

AGENDA ITEM

#1 Introductions

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

Others present: Chris French, Steve Dickey, Carol DeCoursey, Mark DeCoursey, Kelsey Popovich, Jan Kailuweit, Ann Marie Thompson, Virginia Stapleton, Carol Corner, Cara Kaser, Sean Bennett, Cheryl Bennett, Jon Garrow, Tommy VanCleave, Nick Masseli, Patrick and Elaine.

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

#2 Great Story from Grant Neighborhood

Sidewalk on 5th between Norway and Shipping has been replaced.

#3 Neighbor Concerns

Carol and Mark DeCoursey entered into the Grant Neighborhood Association records, copies of letters they have written to Salem Police Chief Jerry Moore, Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and Helen Heirschbiel, Executive Director of the Oregon State Bar Association. These concern the actions of public officials relative to the standoff situation at 1050 Summer Street and the subsequent handling of the investigation of the case and the prosecution of the suspect. The letters question removal of evidence of the SWAT team ordinance prior to the State Fire Marshall’s visit and the possible targeted guidance of that Marshall through the scene by a Salem Police Detective.

Several neighbors were present to ask about the process and support for implementing permit parking in the neighborhood around Grant School where parking has become especially difficult. Sam suggested that the Scholl District be contacted and alerted to the p[ossibility of permitted parking going into effect if the school doesn’t direct staff and visitors to use the parking lot at the northwest corner of Hood and Cottage streets that has been offered for use, for decades, by Salem Alliance church, who owns it. They were told that the Grant Neighborhood Association has always supported neighbors in the pursuit of instituting the program on their blocks. The folks were going to gather the paperwork and the item will be on next month’s agenda.

#4 Officer’s Report

Salem Police Department Officer Sean Bennett brought information about the car that plunged into Mill Creek. The driver sped down D Street and past an officer near Cottage Street who attempted to detain him. He eluded, heading west and missed the turn at High and 5th Street and went into the drink. Not knowing if it was sage to approach the driver, the officer had to wait for backup. The driver was taken in to custody for several offenses including DUI. It took multiple fire, high angle rescue, and diving personnel, to retrieve the vehicle. The iron railing was damaged.

Good news for our neighborhood – graffiti incidents are down substantially since last month and the little that there are “taggers” (kids) not gang members.

Officer Bennett commented that folks need to remember that Next Door Grant is not a mechanism for reporting crime. If you see a crime in progress call the non-emergency number or 911, as appropriate.

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

Cara said that the sit-lie ordinance, with conditions, will be heard on Monday March 9th. It will include “exclusion zone” capabilities for those who choose not to comply with the regulations. It will be in line with the camping ban and will not affect activity between 9 pm and 7 am. It is known that some homeless are engaging in criminal activity and the sit-lie ordinance give the police an opportunity to stop and talk with individuals. The City is looking for a balance so folks have a place to go. Before the ordinance will go into effect, it will be mandatory for: a shelter is available between 7 am and 9 pm; and, permanent toilets are installed downtown. The City is looking to the legislature for additional funding, though she does not expect that to happen in the scheduled March emergency session, so it will likely be delayed until the 2021 regular session. Another proposal is to install a 7,000 sq. ft. tent in Marion Square Park that would have two portable toilets available 24/7. The site would have management personnel and two security officers. The Arches day room is open again from 8 am to 3 pm and offers showers, storage, etc. The City is also exploring installing a Portland Loo in Marion Square Park. The cost is about \$185,000 but they are fairly vandal resistant and are designed to not facilitate illegal activity within them. Another service would be to locate storage site downtown that would be staffed and have a ticket system to retrieve belongings. This could also include a corral to leave carts at. Neighbors asked why the sit-lie limit was not 24 hr. Cara responded that the 9th Circuit Court decision that sleep is a right meant that exclusion could not be so broad that the unsheltered had no way to be able to sleep. That decision arose out of Boise’s criminalization of violations to its sit-lie ordinance. Salem’s response will be a citation. Prior to the seep of Wallace marine Park and adjacent private properties, few unsheltered individuals slept downtown and those who did moved out in the morning. Many even had a friendly relationship with business owners. Neighbors asked why only Ward 1 is shouldering the solution to the problem and commented that more money is needed to spread out the services. Cara responded that the City can’t find property owners who are willing to rent or lease their properties. There is no service provider to manage camp facilities.

#6 **Grant Park Improvement Suggestions - SPF**

Paul brought ideas for improvements for Grant Park to be submitted to the Salem Parks Foundation for grant funding. The first is a new trash receptacle for the shelter area. The current one is a classic tin can chained to a knee high post. The city has a standard design that they are gradually installing in the City’s parks. It is a black wrought-iron frame with a trash can insert with a top to prevent collecting rain water. The cost to purchase and install is \$800. A second suggestion that was discussed was a couple of benches at the ball field in the northeast corner of the park. Paul moved that ***“Grant NA submit a grant application to SPF to provide a portion of the funding for two benches and two trash receptacles for Grant Park, with 50% of the cost provided by the Grant NA, or others.”*** Aaron seconded the motion. Vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed. Paul will prepare the grant request papers.

#7 **Market Street Crossing Flags – Update**

Paul reported that the idea for the crosswalk flag system was shot down by City Public Works with two concerns. First, the City’s liability if someone ended up getting hurt while using them and, second, it is unlawful to install items within the public road right-of-way. Instead the City encourages the neighborhood to explore other options, including the Salem Safe-crossing Intersections on-line site, where intersections can be nominated for improvements. Another option is to ask the City’s budget committee to add improvements to the Capitol Improvement Inventory in the City’s budget. It is best to get any requests submitted early in the budget process. 1

8 **Beautification Award Nominations**

Two nominations were submitted: the Capitol Apartments at Capitol and E streets and a residence at 1156 Winter Street. Additional nominations can be submitted and the Board will vote at our April meeting.

9 Board Member Reports

CERT - Lola reported that 22 people graduated from the last CERT education program and at least a couple of them were from the Grant-Highland area. A new class session, all of which will be held on Wednesdays, will begin on March 11th in West Salem. The final exercise will be April 22nd at Peace Lutheran Church. As always, volunteers and “victims” are welcome to participate.

Land Use Updates - Paul brought information on the Salem-Keizer proposal for the tennis courts on D Street, across from Parrish Middle School: there will be a single ingress-egress and that will be on D Street; it will not be likely to improve the drop-off/pickup situation at Parrish; they understand the loss of green space; pickle ball will not be allowed on the courts; a variance is not required; they do not currently have a timeline for the construction; public use has still not been decided – it’s possible it will be locked when not in use by NSHS.

Cherriots Bus Stops - Steve Dickey and Chris French were present to provide information on the Winter Street ADA compliance project. Staff from Salem Keizer Transit and the City of Salem reviewed Winter Street, between Market Street and D Street, to place bus stops that would result in minimal parking losses. At both the northwest corner at D Street and the northeast corner at Belmont Street, the stop lengths were reduced to leave two parking spaces that had been planned for removal. There are no other sites in the Grant neighborhood that are being considered for changes. The District has now committed to working with neighborhoods. The proposed changes will be posted and the request to remove parking addressed and resolved prior to any construction. Certified letters will be sent to frontage owners and adjacent property owners at proposed removal sites. Door hangers will be placed on all homes/buildings within 300 feet, or at least 1 block, of the site. The Transit district has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Salem with a specific menu of actions that will need to be taken whenever parking removal is proposed. The property owner at the northwest corner of Belmont and Winter streets, has said that he is okay with the removal in front of his home.

N²-CPT – Sam reported that work is progressing on organizing the third annual Grant-NEN Cleanup. It will be held on May 9th and board members and neighbors are asked to volunteer to help.

11 Other Business

No additional business was brought forth.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright