

**AGENDA ITEM**

**#1 Introductions/Approval of Minutes**

BOARD MEMBERS:	PRESENT - <i>P</i>	ABSENT - <i>A</i>	EXCUSED - <i>E</i>
CHRISTOPHER BECHTEL	<i>E</i>	HOWARD COLLINS	<i>P</i>
DUNCAN BEEVERS	<i>P</i>	TIM FRANCE	<i>P</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, Irma Dowd, Steven Sperling, Sheilla VanDusseldorp, Shane VanDusseldorp, Mesheal Heyman, Joe Tracy, Ray Quisenberry, Brad Box, Dayna Collins, Amanda Rudd, Steve Borron, Emily Loberg, Dan Clem, Cara Kaser, Nick Maselli, and Roger Hibbeler.

Christopher H. moved that we: **“Approve the June minutes as submitted.”** Duncan seconded the motion. Vote was 9 in favor, 0 opposed.

**#2 Good News from Grant Neighborhood**

- Brad Box has purchased the property at 725 Belmont at the northeast corner of Belmont and Cottage. The site is one tax lot but has two homes on it and possibly room for a third. The small home on the east may go and be replaced. The larger home will stay and be rehabilitated. The empty area on the corner is where the third may be built.
- Mark DeCoursey is collecting signatures to allow the Green Party candidate to appear in the voter’s pamphlet. Sam said the Association is non-partisan, but he is welcome to stay after and get signatures from those who are interested.
- Duncan commented that there is a lot of school prep activity around Grant School and, thankfully, he has seen drivers in the area using caution.
- Amanda really appreciates the improvements to the Maple-Winter Bikeway, those being the new stop signs that have been installed.

**#3 Neighborhood Concerns**

- Sadie echoed Amanda’s comments on the Maple-Winter Bikeway improvements, but also asked if there are any plans to improve the surface condition of the streets along this route. She said she mentioned it to Mayor Bennett at the last Coffee with the Mayor event. She avoids portions of this route when she bikes, because of the horrible conditions.
- Tina commented that the lobby of the old YWCA building and housing on Broadway has been emptied. The bare space is most unwelcoming to visitors and is very “cold”. Sam said he knows the owner and will mention it to him and maybe try to set up a meeting with Tina and the owner to discuss the situation and what might be done.
- A neighbor commented on the deteriorated parking lot at Hood and Capitol and the rusting sign. They thought that it should be cleaned up a bit. The last information GNA has had was that an optometrist had purchased it with plans of building a new office there. That has been several years ago.
- There was an arrest made at 645 Gaines for methamphetamine possession. There is a bench warrant for illegal activity which means if there are two police calls to the site in the following 30 days, the owner is susceptible to arrest. The eviction of the current tenant is still up in the air. Some of the tenant’s buddies are active in car break-ins around the neighborhood.

- A neighbor reported seeing head lamps in a vacant house near 5<sup>th</sup> and Norway. Doesn't know if someone is squatting or working. Was told to call Compliance Services. We learned that Christie Wolf will be our new Compliance Services Officer; replacing Stephanie Wile, who will be doing multi-housing inspections.
- A neighbor stated that she heard someone on her porch in the middle of the night. She called 911 and reported it and that she thought they were now hiding in her shrubs. She was told to go out and "tell them to leave". She said she was not comfortable with doing that. Officer Hibbeler stated that in that circumstance, she should say that to the 911 operator.

#### #4 **Officer Reports**

Officer Hibbeler commented that neighbors need to pay attention and know what is going on in their area. There has been an upswing in graffiti which started in May. When asked about gang involvement, he said that, usually, gang graffiti is either red or blue. A neighbor witnessed a woman defecating on the street side of Church Street early one morning and asked if he should call something like that in. Officer Hibbeler said "yes". A neighbor asked about needing to test a home purchase for meth residue. He said that since the restrictions on purchasing pseudoephedrine were put in place, the manufacture of meth in Oregon has dropped dramatically and it was the manufacturing process that produced the contamination. The Marion County Health Department of the Oregon Health Authority may be able to provide guidance if contamination is suspected.

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

Cara reported on the following items:

- Commented on the pedestrian crossing improvement with the installation of the 4-way stop signs at D and Winter.
- The UGM Building has been approved. The next steps are to create partnerships with Grant Neighborhood, businesses, and other neighbors.
- The Downtown Homelessness Solutions Task Force wrapped up their meetings. They intend to set up partnerships to maintain a dialog about the situation and continuing solutions. Partners will include UGM, Arches, Businesses and Neighborhood Associations. The City will attempt to provide, on City properties, toilet facilities, storage, hygiene facilities, such as laundry and showers, and a simplified, 24/7/365 call list of entities that can help in any given situation, such as NW Human Services.
- The State Street Corridor Plan has been approved. It extends from 12<sup>th</sup> Street to 25<sup>th</sup> Street. There will be: new zoning codes to promote mixed use; traffic calming, bike and pedestrian improvements; traffic lanes reduced to two with a continuous center turn refuge and bike lanes from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>.
- A hearing will be coming up on banning single use plastic bags. Written or verbal testimony will be accepted.
- The charcoal treatment has been successful in removing the cyanotoxins from the City's drinking water. It will be used for the next two years as the City pursues a permanent solution to the problem. A system, such as reverse osmosis, to deal with the issue will be quite expensive and that period will be necessary to pursue funding and design.
- A neighbor asked if the City has anyone assigned to work with the State Legislature. Cara said that there is a sub-committee that does that.
- A neighbor commented on the reported cost overruns already projected for the new police station and wondered if it was the result of some of the public asking for art, a coffee shop, extra public meeting rooms, and bike racks at the facility. And - are those items really needed? Cara responded that the meeting rooms will be heavily used as that type of space is scarce in the community.

## #6 Executive Board Officer Elections

Sam said that the current officers are willing to keep serving, but nomination would be taken from the floor if anyone is interested. With none forthcoming, Christopher H. moved that *“We maintain the status quo and elect Sam Skillern and Eric Bradfield as co-Chairs, Christopher Bechtel as Vice-Chair and Jeanne Boatwright as Secretary for 2018-2019.”* Sadie seconded the motion. Vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed.

## #7 Grant Park & SPIF Grant Application

Paul reported that the Salem Parks Improvement Fund (SPIF) awards about \$20,000 in grant money each year. It is funded through the Capital Improvement Program to the Parks Department. Neighborhood Associations interested in obtaining funds must submit a proposal letter which includes a method to acquire the 50% matching funds needed. He met with Toni Wittler to discuss our ideas: a new drinking fountain; new fencing; and a perimeter natural walking. Toni said that a new drinking fountain suitable for the park would cost \$6-7000. She will look into the cost of fencing. Paul discussed with her the idea of acquiring the large triangle property on Fairgrounds Road for a pocket park or a community garden.

## #8 Salem Health

Michael Guy was not present.

## #9 UGM

Dan Clem was present to update us on the new men’s shelter on north Liberty Street. City Council has approved the development with eleven conditions; most of them related to design. They are half way through the fund raising and have received \$2 million in grants. The shelter will have a maximum capacity of 300 under emergency conditions. The new building design and layout will be forthcoming. Their measure of success is to change from a shelter to only transition over time, and put themselves out of work. They will have four full time mental health counselors. They aim for a long-term outcome and will monitor their success at one and three years out. When asked if the entity was policy governed or board governed, he said the board sets policy. There are currently six open seats on the board. A neighbor asked how they would engage with the neighborhoods. Dan said that right now they are involved with CANDO, which is the neighborhood in which they are located. They will expand to work with Grant, and other neighborhoods.

## #10 Board Member Reports

- Sam said that he hosts a back-to-school party for families to help parents with what to expect and how to get the most for their children. Neighborhood goals were discussed. Jeanne provided a list of three that have been proposed.
- Lola said that there will be a CERT class at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church beginning Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> and running for seven weeks. Classes start at 6:00 p.m. Jeanne reported that the antenna on the cache has been installed and we have at least two radio operators, including Duncan.

## #11 Other Business

- Emily Loberg was present to update us on the Open Streets Salem event on September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:00 am-3:00pm. Volunteers are still needed for: intersection monitors (2 per intersection); helping cars approaching the event on local streets; and, passing out flyers. Shane recommended that she reach out to the JROTC at North Salem High School. The group is disciplined and always looking for ways to provide volunteer services to the community. Emily said the entertainment will be locked down within the week. GNA is welcome to monitor an intersection and also have an information booth at the site.

- Paul moved that ***“The board approve funds to pay for the GNA website and for Jeanne to purchase paper and food service supplies, as needed, for the next year.”*** Sadie seconded the motion. Vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright