

**AGENDA ITEM**

**#1 Introductions**

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

Others present: Carol DeCoursey, Mark DeCoursey, Helen Vandenberg, Cara Kaser, Amanda Scott, and Steve Galvin.

Christopher H. moved that ***“We approve the minutes for December as submitted.”*** Aaron seconded the motion. Vote was 9 in favor, 0-opposed.

**#2 Great Story from Grant Neighborhood**

Cynthia reported that she received a Thank You card and some chocolates from an anonymous neighbor. The family walks regularly and voted on the best holiday light display; choosing her home as the winner.

**#3 Neighbor Concerns**

A neighbor was concerned about a street tree on Shipping that is pushing on the low telephone wires. It was recommended that he contact the City to determine who would assess the risk. Sam mentioned the fact that one of the street centerline pedestrian signs at the Market and Winter crosswalk has been removed.

**#4 Officer’s Report**

Officer Galvin said that, with the cold weather, t property crimes and stolen crimes are on the rise. He mentioned that mental health issues spike during the holidays but drop thereafter. Again, he also reminded folks to not leave running cars unattended. There has been an increase in graffiti with some x-ing out occurring. This is a concern for the police as it indicates the presence of rivalries trying to one-up each other, which is never good.

**#5 Cara Kaser: Questions & Answers**

Cara announced that she will not be running for reelection. She feels that the City needs full time City councilors because it is almost impossible to work, take care of family and also serve. Neighbors asked if other cities pay. She said that Portland does, but it does not have a City Manager and the Councilors serve as department heads for the different city bureaus. She thinks that Eugene and Beaverton both have paid Councilors.

The City Council is on holiday break and has not met since December 13<sup>th</sup>, at which the passed a citywide ban on camping. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, the camp at ARCHES was disbanded. A core group, who are “service resistant”, have moved to the sidewalks on the north side of the former Nordstrom building and on the east side of the Rite-Aid/TJ Maxx building. Many of these folks have been kicked out of rentals due to things such as drug use or allowing others to stay with them when it has not been authorized. Officers, as they encounter the unsheltered, always offer assistance or help. About 20% have mental health issues, and this is probably concentrated among those in the downtown group. Another issue is that drugs are often used to self medicate. The City will be meeting with State Legislators to get State help – the City cannot solve this problem on its own. It is not a good idea to pick a park and designate as a place for the homeless to use. There has to be a manger to keep it under control. Porta-potties are

no longer available for the City to rent. The companies find too many needles, damage and they are also concerned about the high number of sexual assaults that occur in them. Likewise, the solid waste service providers now charge the city extra costs because dumpsters that are provided end up with dangerous waste in them which requires special, and more expensive, dumping at the Brown's Island hazardous waste disposal facility. Most of the folks on the street are not looking to assault or attack pedestrians. Compared with Eugene, Salem has fewer non-profits to work with the homeless.

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, City Council will have a work session to discuss and set goals for the year.

A neighbor asked what Cara thought we should be looking for in a candidate for our ward. She replied that the person needs to be engaged, have lots of energy, understands that a lot of the work is on small issues and helping and connecting residents to solutions to problems, responsiveness and a commitment to be there.

Neighbors asked about the old vacant car lots on Mission Street east of 25<sup>th</sup> Street. A discussion ensued about: 1) whether, or not the City can compel removal of the piles of rock, asphalt, and concrete from the demolition – no; and could the area be used for a homeless camp – not without the willingness and consent of the owner(s).

## **#6 Board Member Reports**

CERT – Lola spoke about two new classes. One is at the South Salem Senior Center and the other begins March 11<sup>th</sup> at Roth's in West Salem. On January 15<sup>th</sup>, the Grant-Highland CERT group will meet at the Evergreen Presbyterian Church at 6:00. One topic of discussion will be a presentation by a Civil Engineer on possible ways to fasten your house to its foundation, which is a common occurrence with older homes, and extremely prevalent in our neighborhood. Another topic on the agenda is a discussion of "What you would do if you knew that you only had 1-year to prepare for the Great Quake?"

Land Use Updates – With Paul's absence, Aaron reported that the development at 990 Broadway is on track. However, the property has been identified as the location of a house owned by Jason Lee. Kimberli Fitzgerald is exploring grants that would finance a dig at the site, prior to the commencement of any excavation or construction.

## **#7 Other Business**

With the large activity planned at Grant School on the first Thursday in March, we will be moving our meeting to the Broadway Commons building.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright