

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>E</i>	AARON TERPENING	<i>P</i>
ERIC BRADFIELD	<i>P</i>	TINA HANSEN	<i>P</i>	PAUL TIGAN	<i>P</i>
SADIE CARNEY	<i>P</i>	CYNTHIA KAVANAGH	<i>P</i>		
TIM FRANCE	<i>P</i>	RAY QUISENBERRY	<i>E</i>		

Others present: Nick Beleiciks, Sarah Strahl, Virginia Stapleton, Helen Vandeberg, Aaron Edelman, Will Kuenzi, Sean Bennett, Christi Wolfe, Cara Kaser, Carol DeCoursey, Mark DeCoursey, Jan Kailuweit, Carolin VanOrden, and Daniel Saucy.

Christopher H. moved that ***“We approve the minutes for January as submitted.”*** Tina seconded the motion. Vote was 10 in favor, 0-opposed.

#2 “Salem Reads”

City Librarian, Sara Strahl, was present to give us information on the *“Salem Reads: One Book-One Community”* event this year. She brought a large publication of all the events that are associated with this activity, which run through the whole month of February. This year the book selected is *Piecing Me Together* by Renée Watson, a local Oregon author, and it is set in Portland. The story is a young adult novel about coming of age.

The Library’s move to 1400 Broadway (former Capitol Press building) will be done, and the library will open on February 18th. With the downsized space, services will be limited. However, high demand and high use books and books for teens and children will all be available.

#3 Great Story from Grant Neighborhood

On February 7th Salem Alliance will sponsor *Night to Shine*, a Prom experience for all ages, 14 and up. The event is provided for those who never had the opportunity to attend a prom; oftentimes for health or physical disability reasons. It has become a favorite and very well attended event by the community. Sadie announced the Salem Transit bus service will be available on Sundays and Holidays, beginning May 3rd. She also reported that if you are going to, or from, a warming shelter and whether you are using it or are volunteering your help, you can tell the driver that information and receive a free ride. Also, the buses now have free wi-fi.

Several neighbors commented that they appreciated seeing the speed reader board that was in place on Summer Street at E Street and hope it had the desired effect of slowing traffic down.

#4 Neighbor Concerns

A neighbor was concerned about a cedar tree on Hood Street on the north edge of Grant School/Park that dies last summer, most likely from drought. The Parks Dept. has been notified.

Eric provided information he got about a neighbors concern from last month. He spoke with City Engineer, Kevin Hottmann, about getting street lights installed. Kevin said that the request can be put on a waiting list and to call with the proposed location.

#5 Officer’s Report

Compliance Services Officer Christi Wolfe responded to a question about a house in the neighborhood with a lot of cars. She said they cannot regulate the number of cars as long as they are driven once every five days. The cars cannot block the sidewalk but they are allowed to park in the apron between the sidewalk and the curb line. She is aware of the property and is keeping an eye on it.

Reporting on a derelict house at 1555 Summer Street, Officer Wolfe said that it has been cleaned up, emptied out, boarded up, and vacant. Dealings with this house started 13 years ago with the Salem Police Dept.

Salem Police Department Officer Sean Bennett is the District Officer for our part of town. He has been policing the Grant/Highland neighborhoods for 25 years. He was asked if there has been an uptick in graffiti incidents, and said “yes.” He reported that the City has a new Graffiti Enforcement Officer, Taylor Bennett, who is his son. He said that they have one “artist” on file who is responsible for over 100 graffiti incidences, which raises the actions to the felony level. The graffiti hotline phone number is 503.371.4264. It is preferable for you to submit pictures along with the location information.

#6 Cara Kaser: Questions & Answers

Cara said that there will be traffic changes and some temporary closures in the Division Street-Liberty Street area around the new police station that neighbors should be aware of. They will run from late February through March as work is done to change the traffic patterns in the area.

On Monday, February 10th, City Council will be appointing four new individuals to the City’s Planning Commission and will learn more about the updates to the Multi-Family Housing Code changes as a continuation from last month’s hearing. One issue is concern over when balconies will be allowed to face single family residential homes. It’s possible that they will vote on the code on the 10th, or it may be continued to another meeting.

Council will also be hearing motions for revisions to the camping ban, which was a solution for a problem that resulted in unexpected consequences. The City is working with the State Legislature as this issue, across the state has become too big for each community to deal with on its own. The City is looking at the possibility of a low barrier shelter with a capacity of over 100 at a site at 22nd and Mission. It would include a navigation center to help individuals access services and help, especially for mental health and drug issues.

