

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>	SAM SKILLERN	<i>P</i>
JEANNE BOATWRIGHT	<i>P</i>	CHRISTOPHER HACKETT	<i>P</i>	AARON TERPENING	<i>P</i>
ERIC BRADFIELD	<i>P</i>	LOLA HACKETT	<i>P</i>	PAUL TIGAN	<i>P</i>
SADIE CARNEY	<i>P</i>	TINA HANSEN	<i>P</i>		
HOWARD COLLINS	<i>P</i>	CYNTHIA KAVANAGH	<i>E</i>		

Others present: Allen Dannen, Luke Gmazel, Kristen Retherford, Bob DeLong, Pam DeLong, Carolin VanOrden, Dee Rynerson, N. Bennett, Lynne Marie Sullivan, Ray Quisenberry, Nicholas Maselli, Carol DeCoursey, and Cara Kaser.

Paul moved that: ***“We approve the February minutes as submitted.”***

Howard seconded the motion. Vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed.

Introductions were suspended on an 11-0 vote for lack of time.

#2 Great Story from Grant Neighborhood

Christopher invited all over for an open house with nibbles and drinks next week.

#3 Neighborhood Concerns

Concerns were raised about the number of rumors surrounding the incident on Summer Street last month and the inability to get any answers to either corroborate them or put them to rest. See Item #4, below.

#4 Officer Reports

Salem Police Officer Bennett responded to questions about the home invasion and standoff last month on Summer Street. He said that the invader was taken to the hospital. The case report is not available until court procedures commence. The man will face multiple charges. The Department was afraid that there could be a fatality. The structure suffered fire, smoke and water damage.

#5 City Councilor: Questions and Answers

Cara reported on:

- On Monday, Jim Lewis and Cara made a joint motion to set up a congestion task force to study Salem traffic.
- Budget Meetings commence April 24th. There will be significant cuts. Past ballot measures that limited property tax rates and assessments have hit hard. The City collects about \$68 million, when the police and fire departments, together, have a \$73 million budget. The general fund finances all departments except Public Works. Homelessness and social services have taken a lot of money to address.
- There will be a work session on April 15th for the Sustainable Services Task Force. They will address ways to raise income to the City.
- Volunteers are needed at the warming centers.

#6 May Meeting Agenda Ideas

Suggestions were:

- Representative from the Riverfront Carousel to speak about their plans to build a stable for the artisans that will allow the public to more easily observe the planning, carving, prepping, painting and finishing new carousel creatures and also repair and maintenance of current animals.
- Lynn Takata speaking about the YMCA community mosaic art work.

- May 4th Neighborhood Cleanup.

#7 NEN-Grant Neighborhood Cleanup

Eric and Sam reported that it is scheduled for May 4th from 9:00 to Noon. It will be held again at the east parking lot of the Church of the Nazarene on Market Street. Volunteers are welcome and they encouraged all those in attendance to consider if they can volunteer some time.

#8 Division Street Tree Removal

Allen Dannen, project manager of the police station construction project, Luke Gmazel, public works, and Kristen Retherford, Urban Development director, were present to discuss this proposed action and answer questions. The area being addressed is Division Street between High Street and Liberty Street, one block to the east of the new police station. Many transportation improvements will be made in the surrounding area to improve traffic flow and access to the new station. Liberty, which is now one-way northbound, to Division will become two-way at Marion. Division, which is now one-way westbound between Liberty and Commercial, will become two-way. New signals will be installed at Liberty and Division to convert Division to two-way and allow northbound traffic on Front Street to exit onto Division as it sweeps through the curve that moves traffic from Front to Commercial. Wider sidewalks will be constructed in throughout the area with corner bump-outs to aid pedestrian crossing. A pathway along Mill Creek will be installed behind the police station. The police station will be fronted close to Division Street with a plaza and diagonal street parking. There will be no visitor parking on the station site. It will be completely secured. In order to accommodate the general public visiting the station and to also provide parking for those attending meetings in the community rooms, as well as for the general neighborhood, diagonal parking has been proposed for the block of Division Street east of the station. On street parking on Liberty Street will be lost to construct the required bike lane. There will be a net gain of only 10 parking spaces. The police station site is outside of the downtown parking district so it can't use spaces in the Marion Street Parking Structure to account for required parking. Proposed new development in the downtown is already threatening to add the need for hundreds of additional spaces. The trees adjacent to the police site on Division and Liberty have already been removed. Trees on the south side of Division, across from the station are scheduled for removal to accommodate the traffic change and to add parking. The trees have been evaluated by three arborists. Some were found in fair condition, three were found in poor condition, and should be removed, and the rest have been deemed to be towards the end of their life. It is estimated that, within a span of 5-7 years, they will begin to drop limbs and become more hazardous. When asked by a neighbor about provisions for transit service to this site and accommodations for alternate modes of travel, the response was that there is a transit stop at the Division Street corner and bicycle parking will be provided. Neighbors asked if parking on surrounding private lots could be available during off-business hours. That may be possible but the city has no way to compel it. 43 trees are scheduled to be removed, 13 will be retained, and 72 new trees will be planted. The site will meet the level of tree and vegetation improvements that are required in downtown. A neighbor asked why the city does not have to provide visitor parking when any private developer would have to. The answer was that the onsite parking meets the requirements of the zone and the square feet of the building; all within the secured area. The neighborhood declined to make a motion on whether, or not, to support the tree removal to facilitate the construction of additional parking.

#9 Board Member Reports

- Grant Park Chess Table - Paul reported that there will be a coordinated fundraiser with the Grant School Chess Club to raise some of the funds for the table. It will be coordinated with, and the money channeled through the Salem Parks Foundation. The SPIF grant will cover 75% of the cost and the fundraiser, plus other money available through the Salem Parks Foundation will make up the remaining 25%. Tim asked Paul to contact the Broadway Coffeehouse to discuss contributing to the cause through a fundraising program set up at the coffeehouse.

- Land Use – Sadie said that the changes to the SRC were adopted as proposed.
- CERT – Lola said there is a call at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church with 35 students. The final exercise will be on March 18th at Fire Station 6 (airport) at 6:00 pm. Volunteers are always needed, and welcome. A potluck dinner will be provided.
- North Neighborhoods CPT – Sam said the group will meet next Wednesday at the Evergreen Presbyterian Church on D Street.

#10 Other Business

None was brought forth.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright