

East Lancaster Neighborhood Association
Minutes
November 5, 2020

Attendance: Sue Fowler, Chris Hoy, Mary Sarabia, Vern Golden, Patricia Mick, Chuck Westbrook, Terry Motte, Mike Sim, Via phone : Susann Kaltwasser, Chesta Bauer

Sue Fowler called the meeting to order at 7:11

City Councilor's Report: Chris Hoy shared some updates and reported on new developments. Salem has hired a new police chief. His name is Trevor Womack and is from Stockton, California. He will start in December. The new police station will be open to the public as of November 9. Some things are not yet complete and the department staff have not totally moved in yet, but should be done by the end of the month. There are some changes to the traffic in the area with a change to two-way lanes on Division and Liberty Streets.

Some changes are taking place on the North Campus of the former State Hospital to accommodate the new development. They will begin construction of 45 homes during the first year and then 240 apartments to follow. Evan Sekulic is the construction manager for the project.

Councilor Cara Kaser has resigned due to her recent move and so the Councilor-elect, Virginia Stapleton will be a guest councilor for remainder of the year. She will be sworn in January.

The City is in process of selling some parcels of land in the Salem Business Campus to allow new businesses to locate.

Willamette ESD is creating a new school in the old Toys R Us building. It will be called Willamette Career Academy and will be open to students in 11 school district beginning in the fall of 2021. Initial participants are Cascade, Falls City, Gervais, Jefferson, Mt. Angel, Newberg, North Marion, North Santiam, Silver Falls, St. Paul and Woodburn. Initial programs will include Health Service, Diesel Mechanics, and Cosmetology. Then in 2022 they will add Manufacturing, Construction, and Information Technology.

There will be a new Boys & Girls Club on Lancaster across from CCC that will be funded by Epping Charities.

On the November 9 the council agenda has a recommendation to provide \$200,000 city-wide for restaurants and businesses that need heated, covered outdoor space for dining areas or break rooms. The program would reimburse expenses, \$3,000 to \$5,000 for small businesses and \$10,000 for large businesses.

Thanks to the Salem Housing Authority staff, HRAP will be receiving \$366,000 from Willamette Valley Community Health, our regions community care organization.

Redwood Crossing is now full of former homeless people.

Our Salem: Eunice Kim from the Salem Planning Department gave overview of the program to revise the Salem Comprehensive Plan. She explained that the visioning started last summer and staff has been working on that with presentations and taking input from the community. Right now they have drafted goals and some policies that they will take to the City Council in February 2021 for input. From there they will make revisions and then have a final draft for public hearings. So, tonight she would like to get our input on some concepts that impact our area. One is to re-zone Lancaster as a mixed use from only commercial as it is now. This would allow housing in the area as well as businesses. There was discussion about where this might be located. Susann noted that the owners of Willamette Town Center (mall) indicated that they would be open to a mixed use at the mall if the current efforts fail. This zone change would not extend to the sections that are Marion County, but they could perhaps consider such a zone change in the future.

Neighborhood Hubs are also being proposed as part of the zone code. This would allow for development closer to residential areas. An example is perhaps at 45th and Market Street. Susann noted that there is some businesses already here now. There is a koi business, a small appliance repair business and used to be a transmission repair shop. So, adding some other business or two is possible.

Chris mentioned that County is redoing the section of Lancaster Drive from Center Street to Rickey Road. This will include eliminating some driveways in the area.

Virtual Meetings: There was a request by several board members for ELNA to go to virtual meetings. Susann did some investigation of options. The best was Zoom, but it requires a subscription for meetings to extend beyond 45 minutes. A subscription is \$12.99 a month. Discussion followed about how we might include people who do not have access to a computer or the Internet. Mary Sarabia said she would like to continue to meet in person. Sue Fowler wanted to accommodate as many people as possible and did not want to exclude Mary. Although a person can join a Zoom meeting by phone, it was not clear if Mary had the minutes to do this. So it was decided to try doing a dual meeting format. We would continue to meet for now in person at the church, but we would also have a Zoom option. Chris Hoy has a subscription now and agreed to set up the meeting for ELNA. Susann will coordinate this with him and put the information on the next agenda.

Business Cards: Susann had submitted a mock up for the proposed business cards for ELNA and asked for comments. Sue handed out print copies and ask people to write on the paper what they liked or wanted changed. Susan will make revisions and get back with a new draft. After discussion it was decided for Susan and Sue to work together and get the cards printed. The Board wanted at least 500 cards. Sue Fowler moved that we allocate \$75 from our communication funds for the business cards. Mike Sim seconded the motion and all voted their approval. Susann said she would hope to have the cards ready as soon as possible.

ELNA Brochure: Sue sent around a copy of the current proposed brochure for comments. People made several comments. The next step is to have Irma Dowd to make those changes and bring them back for final approval.

Committee Reports:

Land Use - Susann said there was not much new except the design review for 4696 Center Street apartments. This is the time to submit comments. Patricia Mick mentioned a couple of concerns about the wall/fence between their development and the apartments. She will send in some comments.

Chris Hoy said that Sleepy Hollow water system was approved by the City Council so that they can go off their contaminated well and be put on City water. The city will cover the cost in this case.

Traffic - Susann forgot to look into whether there will eventual be a traffic light at 45th and Center Street. If it is not in the plan, she will ask that it be added. This is going to likely be funded by Salem-Keizer Area Transportation Study funds. This would not happen even if included for several years.

Parks - SPIF grant - Susann submitted the letter of intent from ELNA for a replacement of bench at Royal Oaks Park. We should find out if it will be selected to move forward for consideration soon. Then if selected they will have staff estimate cost and give us an idea when we need to come up with matching funds.

Minutes: Mike moved approval of the minutes from the October meeting. Vern seconded the motion and all voted their approval.

Neighborhood Concerns: Susann asked about any construction at the old Pictsweet property. No one had been by there lately, but they did not see any road construction going on. Pat Mick said some trucks are using their entrance for the apartment construction on Center Street. That street is a private road and this should not be allowed. They had send a letter to the developer, but not heard back yet. Susann said we need to contact the city to stop that.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Submitted by Susann Kaltwasser