

## East Lancaster Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes for August 6, 2020

Present - Susann Kaltwasser, Sue Fowler, Mary Sarabia, Clark Hazlett, Chuck Westbrook, Terry Motte, Vern Golden, Mike Sim, and Lynette Horton

Sue opened the meeting at 7:05 with introductions. There was no officer present.

**Councilor Report** - Councilor Hoy gave a report on council issues that had taken place in recent months. He noted that he had sent a written report last month and hoped everyone had a chance to read it.

There is going to be a Police Audit by a consultant that will come back to the Council. There is a Steering Committee to work with the consultant. This might result in some recommendations for changes and also some budget changes.

A new program that allows street dining is being tried in downtown. So, far it has undergone some changes and it looks like they might choose to just allow expansion of sidewalks into the parking spaces for now. The street closures have cause some problems with other businesses.

The Council agreed to extend the emergency utility bill payment program as many people are needing help during the COVID-19 shutdown. Susann complemented the City for addressing this need.

The City has \$238,000 small business grant funds available to local businesses who have experienced losses due to the virus shut down. The project to widen Center Street from Lancaster to 45th Ave has been approved by SKATS and it will begin construction in 2021 and be finished in 2023. It will be done in two phases with the south side done first and then the north side. It will be upgraded sewer system, sidewalks, bike lanes and three lanes (one each way and a center turn lane) like Sunnyview Road. A question was asked about a light at 45th. Susann said she thought that it was in the discussion, but had not seen it in the CIP yet. We need to check on that and perhaps send a letter of support for it.

Regarding homeless issues, Councilor Hoy said that the funding they hoped to get for the Navigation Center is not going to come anytime soon from the Legislature, so they are moving forward with perhaps something at the old DMV building on Portland Road. It might contain some services and a warming facility with car camping allowed. He said that Redwood Crossing on Fisher Road is opening soon and it will house 36 people.

The Water Treatment system is being upgraded, but some of the funding is in question. (Since this report, the funds from the State were negotiated) and it would help Jefferson and Salem to ensure clean water. The Ozone treatment project is on schedule to be done in about a year. Once that is complete our water will be ensured to be safe from algae. We probably will be seeing a water/sewer rate increase soon.

He also briefly talked about the renaming of Center Street to Martin Luther King, Jr. Susann suggested that if this did not work out, that the Council consider renaming the Peace Plaza between the Library and City Hall and that a community effort be undertaken to renovate the area with donations.

**Communication Funds** - Sue requested funds to cover the cost of printing for the association. However, Susann noted that in looked into costs, it was very expensive to buy even used ink cartridges. She said it was actually more economical to buy a new printer and subscribe to an ink service. Cost of a newer printer would be about \$130.00 while just the ink would be about \$95. After some discussion a motion was made by Mary Sarabia to allocate up to \$200 for a new printer, plus a one year subscription for ink and perhaps paper, if needed. Clark Hazlitt seconded the motion and all voted approval.

**Bi-Laws Review** - Susann went over some possible changes to the bi-laws to bring them up to date as to what the group has been doing as well as to allow for electronic virtual meetings. She proposed two small changes. One was to delete the words 'by ballot' in Article VI; Section: 2. And then in the Article VIII, Section 4 that describes duties of the Executive Board, changes the words to read: "An Executive Board member may participate in a meeting by ~~phone~~ electronic means and is eligible to vote." This is intended to allow for virtual meetings when meeting in person is not advisable or timely.

Mike Sim made a motion to accept the wording changes and Mary Sarabia seconded the motion. All voted approval. The final adoption of the revised bi-laws will take place at the annual meeting.

## **Committee Reports**

### Land Use

- Willamette Town Center Mall - update - Susann reported that two land use actions were taken at the Mall, but they were consistent with the changes that we reviewed in March. They had to do with changes to the parking lot and to a driveway to the new building that is being built next to Lancaster across from Applebee's.

- 4072 Market St Apartments - Adjustment update - Susann said that there was a land use request for a variance to the setback requirement between the new apartments and the existing apartments. Essentially it was to reduce the setback to zero because it is next to a dog park area. She noted that they also had a separate play area for children. She had submitted comments that the neighborhood had no objections as it was consistent to what we saw in previous reviews.

- tall grass & weeds - Salem Academy - Susann told the group about a report of tall grass that was being used as a camping area. Neighbors had asked for help to clean the area. Code Enforcement was contacted and Salem Academy said they would mow the area as soon as possible. Clark mentioned problems with tall grass and berry brambles behind his property on the honey business property. Susann suggested that she speak to the owner as he had agreed to keep the area cleaned.

### Traffic

- A neighbor complained about a house at 4418 Weathers Street that seems to be running a car repair business. There are late night noises and lots of people and cars. Councilor Hoy said he

would let POP team know about the house. Perhaps it is a code violation that he can report on line with the City.

- There was a mention about the walkway problems at Weathers and 45th Avenue again.

Parks - Councilor Hoy announced that the City is expanding the Park Ranger role, so that he can be allowed to visit all City parks as needed. He will work to educate the public and to address any local needs for enforcement of use rules.

**Annual Meeting and Board Elections Planning** - It was decided that we would not have a major speaker at the annual meeting. There would be cake and are normal election of members and setting goals. We would also update our bi-laws.

**Neighborhood Concerns** - There was mention of problems at 4545 Swallow and open drug dealing. Susann will contact the POP Team as will Councilor Hoy. He said that there is video camera footage available. Also, there are tall grass and weeds in front of Swegle School. It is on the City property.

Agenda items and refreshments for the next meeting were decided. Mike Sim moved that we expend up to \$25 for refreshments. Mary Sarabia seconded the motion and all voted approval.

The Board also agreed that we liked the new location and asked if it were possible to make this our new meeting place. The Pastor agreed and welcomed the group to the Church.

Minutes for March 5, 2020 were approved by unanimous agreement.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.