

East Lancaster Neighborhood Association
 Minutes - March 4, 2021 - 7:00 pm
 Combination Zoom & In-person Meeting
 First Free Will Baptist Church, 1390 45th Avenue NE, Salem OR

Board Chairs/Members Present		Others Present	
x	Susann Kaltwasser, Chair - Zoom	x	Chris Hoy, Ward 6 City Councilor
x	Sue Fowler, Co-Chair	x	Lt. Jason Van Meter, City of Salem Police
x	Mary Sarabia, Vice-Chair - absent	x	Chief Trevor Womack, City of Salem Police
x	Chesta Bauer, Secretary - Zoom	x	Tammi Starrs, City of Salem Public Works
x	Terry Motte, Member-at-large	x	
x	Patricia Mick, Member-at-large	x	
x	Chuck Westbrook, Member-at-large		
x	Mike Sim, Member-at-large		
x	Clark Hazlett, Member-at-large		
x			

Neighbors Present:

Introductions: The meeting was opened by Co-chair Sue Fowler at 7:00 pm.

Police Chief, Trevor Womack: Chief Womack introduced himself and provided information about his background, family, and his vision for the future of the Salem Police Department. Chief Womack spent 29 years at the Stockton, California, police department with eight years as deputy chief. He is married, has five children and is looking for a place to buy in Salem. His philosophy of policing includes an emphasis on community involvement and using data to establish accountable performance measures. He will be looking at continuing to build trust with the community, evaluating the training, recruiting and hiring practices, and developing a strategic plan for directing the future of policing in Salem. Susann said that there was discussion at the Neighborhood Association meetings about having more frequent meetings with the Police Chief to discuss neighborhood concerns and issues. She also mentioned that the neighborhood watch programs have fallen off as a priority for community involvement. Chief Womack said that he would look into establishing monthly meetings with NA chairs with attendance by him or his designate. He felt this would be beneficial in meeting his goal of improving community involvement and reinvigorating the Neighborhood Watch program. A question was asked about the homeless situation on the Market Street I-5 underpass. He said that he will be working with the State on this issue. Chris Hoy who serves on the State legislative committee on homeless said that this committee does not want the homeless to be displaced unless there is a public safety issue. The State has put up signs on the freeway on-ramps and off-ramps warning drivers to watch out for pedestrians. Susann mentioned that there doesn't seem to be enough communication about what is being done by the City on the homeless situation and this leaves the impression that nothing is being done. There was discussion on the efforts being made to inform the public. Susann also mentioned the increased number of shootings that have occurred in Salem lately and what is being done to address this. Chief Womack said that an increased police presence in some areas is being considered as well as collecting and analyzing data on the shootings to identify "hot" people which will help to put increased focus on these individuals to help prevent violence. Clark mentioned a residence next to his that parks a multitude of

cars in the Weathers Street cul-de-sac. Chief Womack said he would have Lt. Van Meter look at the situation. Chuck mentioned an abandoned car that has been parked for quite a while on Glencoe Street. This should be reported to code enforcement.

Tammi Starrs, Program Manager, City of Salem, 5 Year Capital Improvement Program: Tammi gave a presentation on the City's capital improvement plan which will guide the improvements on large infrastructure and other capital assets in the city. The main categories of projects are transportation, parks, utilities, and other city facilities, and are prioritized through a variety of processes including need and available funding. There are 147 projects to be completed with \$261,000,000 in funding. Funding sources include federal grants, rate payments, urban renewal, etc. A question was asked about fixing sidewalks. Tammi said the funding for these projects does not include sidewalks. Tammi listed examples of projects that were being undertaken, such as improving the city water treatment processes and plant, new wastewater and storm water projects at the Willow Lake treatment plant, a variety of transportation issues to improve streets and bridges, replacing the Public Works Building on 22nd Avenue. She will send a draft copy of the plan that includes the projects that will occur in each of the NA areas. Susann asked about putting a light at Center Street and 45th Avenue due to future increases in traffic. Tammi said she would find out about this and let Susann know. Chris mentioned that this intersection is in the County. There are two Salem-Keizer Area Transportation Study (SKATS) projects in our area. Susann said that ELNA would like to be involved in the study of the Cordon Road improvement project. Tammi said she would connect with Julie Warnicke, the County coordinator with SKATS. The website for the Capital Improvement Plan is <https://www.cityofsalem.net/CityDocuments/adopted-cip-fy-2021-through-fy-2025.pdf>.

Councilor's Report:

- There will be a proclamation to recognize Women's History Month.
- Discussion of general fund money for providing for security and cleaning of City parkades.
- Review of the requested speed limits on 17th Street from Mission Street to Silverton Road and 45th Street from Center Street to Sunnyview. It was recommended that the speed limit on 17th Street to be decreased to 25 mpg but ODOT recommended keeping the 30 mph speed limit and increasing the speed limit on the section between Center and State to 30 mph from the current 25 mpg. The 45th Street speed limit was requested to be reduced to 30 mph from 35 mph. If anyone wants to comment on these issues they should testify at a meeting or write to the City Council.
- Our Salem Vision was discussed. It will be voted on at the next City Council meeting.
- Water shut-offs that were implemented during the ice storm are starting again. Chris reminded us that the City has set aside emergency funds that are available for eligible households. Information is at: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/apply-for-low-income-utility-assistance.aspx>.
- The apartment building being constructed at Trade and Commercial will be open in March and almost all units have been leased.
- The Reed Opera House basement is being renovated and there will be eight spaces available.
- The Toys-R-Us building is being renovated for the Willamette Career Institute which will offer training in health occupations, diesel mechanics, cosmetology and other types of careers.
- Brady Rogers is retiring.
- The ice storm brought out city crews that worked 24/7 to clean up debris, address safety issues, and assist those needing help. Pat asked about how city trees are selected since so many of them had extensive damage. Chris said a new city forester has been hired and he is reviewing the trees that had major damage and will be issuing a revised list of recommended trees.

Committee Reports:

- **Land use:**
 - The Center Street apartment complex site plan has been approved by the City. There are conditions placed on the development and still some problems with the site.
 - A large parcel of property on Hoffman Road will be divided into two parcels.

- **Traffic:** The North Lancaster Neighborhood Association (NOLA) has inquired about how to get red-light cameras installed on the Market and Lancaster intersection and the Sunnyview and Lancaster intersection. ELNA is also interested in finding out what the process is to request these red-light cameras. Chris said he would look into it.
- **Parks:** Susann reported that our Salem Parks Foundation grant for a new bench to be placed in Royal Oaks Park has been approved. She will work with Irma Dowd to get a bank account to accept donations, if donations are required to get finalize the grant. The bench is on back order and Chris will talk to the Public Works Department to see if work has started on the installation site. Susann had mentioned at the last meeting that she would like to see a plaque put on the bench with the names of ELNA board members who have passed on in honor of their service on the board. Mike Sim mentioned that he was concerned about putting a plaque on the bench since it very likely would be vandalized or stolen if it was made of metal. It was suggested that rather than putting a plaque on the bench, that we put a dedication on the ELNA Facebook page with a picture of the bench and some verbiage explaining the dedication. We need to see if Parks staff has a picture of the bench.

Additional Items: Susann reported on the where we are with the ELNA business cards and the information flyer. She said that Irma can't locate the draft of the flyer so we may need to start over on putting one together. Susann will look into getting a working document so we can finish up. She is still working on getting the business cards.

Approval of Minutes: Mike Sim made a motion and Sue seconded it to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2021, ELNA meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.