ELNA meetings about cruising on Lancaster Drive. Officer Slivkoff said that she has not had any reports about this issue. Apparently there are a lot of people who gather at the Sonic Drive-in to show off cars and then cruise up and down Lancaster. She also mentioned that cars that have lights placed under the frame or fenders of a car are not legal.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Salem Police station building will be held at noon on November 9, 2018, at 333 Division Street NE.

**City Councilor Report:** The ban on plastic bags was approved. There will be one more reading before it goes into effect. This ban applies to bags used at checkout. There will still be plastic bags available for bulk foods and produce. The rule will be effective within city limits only on April 1, 2019 for large stores and on September 1, 2019 for smaller stores. There will be a five cent charge for brown bags. Chris said that Roth stores will comply with the ban at all their stores in the Salem area even if they are not within the city limits. A motion was approved to have closed captions put on all TVs that are in public spaces. This will assist people who have hearing issues. Chris reported that there is an ordinance which allows assessing fines on property owners who own property that have a lot of police activity and who do not resolve the situation. The final meeting of the Salem Public Transit Committee will be held on November 23. This committee was formed to improve the communications and planning between the City and Cherriots. On November 19th, the City Council will discuss the public input on priorities for future growth and development in Salem. The Congestion Taskforce will meet on November 5. They will

be discussing some recommendations for short term solutions such as timing lights better, closing some crosswalks, eliminating parking on Marion Street during certain times of the day in order to add another lane for travel, restricting left turns on Wallace Road during certain times in the day. There was a question about metering all parking spaces downtown. Chris said he hadn't heard any plans for this. The plans for developing the mushroom plant property are moving forward. Water rate increases were discussed at the October 8 City Council meeting. He reported that Susann made a very effective presentation to the City Council about having funds available to prevent having the water shut-off for low income people who are having trouble paying their water utility bills. Chris met with the Public Works Department to discuss expanding the low income relief program. There was discussion about people who have complained that they have experienced rudeness at the front desk when discussing their bills and payment issues. Chris said he doesn't know how much this is happening but staff should be sensitive to the fact that customers are angry and are under stress because of the threat of having their water shut off when they are unable to pay their bills. These people could be referred to a social service agency that may be able to help them. He said that the City Council is sympathetic to people who can't pay their water bills.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Land Use:** The City is starting to update the comprehensive plan being developed through the Our Salem: Today planning and community input effort. A work session will be held on November 5 to discuss this. Susann expressed concern that the Stakeholder Advisory Committee does not have any Neighborhood Association representatives and that the NAs are not being heard in the process. Susann will follow-up on how communication with NAs will be done. The attitude so far is that public outreach is sufficient to get community input and there is no need to have separate NA input; however, Susann pointed out that the knowledge of the open houses held to receive public input often does not reach everybody. There are many people who do not have computers, do not subscribe to newspapers, are blind, elderly, non-native English speakers, or families with parents who do not have access to the information about the need for community input and the schedule of the open houses, and therefore, their views and ideas for future City priorities are not being heard. Susann offered to attend the meeting on November 5 to speak for NAs. Mike Sim made a motion to approve Susann attending the meeting and sharing her views on behalf of ELNA about the importance of NA input; Dave Steiner seconded the motion; motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mushroom plant development: There was discussion about how the infrastructure improvements needed for the site would be paid for. The City could create an urban service area and pay for all the infrastructure improvements, such as bringing the sewer and water connections from the Caplinger area, with system development charges and then recoup these costs through the SDC funds that will be collected from the people developing the sites. However, the utilities that are needed are located on County property so the County would be collecting the SDCs. Another way is to have the developer pay for all the internal infrastructure costs. This will be part of the discussion of how the cost of developing the property will be handled. The application for developing the site has been received by the City and staff need at least two weeks to review before it goes out for public comment. There may be an emergency meeting of the City Council in a couple of weeks to approve the application. Chris Hoy said that ELNA should stay on top of the issues and weigh in with our comments because our input is important to the process. Susann said that we may have to have an ad hoc joint meeting with the County Neighborhood Association, ESSNA, because the development directly affects the area they represent. Green Street will be put through the development from State Street to Center Street. The proposed home development will look like condominiums or apartment buildings but the property the home is located on is owned by the home owner. These homes will be priced around \$250,000.

**Traffic:** No report.

**Parks:** No report.

**Transportation:** Doug Rodgers discussed the fare schedules for 2019. There will be both fare increases and fare decreases starting in 2019. For instance, monthly fares for students ages 16 to 18 decrease to \$14 from the current \$22. Other fares will increase. The bus fare increase and decrease discussion and process can be viewed on: <https://www.cherriots.org/fareproject/>. Cherriots will develop an app for mobile devices that will show where a bus is located when a route number is input to the app. This will help people to get to their bus stop on time. The Cherriot website has a section on how to ride the bus at: <https://www.cherriots.org/riderguide/>. The City Transit Committee is looking at adding a downtown circulator bus. There was discussion about having both Cherriots and City staff being trained in sign language and providing ESL translators to assist people with communication issues. It was noted that there are not enough to provide these services at all times. There was discussion about bus stops in our area that do not have sidewalks around them and during the rainy season, people have to stand in muddy areas when waiting for the bus. An example is the bus stop on Walker Road. Doug said that if there are at least 15 people using the stop each day, a NA can request bus stop amenities such as a cement pad, a shelter, garbage receptacles, etc. Susann can fill out a form to ask for improvements at the stop at Walker and Future (bus stop 1618.) There was discussion about changing the Route number on the bus stop signs on Market & Tierra (971) and on Market & Clay (972). Susann mentioned that the City staff person responsible for sidewalk repair will be at the December meeting.

**Neighborhood Concerns:** Mary mentioned that a new manager has been hired for the apartments she lives in. This new manager has making many changes in how the apartments are managed and has instituted several new rules which are causing problems for residents, especially those with special needs. Susann said she will talk with the City Human Rights Advocate to see what she says about the situation. She asked Mary to make a list of the issues which are bothering her.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.