

East Lancaster Neighborhood Association

Minutes - June 3, 2021 - 7:00 pm - Combination Zoom & In-person Meeting

First Free Will Baptist Church, 1390 45th Avenue NE, Salem OR

	Board Chairs/Members Present		Broc Thorud
x	Susann Kaltwasser, Chair - Zoom	x	Beverly Quiring
x	Sue Fowler, Co-Chair		
	Chesta Bauer, Secretary		
x	Terry Motte, Member-at-large		
x	Lynette Horton - Member-at-large		
x	Mary Sarabia, Vice-Chair		Others Present
x	Patricia Mick, Member-at-large	x	Chris Hoy, Ward 6 City Councilor
x	Chuck Westbrook, Member-at-large	x	Irma Dowd, City of Salem Liaison
x	Clark Hazlett, Member-at-large		Neighbors Present:
	Mike Sim, Member-at-large		
	Vern Golden - Member-at-large - absent		

Introductions: The meeting was opened by Co-chair Sue Fowler at 7:08 pm. A motion was made by Lynette and seconded by Bev to approve the June 3 ELNA meeting minutes. The motion was approved.

Councilor Report: Councilor Hoy

- The Don Froylan Creamery project (Mr. Ochoa’s cheese factory) was selected as the Business Development Success project of the year by the Oregon Economic Development Association. Annie Gorski led the City team that worked with Mr. Ochoa to make his project a reality. The vibrant creamery, once blighted property that was vacant for 10 years, complements recent infrastructure improvements in the area, including pedestrian crossings, new sidewalks, and curbs along the Portland Road Corridor and expansion projects made possible with the North Gateway Urban Renewal Area funds.

- "The City of Salem helped connect with lenders and resources to help streamline the layout of the site and building, and provided the North Gateway URA grant to help fill a funding gap. They had a problem-solving approach and wanted to help it succeed.
- Through May of this fiscal year (one month remaining), the City has a record number of new multi-family units (since 2002): 759 units. The number of new houses is higher than last fiscal year: 473 units. The valuation of the development in the city is about 0.4% higher than FY 2019-2020. \
- The Urban Renewal Agency approved a grant for the redevelopment of the Nordstrom building into housing as well as the Marion Garage into a hotel. Removal is not for the whole Mall, just that one section. It is going to be housing only. Studio and 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. The one skybridge is going away.

- In other developments the Marion Garage building is going to be a small hotel. YMCA is building veteran housing downtown.
- ODOT has posted the underpass at Market Street so the campers must move. It is very unsafe with 3 vehicle deaths, 3 injuries, and a homicide. The City is looking for more shelter spaces and also working on pallet camps and car parks. The Windows to the West across from City Hall will be used for car camping. Unfortunately the City found out that they can't use the old UGM building due to too many code violations and needed repairs, so they are asking property owners with large spaces to step up and provide space they can rent. All camps will have supervision. The City did receive funding from the State and will be purchasing a building at 22nd and Mission for a Navigation Center which will provide some shelter space as well as resources.
- Thanks to the work of the City Attorney, Police, and Community Development, a recreational vehicle destruction pilot program has been launched. Using funds from the Blight to Bright program, the pilot will help keep the City's streets and public spaces and parking areas free from abandoned RVs. The program will result in the full destruction of RVs that are abandoned.
- National Night Out (NNO) will be Tuesday, August 3, and the City is taking applications now.
- Dedication of the City's Ozone Treatment Facility will be August 3, 2021 from 2-4 p.m. at Geren Island,
- In response to ELNA concerns regarding street racing, an email was sent by Sgt Gill to the Traffic Unit Supervisor, Sergeant Hardy and to both graveyard sergeants who supervise the officers assigned to the ELNA area and requested they increase patrols in the area of 45th and Hollywood between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. We will continue to evaluate this issue as time and resources allow.
- Radar guns are available to check out from Public Works. Call dispatch number.

Regarding the homeless situation, Susann said that some neighborhood association chairpersons were talking about wanting to form a coalition to look for answers. She is uncomfortable participating without the permission of the Board. She is not aware of the group's intentions. After a brief discussion it was advised that Susann just monitor the group and not take a position until we know more.

Middle Housing and HB 2001 impact on our neighborhoods

Susann did a presentation using the LCDC handbook. She explained the various kinds of housing that will be allowed in residential zones, such as duplexes, triplexes and four-plex units, as well as row houses, cottage clusters and ADUs. The goal is higher density, more variety of housing and hopefully lower housing costs. She gave examples of existing houses in Salem.

Committee Reports

- Land Use - Susann found out that the East Park Estates has changed their plans again and have now decided to build 318 unit apartment complex in the southeast corner that was zoned commercial. Since this is a permitted use in that zone, there will be no hearing or process for ELNA to comment. Only if there is a need for a variance or adjustment will there be another hearing. So, basically this apartment complex is going to happen. There will be a small business HUB in the corner near Greencrest Street and State Street.

4557 Swegle Road (Mabel's house) is being subdivided into 2 lots. There are no issues to be reported

- Traffic - Susann has heard nothing back from Public Works about no parking signs. She plans to send another e-mail.

- Parks - No news on the Royal Oaks Park bench.

ELNA Annual Goals

ELNA needs to adopt our goals for the coming year. Susann read the goals we had from last year:

1. Increase board membership,
2. Promote Neighborhood Watch participation,
3. Interact with at least 100 new neighbors through events, and
4. Increase use of social media.

Pat moved that we keep these goals. Clark seconded the motion and all voted their approval.

Neighborhood Concerns: Anything not on the agenda may be brought up at this time.

Clark Hazlett said that he is worried about closing access from the old Toys R Us property to the light at D Street. The ESD school has closed off the property. He said it is very hard to get safely on Lancaster at Weathers to go south. Councilor Hoy said that he would investigate.

Clark also said that the Honey Bee company has not been keeping their property well maintained. They finally cut some of the tall grass but the blackberries are overrun and he sees evidence of rodents in the area. Susann said that she would send an email to Glen Peters since he did say that he would keep the area maintained to neighbors' satisfaction.

Mary Sarabia said that the sidewalk is closed on Lancaster by the mall and she must go in the street or through the Mall parking lot. It is not handicapped accessible.

The minutes for the June 3, 2021 meeting was moved for approval by Lynette Horton and seconded by Bev Quiring. All voted their approval.

Irma Dowd said that the City has approved neighborhood associations using communication funds to buy subscriptions for Zoom. Councilor Hoy said that he does not mind hosting on his account, but we might want to consider having a back up plan in case he is not available. It was decided to put it on the agenda for the next meeting for a decision.

Also on the agenda will be Climate Action Plan and more on HB2001 and how the City is responding.

Adjourn at 8:46 p.m.