

**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>           | HOWARD COLLINS      | <i>P</i>           |
| DUNCAN BEEVERS      | <i>P</i>           | TIM FRANCE          | <i>A</i>           |
| JEANNE BOATWRIGHT   | <i>P</i>           | CHRISTOPHER HACKETT | <i>P</i>           |
| ERIC BRADFIELD      | <i>P</i>           | LOLA HACKETT        | <i>P</i>           |
| SADIE CARNEY        | <i>P</i>           | TINA HANSEN         | <i>P</i>           |

Others present: Mark DeCoursey, Carol DeCoursey, Jennifer Kellar, Carolin VanOrden, Cara Kaser, Mischa O'Reilly, Troy Thomson, Sheilla VanDusseldorp, Nick Maselli, Stephanie Wile and Roger Hibbeler.

Christopher B. moved that we: ***“Approve the April and May minutes as submitted.”*** Sadie seconded the motion. Vote was 10 in favor, 0 opposed.

**#2 Good News from Grant Neighborhood**

- The DeCoursey’s informed us that there is now a chapter of the Green Party in Marion County;
- A reminder that August 7<sup>th</sup> is Neighborhood Night Out. July 21<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to register with the City if you would like a police officer to attend your get-together and July 27<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for getting a street closure permit.

**#3 Neighborhood Concerns**

- Neighbors report that the crosswalk control button is missing at the Summer and Shipping intersection;
- A neighbor commented on the sad fact that several mattresses were left at the NEN-Grant cleanup on May 12<sup>th</sup> when everything was wrapped up and only the Cherry City Metal bins remained for pickup on Monday.

**#3A City Manager, Steve Powers, Drinking Water Situation**

Steve Powers discussed the City’s Water Health Advisories over the past week or two. Currently, the cyanotoxin levels are back below Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines. The toxins are produced from algae in Detroit Reservoir. The City has 12 sampling stations where they draw water for testing. These are located above the dam structure, in feeder streams, above the City’s intake structure at Geren Island, above Stayton, and within the piped delivery system. Bottled and bulk water is available to all affected populations. The City has activated its water share agreements with other communities. The water is coming from the City of Keizer, whose water is from wells. Portland, Eugene, Albany and other communities are providing equipment and vehicles to transport and deliver the water. Fred Meyer, Trader Joes, Walmart, and Safeway are helping to provide drinking water. Each round of testing consists of two tests. The first one tests for the presence of the cyanotoxins and the second test both confirms the presence and determines the levels. Steve said this may be a new reality for Salem. Algae usually occur from June to October - this year it started early. The process and mitigation will be a public procedure. They will address the poor initial notice of the situation, which stirred a panic by its confusing lack of information. The notification technique and the advisory statement need to be consistent. Neighbors asked if there will be filtration system changes. Steve says they will be exploring different options. The use of reverse osmosis is very expensive. Neighbors said it would be helpful to have the test results published on the City’s website. Others commented that they would like to see a volume of consumption at which affects might be increased. One neighbor asked what the definition of

“elderly” is. Steve replied that they follow the EPA language, which sets the age at 65, on the recommendation of health experts. Cara commented that, unfortunately, the only seasonal cure is the return of cold weather and rain. The second advisory was better organized. This is a slow moving material disaster that will take community building to address. She has received emails with a tone that it is “us” versus the “government”. Instead of that attitude, we need to come together. She also asked folks to talk with their neighbors and offer help to those who need it. Steve pledged to be transparent, provide scientific information, and to use other means besides web pages and social media to communicate with citizens. He said that the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) have been very cooperative. The Corps and the US Forest Service manage the watershed and the reservoir. Levels of the toxins can be low enough to not cause contact skin irritations in the reservoir, while still exceeding the limit for safe consumption. All were encouraged to obtain CERT training to gain emergency preparedness.

#### **#4 Officers Reports**

Officer Hibbeler commented on the situation at 645 Gaines, saying that all involved are watching and waiting to see if it is resolved since it has quieted down. The mother of the occupant reported that there may be some mental health and drug & alcohol issues. The all-hours traffic has slowed down and the parties lasting overnight, and sometimes for days on end, have stopped.

Officer Hibbeler also asked for all to be nice to the volunteers at the water stations.

Stephanie Wile said that it is hard to control motor homes, cars, and vans on public streets.

Nevertheless, she asked that we continue to call them in. She is working on a house at Shipping and Capitol streets that is a derelict building and has people living in cars and working on cars in the street. The Kuenzi Apartment complex at 1360 Liberty is still listed as derelict buildings. 1555 Summer is posted as a nuisance, but is being taken care of. 1054 Winter was also cited, but has changed ownership and is now for sale. A neighbor reported the property at 1070 Norway, by the railroad tracks, which has an overflow of junk in the yard. A board member reported that a neighbor was concerned about 1090 Summer, where a lot of traffic has been observed - causing drug dealing worries, people living in tents or under tarps, and odd hours being kept. Stephanie said she would look into it.

#### **#5 City Councilor: Questions and Answers**

Cara reported on the following items:

- City Council meeting on Monday June 11<sup>th</sup> will include a Public Hearing on the proposed budget.
- Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, City Council will receive the Downtown Homelessness Task Force proposed actions and solutions. Comments are welcome and the information can be accessed on the task force web page at the City of Salem.
- Work on the establishment of the Maple-Winter Bikeway is continuing. 4-way stops are being installed at various intersections, including D and Winter, and should be in place by the end of June.
- Council meetings are now available on YouTube.

#### **#6 Cherriots Trip Choice-Oregonian Crossing**

Mischa O'Reilly was present. The first topic she addressed was the Cherriots survey at their website on the fare structure. Changes are scheduled for July 2019. The changes proposed are: 0-11 year olds ride free; Middle and High School students ride free with a student ID; low income households with an ID can also qualify for adjusted fares.

Mischa next spoke about the Oregonian Crossing program and their sign offerings that read “Every Intersection is a Crosswalk”. The lawn signs are available for anyone who would like to post one. Instructions for placing them properly, i.e. legally, are included. This is part of the ODOT program to increase pedestrian safety. It is important for pedestrians to be seen and to indicate your intent to cross. With that intention shown, all cars are legally required to stop.

Other topics discussed as the result of neighbors questions were: buses will continue to run on the Maple-Winter Bike Route; the Transit Advisory Board evaluates infrastructure, such as pavement conditions, for funding for maintenance and repair; electric bikes are considered motor vehicles and must obey traffic laws the same as cars; and, the “20 is Plenty” speed limit in residential areas is being looked at for Salem. The difference in the severity of injuries from an accident between a vehicle and a pedestrian or bicyclist at 20 mph, versus 25 mph, is significant.

#### #7 **Grant Park Maintenance, Projects, SPIF Program**

Jennifer Kellar is the Parks and Recreation Manager for the City of Salem. The City has recommendations for park facilities repair and maintenance. She asked what the neighborhood was considering at Grant Park. Jeanne provided the items discussed at previous meetings: a natural perimeter trail, a new, or repaired, drinking fountain, if the existing one does not work; fence repair or replacement out along Hood and Winter streets; one, or two, benches along the trail on the Hood or Winter Street side. She said that all of those items would be appropriate for our park. Neighbors asked if there is any opportunity to create additional parks in Grant, including “pocket parks”. One site pointed out was the triangle property bounded by Fairgrounds Road, Madison Street and Winter Street. Jeanne pointed out that, over the years, Grant Neighborhood has tried to contact the owner about that site, including for a community garden, with no luck. Perhaps the City could get a response. The owner is the Cannery Local #670, Building Association. Jennifer mentioned that SPIF grant applications are due in October. A neighbor commented that a park without a rest room is of no value. Jennifer commented that restrooms can present issues of safety and security if they are not in an area with a certain level of activity in the area.

#### #8 **Market Street Construction**

Troy Thompson, the project manager was present. This rehabilitation of pedestrian access ramps and pavement overlay from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to Cottage Street is funded by gas tax revenues. The work will commence June 19<sup>th</sup>, starting on the south side of the street. Once that is complete, work will shift to the north side. Only the access ramps are being replaced; the sidewalk will not be. Salem Road and Driveway is the contractor. Market Street will be closed for 5 days in mid-July to grind the existing surface, work on the subgrade, pave and stripe. Since it is a residential area, no nighttime work will be done. The school district is laying new fiber optic lines into Grant School and water lines will be replaced. A neighbor asked that the placement of construction signs be done with care so as not to block the view of crossing traffic on the side streets.

While Troy was a captive audience, a neighbor requested that a “Do Not Block Intersection” sign be installed at 5<sup>th</sup> and Hood to help neighborhood traffic cross at that intersection.

#### #9 **Community Participation in Transportation & Land Use**

Steve Anderson was not present.

#### #10 **Board Member Reports**

- Eric reported on the Spring Clean-up with NEN from 9-noon on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Even though the two trash dumpsters were full by 11:00, it was a great success. The plan is to partner again next spring. The collected money was divided between Grant and NEN with the proposal to earmark the funds to support next year’s operation. Duncan moved that ***“We earmark Grant’s portion of the money collected for next year’s event.”*** Lola seconded the motion. Vote was 10 in favor, 0 opposed.
- Neighborhood goals were discussed. Jeanne provided a list of three that have been proposed. Lola moved that ***“Our goals for next year will be: a) Increase Grant CERT membership by 10%; b) Increase neighborhood meeting attendance by 10% and invite neighborhood businesses; c) Write letters for all land use issues that Grant receives notice for – letters can be***

***in favor, opposed, or state no opinion while acknowledging the receipt of the notice and report our discussion.***” Sadie seconded the motion. Vote was 8 in favor, 0 opposed.

- Duncan and Jeanne reviewed their attendance at the neighborhood chair/land use chair workshop which included discussions about responding to land use notices (Lisa Anderson-Ogilvie) and the proposed Blight-to-Bright program for demolishing longstanding and severely derelict buildings (Brady Rogers), selling the land and returning the profit back to the program.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright