

AGENDA ITEM

#1 Introductions/Approval of Minutes

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

Others present: Melissa Parker, Jim Garaventa, Chris Blackburn, Ray Quisenberry, Lillian Govus, Cara Kaser, Nick Maselli, Jane Aiken, Bob Delong, Dayna Collins, Ralph Johnson, Duncan Beevers, Robert Romanek, Sheilla VanDusseldorp and Dan Clem.

Christopher H. moved that we: **“Approve the March minutes as submitted.”** Howard seconded the motion. Vote was 12 in favor, 0 opposed.

#2 Good News from Grant Neighborhood

- Sadie Carney announced that she is running for County Commissioner.
- April 21st will be the Grant School Spruce-up.
- Grant Park improvements were discussed by Paul. The Salem Parks Foundation (SPF) grants average between \$300 and \$500. Salem Parks Improvement Fund (SPIF) can be \$20,000, or more, with a 50% match required. Notice to apply for a SPIF grant is due in October. Therefore, an application for a SPF grant, to pair with a SPIF grant would probably be on next year’s cycle. Any work in Grant Park must conform to the City’s Master Park Plan. Our considered suggestions to install a natural surface walking trail on the perimeter; install several resting benches, replace the deformed chain link fence along Hood and Winter streets, and, perhaps update the park drinking fountain. Paul will continue to work with City Parks Department and pursue additional information on these projects and estimated costs.
- The nominations for the neighborhood Beautification Awards were presented. Paul moved to **“Approve all five nominations.”** Aaron seconded the motion. Vote was 13 in favor, 0 opposed.

#3 Neighborhood Concerns

- A neighbor reported concerns about the parking situation on Market Street around Grant School. Visibility of oncoming traffic is blocked by the parked cars and there have been a number of near misses. Contact is going to be made with the residents between Church and Winter streets to gauge the level of support for invoking the residential parking permit program along these blocks.
- Several neighbors brought up concerns about incessant nighttime activity at a neighbor’s home which disturbs many of the surrounding residents. There appears to be possible drug activity with a flock of cars arriving and then they are gone in about 10 minutes. The Police have been called several times, but the friction with multiple neighbors continues to escalate. The resident is not the property owner. GNA told the neighbors that we are concerned about this and will urge the City to become involved in any way possible to bring relief to the situation, including working with the Police and Compliance Services.

#4 Officers Reports

Now officers were present.

#5 City Councilor: Questions and Answers

Cara reported on the following items:

- The third open house for the Downtown Streetscape will be at Courthouse Square on April 18th from 5:30-7:00.
- The next meeting for the Riverfront Park master plan will be April 24th from 6:00-7:30 at Pringle Hall.
- The fourth meeting of the Homelessness Task Force met and reviewed all the ideas brought forward. Staff will research the implications of adopting these ideas and will present to City Council in May with implementation expected to begin in July.
- City Council will be voting on approving the Winter-Maple Bikeway on April 9th.
- A City Council hearing for the appeal of the UGM project will be held on April 23rd.
- The budget committee will begin meeting on April 25th at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers.
- The Peter Courtney-Minto Island Bridge won a national design award from the National Steel Bridge Alliance.
- Money is being raised to replace one of the Police Department's canine officers.
- The Breakfast with the Chief (SPD) program has raised enough money to purchase a new mobile command center, which is a nice SUV. This next year they are raising funds to purchase a 6-passenger ATV that will help for rescue operations in City parks where street vehicles cannot maneuver.
- The Library Board is looking for a new director. All candidates will be making a presentation on the library of the future at 1:15 at the Library.

#6 Salem Municipal Judge Candidates

Jane Aiken and Melissa Parker were in attendance to present their platforms as we prepare to vote next month. Jane has been municipal judge since 2006. Her goal is to clear up the large backlog of unajudicated traffic ticket; secure the right amount of staffing for the court load, and improve independent criminal defense attorney appointments. Melissa is a court appointed lawyer serving the Salem Dallas area. She seeks to make the court more consistent and efficient. With eight pro tem judges, there is quite a bit of inconsistency on decisions for the same offenses and circumstances. Because these judges serve on "usual" days and attorneys can select the day of their clients hearing, they are able to pick a "favorite" judge for their hearing. She believes one judge should handle the bulk of the cases.

#7 Salem Keizer School District Bond

Lillian Govus presented factual information about the upcoming Salem Keizer School District Bond Measure. The amount is \$619.7 million which is the largest in school district history. The district expects an increase of 1000 students in the next 5 years which is the equivalent to two elementary schools. The current cost to build a high school is \$240 million. Sixty-five schools in the district will get some improvements. Each high school will have add-ons in lieu of building a new school. Part of that is the result of complaints they receive when redistricting is proposed. Work at Grant Community School will include work on the heating and plumbing systems, adding air conditioning, work on the kitchen and the music room, adding additional safety and security features - such as badge access and intercoms. Seismic upgrades will also be made. At Parrish, three science labs will be added, as they will be in all of the middle schools, along with a media room. The office will be reconfigured to make it more accessible and closer to the entrance doors. Seismic upgrades will be made. North Salem High School will include additional cafeteria space and the addition of science labs along with two technical career spaces which could be technology, automotive, culinary, or law enforcement. Special education spaces will also be added. The tax rate for the bond will be \$1.24 per \$1000 of value; making the tax increase \$248 per year.

#8 Riverfront Park Master Plan

Robert Romanek from the Salem Parks Department was present to discuss the proceedings on the Master Plan. The final community meeting will be held on April 24th from 6:00-7:30 at the Pringle Community Hall. Comments received so far include: keep the park open; mixed attitudes about the amount of parking; and, proposals to move features are not popular. The three draft layouts include proposals that might provide: a river-walk over the water on the southerly end; enlargement of the south parking lot; restrooms and a structure with rentable community space on the north end; a new park maintenance facility beneath the bridge; extend the path along Pringle Creek and providing a clear path to the Courtney Bridge; and, refurbish the playground. Neighbors asked about the possibility of providing rentals of bicycles, kayaks, paddle boards and sponsoring smaller events. Robert said they are considering these types of things. Robert said that there have been requests to add to the carousel building and adding windowed workshops so the public can watch the crafter's progress on new creatures and the repair of old ones. Neighbors asked about the City evaluation of the ice rink. Robert said they were pleased. The facility may need a better roof drainage plan. The vendor was really happy with its success and intends to continue under the plan they have with the City.

#9 Union Gospel Mission

Dan Clem was present to represent the Union Gospel Mission. With the increased homelessness issues and the desire to improve their recovery program, UGM is proposing to move the downtown location of their services, north, to a larger facility on the west side of Commercial Street between Division and D streets. The size, location and affordability were driven by need and the amount of money they felt they could raise through private fund raising, grants, and tax credits. There are an estimated 1600-1700 homeless individuals in Salem. The current facility has an overnight capacity of 150 between April and October, with the ability to accommodate an additional 125 in emergency winter shelter, and 25 in the 16-month recovery program. The new shelter would allow UGM to triple its recovery participants to 75. The new facility would provide: storage space for belongings; health care services; enlarged dining area; activity center; TV areas; outdoor plaza (in rear of building); case management offices; and, security review for all who enter. There will also be room for an additional 200 men under emergency conditions. The second floor will serve as a dormitory with rooms that hold either 11 or 22 people. There will be a sick room along with 4 times the number of sinks, toilets and showers in the current shelter. The third floor will have 78 separated beds for those in recovery through their New Life Fellowship program. It will also include classrooms, a case manager to assist with housing, employment and health and mental health care. There will be a roof deck, an exercise room, a TV room, and 4-room apartments. The normal "non-emergency" overnight capacity will be 302 men.

A neighbor asked if there will be upgrades to the women's shelter, Simonka House. Mr. Clem said that there is currently room for 93 women. They have plans for adding family life center units, but it is about 3 years out. They also need "graduation" housing.

Neighbors who are business owners within about 500 feet of the site are concerned about the potential of 300-500 men capacity. This will be the largest center on the west coast. This concentrates this population in the north downtown in the Cando and Grant neighborhoods. There are religious requirements to go through the program and it does not seem fair to this part of town. They feel the presence of the nearby new police station will have no effect. While the health care aspect is good, substance abuse and aggressiveness is high among the current homeless. Renters and property owners in the area are frustrated.

Neighbors asked how UGM has evaluated their program to make better citizens of this population. Have they talked to other large shelters to gauge the impacts, both positive and negative on the whole community? Neighbors felt a need for comparative data. Mr. Clem stated that a small "home", even just a 10'x12' room, provide personal space and, with support, is 25% of the solution. Neighbors expressed concern about the shelter drawing folks and then not being able to give them accommodations, or the homeless being unwilling to abide by shelter rules, at which point they disperse

into the surrounding neighborhood. Is there any plan to downsize to a manageable size? Mr. Clem admitted it is not small but the multiple stories will allow them to manage the needs of the population better. Melissa Parker commented that, in her work as an attorney, she interacts with clients in various stages of homelessness and works to get them to locations to use the available facilities. Neighbors asked, with the increase of homelessness in the neighborhood, how can you help us to address our concerns? Litter patrol and search and rescue teams to visit camps and try to help bring these folks to the services available, and a task force that would set rules of behavior and determine when to involve the police. Neighbors still felt that Cando and Grant are bearing the brunt of the situation. When asked about rates of recidivism, Mr. Clem stated that theirs are lower than government provided services experience, though he had no hard data for anything but the New Life Program which is 90% successful in returning homeless successfully to the community. Is there any concern, when the word gets out along the west coast about this new shelter, that Salem will experience an influx of homeless? Mr. Clem said he did not know, but the rates of homelessness, even locally are on the rise. Mr. Clem had stated that UGM had 7 facilities in Salem. He was asked to identify them and their location. They are: Simonka House women's shelter in north Keizer; UGM men's shelter downtown on Commercial Street NE; 2 administrative offices with no shelter activity; a transition shelter at Geer and Center streets NE that is a transition facility for 17; a facility on Locust Street NE that shelters 41; and a storage warehouse that provides no shelter. It was pointed out that 3 of the 4 shelters are in northeast Salem. Mr. Clem was asked about the religious aspects of their New Life Fellowship program and how are participants required to participate. Does it affect who is accepted into the program? He said there is no requirement to profess faith. Those in the recovery program are allowed to choose Christian faith. They are required to attend Christian based classes and Bible study. The UGM is a tax-exempt entity. It was started in 1953. Neighbors asked what the daily routine was for those in the transitional program. Mr. Clem said that the ground floor is closed daily for an hour and a half from 8:00 to 9:30 for cleaning and servicing. Those in recovery stay in for classes and training. They have donated YMCA passes for exercise. Later they meet with family and friends, and clean their area. The facility will have a sickbed/triage unit to deal with both physical and mental health needs. They will be able to refer individuals to the Psychological care unit or the State Hospital, make medical calls on their behalf and take them to appointments. The hearing at City Council is scheduled for April 23rd. Neighbors requested that the UGM address the neighborhoods' reasonable concerns, including providing restrooms that are accessible from outside the facility 24 hours a day. Howard moved that Grant Neighborhood ***“Support the proposal to site the UGM development, as presented, assuming it is found to be consistent with the SRC zoning regulations.”*** Tina seconded the motion. Vote was 6 in favor, 3 opposed.

#10 Other Business

None brought forth.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright