

**East Lancaster Neighborhood Association**  
 Minutes -January 6, 2022 - 7:00 pm  
 Combination In-person & Zoom Meeting  
 First Free Will Baptist Church, 1390 45th Avenue NE, Salem OR

<b>Board Chairs/Members Present</b>		<b>Board Chairs/Members Present (Cont'd)</b>	
x	Susann Kaltwasser, Chair	x	Patricia Mick, Member-at-large
x	Sue Fowler, Co-Chair - Zoom	x	Terry Motte, Member-at-large
x	Mary Sarabia, Vice Chair	x	Mike Sim, Member-at-large - Zoom
x	Chesta Bauer, Member-at-large - Zoom	x	Beverly Quiring, Member-at-large
	Vern Golden, Member-at-large - Absent	x	Broc Thorad, Member-at-large
x	Clark Hazlett, Member-at-large - Zoom	x	Chuck Westbrook, Member-at-large
	Lynette Horton, Member-at-large - Absent		
<b>Presenters:</b>		<b>Presenters (Cont'd):</b>	
x	Chris Hoy, Ward 6 City Councilor - Zoom	x	Julie Goodrich, Creations Northwest - Zoom
x	Mike Johnson, Salem Police Dept. - Zoom	x	Robert Hornaday, Creations Northwest
x	Bob Sanders, Creations Northwest - Zoom	x	Courtney Knox Busch, City of Salem, City Mgr.'s Office
x	Hans Thygeson, Creations Northwest - Zoom		

**Neighbors present:** Pamela Blake, Carl Engstrom, Pam Hames

**Introductions:** The meeting was opened by Co-chair Sue Fowler at 7:00 pm and a quorum was declared. Board members, presenters, and attendees were introduced.

**Police Officer Report - Mike Johnson:**

- Catalytic converter theft is way up, however, this may be reduced by new legislation passed by the Oregon legislature which limits the sale of catalytic converters to commercial vendors. In addition, the bill also requires businesses that buy catalytic converters to gather information on the make, model year, vehicle ID number and license number associated with the ones they buy. There will still be a black market for these items so in order to avoid having this happen, the public can park indoors, park in a well lit area, and report suspicious people looking under cars. There is also a guard that can be put around a catalytic converter to make it harder to get to the converter. The types of vehicles that are most likely to get hit are trucks and SUVs because they are higher off the ground and are easier to get to.

- The committee report on the assessment of Salem Police Department was updated. The number one finding was that the SPD is understaffed especially in the patrol unit. It was determined that about 50 or 60 additional officers are needed. Due to the high number of 911 calls received, the SPD made it necessary to decide which calls they can or can't respond to, and also restricted the amount of community involvement that could be done. A strategic plan is being developed to address these and other issues and will be completed in February.
- The SPD toy drive provided 136 families with presents for their children and provided a chance to participate in community involvement.
- Brad Thorad asked what people can do to protect themselves. This led to an extensive discussion of what is possible, especially around use of guns. Mike said that anybody that has a gun should familiarize themselves with the Oregon statutes on firearms requirements. He said that the requirements are the same for civilians and for the police. He also said that last year the SPD confiscated 117 guns from people. Mike teaches crime prevention and personal safety classes and will come to any group to present them. He also suggested that citizens participate in the SPD ride-along program when it resumes to see what officers have to contend with. Crime statistics can be found on the crime stats website: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/salem-crime-statistics.aspx>.
- Mike discussed the problems with overcrowding and COVID requirements at the Marion County Jail. The jail is always full and that limits what types of crimes for which people will be jailed. This is frustrating for both the public and the police who want to see people who commit crimes to be incarcerated. In addition, the District Attorney's office is overloaded with cases which results in their not prosecuting minor crimes such as shoplifting. However, this does not mean that there won't be repercussions for these people. They will be issued a criminal citation and they must report to the court. A question was asked about letting people go if they are not vaccinated. Courtney Knox Busch responded that the State guidelines and County Health Department requirements are followed in regard to this.

### **City Councilor Report:**

- The City Council will be electing a new president, appointing two new members to the Planning Commission, appointing Kristin Rutherford as Interim City Manager, and discussing the process to recruit a new City Manager. Other issues they are considering are: agreements with Marion County for improvements to Center Street NE and Hayesville Drive NE; looking at a design to construct a recreational trail connecting Skyline Trail to Joplin Court S; public hearings on annexation at Blossom Drive NE; review of a subdivision approval at 4540 Pringle Road SE (Meyer Farm); and, SEDCOR presentation on economic development.
- Casino issues: The Bureau of Indian Affairs announced the release of the Environmental Assessment for the proposed Siletz Casino Project in Salem. The details of the EA can be accessed at: <https://scrcxp.pdhi.com/Screening/VoucherPdf?userScreeningId=4669b420-a087-4621-b9e5-35dca92ec35f>. The release of the EA starts a 30 day public comment period, beginning January 5 and ending February 4. There will be one public hearing scheduled to be online on January 26 at 6:00 pm. There was a discussion of the issues around the casino. Susann noted that U.S. Secretary of Interior will have to approve of the project; neither the City Council or the Governor can say no. A public survey conducted by the Siletz tribe on support of the casino showed results of: 68% favorable; 32% unfavorable.
- Community activities: Friends of Trees will be conducting a tree planting at McKay Park on January 15. A Salem area recreational guide will be issued in February.
- State Legislature: A special session in December of the legislature was held and resulted in these actions: extended eviction relief for tenants and landlords; funding for containment of illegal marijuana grows in Oregon; funding for wildfire relief; agreed to payments in lieu of taxes to the City of Salem for use of services; funding for the resettlement of 1200 Afghan

refugees coming to Oregon this year; and, agreed to have the State Department of Administrative Services to review underutilized property for homeless temporary housing.

- Chris has been appointed to fill the seat of State Representative Brian Clem who resigned, and will be running for the District 21 State Representative in the Oregon House of Representatives in the November election. He noted that Ward 6, where ELNA is located, is in the District he is seeking to represent. He can be reached at Rep.ChrisHoy@oregonlegislature.gov.

**Hile Road Annexation and Apartments - Robert Simons:** The developer has purchased property on Hile Road that will be incorporated into the subdivision at 4696 Center Street NE. This property is currently in Marion County and annexation into Salem city limits and a code change to allow multifamily housing is in the works. The acquisition of this property will increase the size of the subdivision to about seven or eight acres. Three-quarters of this addition will be used for an 18 unit building and parking lot. Hile Road will not allow automobile access from the subdivision to Auburn Road for tenants but will allow for fire trucks to enter the property and will have a walking trail to Auburn Road so that children can access Auburn Elementary. A portion of the property will be used as a staging area for lumber and construction materials and will be the last to be built upon. Patricia Mick commented on the excavation activities now underway and are causing problems with the drainage in the area across the street from where she lives. She said that it could cause the pump that keeps the area from flooding to malfunction. Susann mentioned that this area has always had problems with drainage which the City said it would fix, but it has not been adequately addressed. Bob said that the project has an approved drainage plan in place with the City and he will talk to the site manager about this issue and get the information back to Susann. Pat said that the City has been contacted about the problem and they should have somebody checking it out. Pat also mentioned that there is only one access point to the development and to the area in which she lives. Bob said traffic is addressed in the land use application.

**Bond Measure Q & A - Courtney Knox Busch, City of Salem:** Courtney gave us the background on the purposes for the City of Salem proposed \$300 million bond issue to be on the ballot in November. If approved, the bond would fund a 10 year plan to complete the projects approved for funding in the bond. This can be accomplished without raising property taxes because there are previous bonds that are expiring and will drop off the property tax rolls. The number one need is for fire trucks and equipment but other areas that are also in need of funding are: streets, bridges, and sidewalks; parks and recreational facilities; affordable housing and shelter; public facilities; and, information technology infrastructure. These are broad categories of the needs that are included in the bond issue; the City is looking for input to define the proposed purposes and to hear specific requests such as which streets and sidewalk improvements need to be made. There are no firm numbers yet on how the funds will be used but preliminary estimates are that funding would be approximately 50% for streets, bridges, and sidewalks, 8.6% for fire engines and equipment, 5% for affordable housing, 11.6% for parks and recreation, 4.6% for future fire station property, 16% for Civic Center earthquake improvements, 5% for technology upgrades. (See <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/salem-infrastructure-bond.aspx> for more information.) To get to more specific numbers, the City wants public input and to make an actual list of projects that need to be done. Bond funds can only be used for capital costs but not for operational costs.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- **Land Use:**

**4900 State Street subdivision (East Park Estates) - update:** The developer wants to put in a street that would access State Street NE between Greencrest Street and Cordon Road. There was a hearing in December before the Hearings Officer, n it but the Applicant asked for an

extension to get more information regarding the comments. Susann will follow-up. She doesn't think it will be approved because there is a TPR rule which does not allow access streets to be within 300 feet from a traffic light.

**Sleepy Hollow** Construction on the water system for the development will be started soon.

**Willamette Town Center:** The owner of Willamette Town Center is converting all the inside stores to outside entrances. This will be completed by 2024. They are also doing some redrawing of property lines. It is unclear why. It may be to add more stores along D Street.

- **Traffic:** The City Council is holding a public hearing at its meeting on January 24 regarding revising the street capacity requirements. Street capacity will be restricted to certain limits in order to encourage more use of alternative ways for transportation around the city such as bicycles, city bus lines, car pools, etc. Comments may be submitted up until the day of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.