

**East Lancaster Neighborhood Association**

Minutes - May 6, 2021 - 7:00 pm - Combination Zoom & In-person Meeting  
 First Free Will Baptist Church, 1390 45th Avenue NE, Salem OR

	<b>Board Chairs/Members Present</b>		<b>Others Present</b>
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	Chesta Bauer, Secretary		Eunice Kim - Salem Planning (Our Salem)
x	Terry Motte, Member-at-large	x	Bev Quiring - neighbor
x	Lynette Horton - Member-at-large	x	Mike and Dahlia Sobieski - neighbor
x	Mike Sim, Member-at-large	x	Lisa Brenner - neighbor
x	Mary Sarabia, Vice-Chair		
X	Patricia Mick, Member-at-large		
x	Clark Hazlett, Member-at-large		
X	Chuck Westbrook, Member-at-large		
x	Vern Golden - Member-at-large - absent		

**Neighbors Present:**

**Introductions/Approval of Minutes:** The meeting was opened by Co-chair Sue Fowler at 7:10pm. A motion was made by Mike Sim and seconded by Terry Motte to approve the March 4, 2021, meeting minutes. The motion was approved.

**City Councilor's Report:**

- Budget Committee
  - Committee work just wrapped up and the Committee has included Spanish & ASL translation services for all city council meeting; Body/Car Cameras for police; and the Mobile Crisis Response Unit are in the budget, but Council needs to approve the recommendations in June after Public Hearings.
- Traffic Safety
  - 30 MPH signs installed on 45th 2 weeks ago. Neighbors complained that motorists are ignoring the new limit. Discussion followed about how we might do some enforcement. Lt. Van Meter said he could ask for more patrol. A speed trailer was suggested, but it might take a while to set up due to Covid issues. Councilor Hoy said that neighbors could check out a radar gun from the Police.
  - Question about speed control lights at Lancaster/Market - Lancaster/Sunnyview

Councilor Hoy reviewed the process for getting a light.

First, staff would identify the need for the system at a particular location by assessing collision levels. Specific to Market and Lancaster, there have been 14 reported traffic collisions (within 250 of the intersection) between January 1, 2020 to March 6, 2021, which is relatively low. For context, the three newest camera locations averaged 16, 16 and 31 per year prior to installation.

If the City were to decide to move forward, they request the vendor, RedFlex, to conduct a feasibility study. The free study typically involves placement of temporary equipment to get a sample of potential red light and speed-

on-green violations. That assessment along with our own collaborative data is used to determine if the potential level of violations warrants the cost to install and maintain the system. Typically, the systems cost approximately \$5,000 a month per intersection to operate.

Downstream of the system costs the City must consider staffing needs for processing of the violations. SPD now needs two more FTE to process the violations at current locations once speed-on-green violations go live at the last three intersections. The Municipal Court will also need capacity to process the increase in violation numbers. The court needed to hire additional staff once speed-on-green was fully activated in previous locations.

The process of assessment to implementation takes approximately one calendar year. While there have been a reduction in crashes and violations at each of the electronically monitored intersections, achieving a goal of making Salem safer; the City wants to ensure a balance of enforcement throughout the City and make sure they are not concentrating systems in one particular area, where increased fines could be perceived as having, or actually have, a disparate impact on the community.

There was a question about the Gun Rights Rally at Riverfront Park on May 1. Some people are upset at how the police handled the situation. Councilor Hoy said that a permit was not required due to the Covid requirements could not be enforced. He emphasized that if there were any problems like that at protests or events, people should call 911 and not call him. He said that Police had a presence and were monitoring the situation. They responded as needed. Then he asked if Lt Van Meter wanted to comment.

Lt Van Meter said that he was present at the event. Thirty officers were available for supervision at the event. Some were in plain clothes and others in uniform. Bike Officers were also on duty and working the area. He said that there was some frustration with people calling 911 for assistance, but when officers were deployed they could not find any real problems. He was aware that some people felt harassed, but there were no arrests. He felt that they did a good job, but had to respond to what he described as 'false complaints' so that officers were pulled away from certain locations. He mentioned an auto accident where a child was involved, but it apparently was outside of the event.

Lt. Van Meter favors body cameras and mentioned his frustration with "lies" on social media. He feels the cameras can help reveal what actually happened in many situations. He also supports the Mobile Crisis Response Unit, because many times the police are responding to none emergency issues where medical attention is needed.

Susann asked about if someone were harassed after filing a police report if their name can be concealed. Lt Van Meter said that this can only be done in cases where identified danger is indicated. In most cases they do not do this. But that if anyone were harassed they need to let the police know because that is a crime. Susann expressed concern that the Police need to do more public relations so that good information gets out to the public, because there is a growing sense of distain for the police that she feels is unhealthy for the community. He agreed.

Councilor Hoy said that many people question the presence of guns in our parks, but due to the Legislature a few years ago, they lost the right to control them in cities. He had personally lobbied for a revision to a bill that would give the power back to the City, but it was removed at the last minute. So, only schools, the Legislature or at the Capitol grounds could guns be prohibited. He feels that the only way to fix this situation is by an initiative petition and vote of the people.

business

**Police Report:** Clark asked about cars parked at the house across the street. He had complained previously and had no response. The officer said he would check into it. Also, Clark mentioned the overgrown berry vines on

the Honey Bee business property behind his house. Susann will send the owner an email asking him to take care of it.

Susann announced that we have a new Code Enforcement Officer for our area. He is Christopher Russell ([crussell@cityofsalem.net](mailto:crussell@cityofsalem.net)) Phone 503-540-2322 Neighbors are advised that they should use the online report page on the City of Salem webpage. <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/report-neighborhood-problems.aspx>

### **Our Salem: Eunice Kim Salem Planning Department**

After giving an overview of the project, Ms. Kim reviewed the current map of proposed lots for zone changes. There are several new zones being proposed. HUBs (mix of small businesses and residential); MU (mixed use where businesses would have housing above; and R4 (which is another version of housing up to 4 units per lot that can also house businesses as long as they are not more than 50% of the square footage. Multifamily is also being proposed in some areas. The main areas of the proposed zone changes are along Sunnyview from Scotsman Way to Brown Road; Swegle Road from 45th to Walker Road; 45th and Market; and at the intersection of Royalty and Regal Avenues.

We discussed each area individually and neighbors asked a lot of questions about traffic, property values, density and parking. In general the participants did not like the idea of a HUB at the intersection of Royalty and Regal. They did think that the HUB around 45th and Market had a reasonable fit since there are already businesses there, but they need to be to scale with the adjacent development. Parking was still a concern.

The most controversial was the R4 zone. Since they are placed along arterials that have bike lanes, there is no place for parking except on the properties. With the expectation that parking requirements would be reduced, neighbors did not see how tenants or customers could be expected to just walk, bike or take the bus. Some would need a car and thus need parking spaces.

After a long discussion the neighbors felt that not enough people were aware of these proposals and it was decided to host another meeting just on this topic on May 26 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting could be via Zoom as well as at the Church. Susann would work with Eunice Kim to make the necessary arrangements.

The neighbors were encouraged to go to the Our Salem website and put their comments on the interactive map. ( it is going to be open until June 11) The timeline is to have a work session with the City Council to discuss progress and to present some policies for decision, prior to having a public hearing in the fall. The entire process is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Land use:** Nothing new.
- **Traffic:** We already discussed racing along Market Street and how to get compliance on 45th with the lower speed limit.
- **Parks:** Nothing new to report

**Annual meeting in June.** The group agreed with the suggestion to focus on the issue of homelessness and what is being done to help. We would invite a representative of the City, an agency and a group working as a non-profit or church in our area.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chuck moved approval of the minutes with corrections, and Lynette seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.**