On February 18th at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers, there will be a signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Salem and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde dealing with the handling of the discovery of artifacts during construction and excavation on projects within the City. The agreement is made possible by the City having an archeologist on staff and will provide a quicker response to, and better communication about, any discoveries. This was an issue that, most recently, came up during the Police Station construction project.

Also on the 18th Council will have a policy work session where they set the Council’s goals for this year. April 15th marks the beginning of budget meetings. The City is facing a \$60 million gap in funds over the next 4 years.

#7 Multi-Modal Crossing – Fairgrounds & Norway

Will Kuenzi and Aaron Edelman were present from the City to discuss the bike and pedestrian improvements proposed for this intersection. It is one of 5 sites around the city that are being addressed. The construction will include a new median area that provides separate openings to accommodate pedestrians and bicycles. It does not allow traffic to turn across the oncoming lane at this intersection, nor will cross-traffic be allowed on Norway. There will be three trees added to the installation. The work is scheduled for this summer and will be available by the opening day of school. All five sites have a total budget of \$840,000 which covers planning, design and construction. There will be no flashing lights at the crossing, but improved advance signing will be installed upstream both directions to alert drivers of the crossing they are approaching.

8 Salem Park Foundation

Dan Saucy, with the foundation brought information about the upcoming Grant cycle. The foundation is not part of the City government; it is all volunteers who work through the neighborhood associations and in collaboration with the City, to fund park improvements. They fund permanent structures and are working on getting common fixtures, such as trash receptacles, benches, picnic tables, etc., standardized

throughout the city for easier maintenance and repair. The goal is to have the installation done within two years of awarding the grant. The foundation is always open to receiving donations, which can be through wills or as memorials.

Dan also informed us that Jennifer Keller has taken the place of Toni Whittler at Salem Parks and Recreations, who we have worked with for many years on our Grant Park improvements.

9 Market Street Crossing Flags

Paul brought paperwork about the “See Me Flags” equipment that is part of a program to slow down traffic and make drivers aware that a pedestrian wishes to cross at an intersection. He talked about an initial installation at the Grant School crossings on Market Street at Cottage and Winter streets. When the crossings are staffed by crossing guards, traffic is stopped and crossing is easy. But for afterschool or evening programs that let out after the guards are done for the day, crossing can be difficult, especially when it is dark. The flags are stored in a bin on a pole at each side of the crossing. The kit comes with 12 flags with reflective markings, two bins and two signs – for \$200. A pedestrian wishing to cross removes a flag from the bin, holds it out and/or waves it to signal to traffic that they wish to cross. Once traffic from both ways has come to a halt, the pedestrian crosses, with the flag, and deposits it in the bin on the opposite side. The flags could be removed during the summer months when darkness is not such a factor in being able to be seen by traffic and allowed to cross. Paul suggested that, in order to keep the flags from walking away, we might have them printed with, something like, “I stole this flag from the Grant Neighborhood Association.” Tina moved that “The Grant Neighborhood Association spend \$400 from our communication funds to purchase two sets of “See Me Flags” sets for the two Market Street crosswalks at Grant School at Cottage and Winter streets.” Aaron seconded the motion. Vote was 8 in favor, 0 opposed. A neighbor suggested that a QR code could be placed on the bin to go to the neighborhood website.

10 Board Member Reports

CERT – Lola was absent, attending a CERT training. Christopher reported on the upcoming classes. Jeanne mentioned again that our Neighborhood goals are to get all of our board members certified in this program.

Land Use Updates None to report.

Cherriots Bus Stops – After complaints were made to City Council about the first installations in the neighborhood, Council directed the Salem Transit Authority to work directly with the Grant Neighborhood Association. Paul has continued to try to move this discussion forward with no luck on getting a response from S-K Transit. Sadie, who is a member of the S-K Transit board, will prompt the appropriate employees within the Authority to respond.

11 Other Business

Jeanne asked that everyone start looking out for nominations for the annual Beautification Awards that will be presented in May at our Annual Meeting. Properties that are newly improved or which are long standing examples of well kept grounds are eligible for the award. Nominations should come into the March meeting so photographs can be taken and presented to the Board in April and then voted on.

The agenda for the May meeting will be a Candidates forum for the Ward 1 election, on May 19th. Can-Do is sponsoring a like forum on February 23rd at 5:00 pm.

The Employee Payroll Tax is also on the May ballot.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright