

AGENDA ITEM

#1 Introductions/Approval of Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS:	PRESENT - <i>P</i>	ABSENT - <i>A</i>	EXCUSED - <i>E</i>		
CHRISTOPHER BECHTEL	<i>P</i>	TIM FRANCE	<i>P</i>	AMANDA OTT	<i>A</i>
JEANNE BOATWRIGHT	<i>P</i>	CHRISTOPHER HACKETT	<i>P</i>	SAM SKILLERN	<i>E</i>
ERIC BRADFIELD	<i>P</i>	LOLA HACKETT	<i>P</i>	AARON TERPENING	<i>P</i>
SADIE CARNEY	<i>P</i>	TINA HANSEN	<i>P</i>	PAUL TIGAN	<i>A</i>
HOWARD COLLINS	<i>P</i>	CYNTHIA KAVANAGH	<i>P</i>		

Others present: Cheryl Funderburk, George Mraz, Ray Quisenberry, Duncan Beevers, Brady Rogers, Chuck Bennett, Dayna Collins, Christine Veach, Cara Kaser, Erick Hernandez, Adam Holtz, Sheilla VanDusseldorp, Lynn Takata, Nick Maselli, and one child.

Sadie moved that we: *“Approve the January minutes as submitted.”* Tina seconded the motion. Vote was 9 in favor, 0 opposed.

#2 Good News from Grant Neighborhood

- Neighbors expressed appreciation for the sidewalk reconstruction in the 1000 block of Church Street;
- Sadie said there is construction on a new home on Church between Jefferson and Norway;
- A neighbor reported that a trouble plagued home on Capitol Street that has been the subject of several discussions at neighborhood meetings is now vacant. Neighbors are hopeful that any new tenants will be screened more carefully.
- The Barrel and Keg is now open on Sundays.

#3 Neighborhood Concerns

- 840 Gaines has gotten a lot quieter over the past month. The Pastor at Seed of Faith, who owns the property, indicated that this is the quietest home amongst the several that they operate. There have been disturbances here in the night and also in mid-afternoons. Neighbors need to continue to call police when there are issues. Officer Hernandez described the home as a transition house for homeless persons without mental health issues.
- Christopher related his encounter with what he thought could be a car prowler in a neighborhood alley. He spoke with the individual, telling the prowler that he knew it was not his car. He also called 911 and reported it.

#4 Officers Reports

Officer Hernandez reported that the tenants at 1481 Capitol have been evicted and the property is vacant. It was deemed a drug house and the Drug Enforcement Unit was involved in the City’s actions. Car break-ins are up, including one on 5th and Shipping streets where the wires were cut in an attempt to hot-wire the vehicle; which was unsuccessful.

A sweet, very young neighbor reported that she couldn’t find her pink pony, named “Balloonie”. Officer Hernandez promised her that he would keep a look out for the pony.

Brady Rogers, Administrator of Salem’s Neighborhood Enhancement Division, was present for Stephanie Wile, Compliance Services Officer, who had the night off. Brady reported 70 new cases in Grant since Stephanie visited us in October. Of these, 27 are still active. Most of them are junk and garbage violations, while some are abandoned vehicles. Three are derelict buildings: the Kuenzi Apartments on Liberty, which Brady hopes to foreclose on this year; 1080 Shipping, which had a fire and then insurance issues; and, 1232 Commercial, which is a warehouse that someone moved in to and

then boarded all up. 1054 Winter has been posted for no occupancy and garbage storage. 765 Hood is a work in progress on the siding and better communication has been established with the owner. 645 Gaines has been pretty much cleaned up, with one junked vehicle left to be removed. 1481 Summer has been vacated. (See Officer Hernandez's report above).

Brady responded to the concerns expressed (see #3, Neighborhood Concerns, above) about the transition home. He reminded all that single family residential housing is limited to 5 unrelated people. Once there are six, certain land use regulations take effect.

A neighbor asked if 1555 Summer Street was on the City's list of active cases. Brady said he would check.

#5 City Councilor: Questions and Answers

Cara reported on the following items:

- The Downtown Homelessness Task Force will meet Tuesday, February 6th, in the Anderson Room of Salem Library at 6:00 pm. They will also meet on March 6th and March 20th. All of the meetings are open to the public.
- The art-a-potties in downtown Salem on private property have been removed over the past 2 weeks because they have become too burdensome for the owners. The City does not own property downtown, except for the parking structures and Riverfront and Marion Square Parks. The potties had been a private-public partnership.
- The City has placed fencing and picnic tables under the bridge at Marion Square Park to provide space for those who provide food services to the homeless.
- Another open house for the Downtown Streetscape survey will be on February 13th from 5:30-7:00 in Courthouse Square, Senator Room, on the 1st floor.
- The city is conducting interviews for the construction manager for the new police facility. The City will be taping the construction progress. Check out #bldgbuzz.
- The Salem Housing Authority has received \$150,000 from the Meyer Memorial Trust to fund a manager for the Homeless Rental Assistance Program.
- The City is involved in the discussions about the US Army Corps of Engineers' proposed construction work to install a mixing tower at Detroit dam. They have reviewed and commented on the proposal, which is next headed next to the Environmental Impact Statement stage of the project. They are concerned about its impact on the City's water supply and are also looking at the questionable success that towers have had at other locations for enhancing fish habitat.
- A neighbor asked about the lack of street lights in some parts of the neighborhood; in particular, a pole on Winter between Market and Gaines which is still there, but has no light. Cara will need to check with public works to address that situation.
- Sadie asked about the SDC (system development charge) review process and asked if a schedule had been set. The City is working through how they will increase the charges, but there are a lot of moving parts, including if there are allowable SDC's that the City is not collecting. It is probably a 1-2 year process to complete.
- Tina offered a "thanks" to Chuck Bennett for working on addressing Salem's homelessness issues.

#6 This Might Shock You

The group watched a short video on how to extricate oneself safely from a car accident when downed power lines are present and the car has begun to burn; meaning you cannot stay put until help arrives.

#7 Salem Parks Foundation

Alan Alexander spoke about the grant fund process that is coming up. The Foundation is aligning their grant cycle with the SPIF (Salem Parks Improvement Fund) grant cycle so that neighborhoods can more easily coordinate their projects if they are receiving funds from both sources. Applications are due by April 30th.

#8 NEN Big Cleanup

Lynn Takata was present to report on this upcoming project. NEN (Northeast Neighbors) and the City of Salem is sponsoring a drop site for neighborhood residents to bring unwanted/unneeded items that they can't afford to dispose of, or transport, on their own. Sam suggested a partnership with Grant NA. The First Nazarene Church on Market Street has agreed to use of their parking lot. Lynn has a dumpster donated. The site will be limited to residents only; no business waste, mixed waste, or construction waste. She hopes to have trucks available to pick up for seniors and disabled residents. She envisions a possible swap area and metal recycling. Volunteers will be needed for manning the site, traffic control and to get the word out. Donations of money would allow for those providing trucking services to be reimbursed for their gas expense. Goodwill and the Salvation Army could have collection trucks at the site. It would be a single day event on a Saturday, probably in June. Sadie moved that "Grant Neighborhood start a conversation with NEN about how we can be involved in providing support for the Neighborhood Clean-up Day in late spring or early summer, and explore forming a partnership." Aaron seconded the motion. Vote was 10 in favor, 0 opposed. Neighbors suggested requesting food donations from local vendors to feed the volunteers. Those present who were interested in volunteering included: Eric Bradfield, Duncan Beevers, Nick Maselli, Christopher and Lola Hackett, Christopher Bechtel and Jeanne Boatwright.

#9 City Sidewalk Program Update

Bruce Hildebrand was not present.

#10 Board Member Reports

CERT: Lola said the May-June class has 15 people registered to date, so there are more spaces available. .

#11 Other Business

Eric and Jeanne led a discussion on a proposal to allow attendees and neighborhood meetings to opt out of having their name published in the minutes. The issue arose when a neighbor spoke up about concerns that her whereabouts and routine could result in her being put in danger. Jeanne stated that she broached the subject at the recent citywide neighborhood chairs meeting to get feedback from other neighborhoods about how they have handled this situation. None of them had received a concern or request about this. Jeanne presented her approach to this group and received support for it. First, the sign-in sheet will be modified (as Grant neighbors saw tonight) so that an attendee can place an "x" in front of their name if they do not want their name published. Neighbor's contact information (address, phone number and email address) has never been published. Neighbors will still be encouraged to sign-in so that the Grant Neighborhood Executive Board can contact them regarding any particular item about which they have expressed an interest or concern. Second, Jeanne will not identify any one who has requested that their name not be published in the attendance list or any text of the minutes. She will also continue to not provide identifying information in the published minutes about participants in discussions about potentially sensitive topics at neighborhood meetings (referring to participants as "a neighbor" or "several neighbors"). Brady Rogers stated that these actions are satisfactory to the City as the only requirements for the minutes are to record the motions made and the resulting vote tally. Any additional information provided by the neighborhood association is strictly up to the neighborhood. Brady was interested in being able to share our modified sign-in sheet with the other City neighborhood associations.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright