

AGENDA ITEM

#1 Introductions

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

Others present: Chief Trevor Womack, Officer Chris Wolfe, Carolin VanOrdin, Megan Stevens, Nick Maselli, Karma Krause, Anne Colao, Lt. Jason VanMeter, Joel Smallwood, Elliott Lapinel, Suzanne Frenz, Carol DeCoursey, Tina Knight, and Virginia Stapleton.

Paul moved that ***“We approve the January minutes as submitted.”*** Cynthia seconded the motion. Vote was 9 in favor, 0 opposed.

#2 Great Story from Grant

- Paul reported that in-person learning is scheduled to return at Grant with a hybrid model. March 2nd will see the K-1 children returning. That will be followed on March 8th with grades 2-3 and grades 4-5 on March 15th.
- Sam said that The Hub is excelling, even in the times of COVID, and it is a great addition to the neighborhood.
- Virginia was excited to see the Parrish students helping in the gardens recently at the middle school.

#3 Neighbor Concerns

- Nick brought up frustration with really loud cars that race through the neighborhood. He knows the police have too much to do, but asked if there is a dedicated program that can assist with this problem. Jason said that enforcement follows three tiers of guidelines: 1) protecting life; 2) protecting property; and, 3) citing for violations, which would include this one. The problem is that an officer has to be set in the right location and be able to detain the offender. Municipal Court enforces violations of City laws. Neighbors reported that there is speeding on Capitol and Summer streets in the early morning hours nearly every night. Virginia asked if the issue was speed or noise. Neighbors said it was both. Virginia said she will be meeting with the Mayor and will discuss this issue. The focus of the meeting is to look at the Legislature potentially relaxing rules that allow Cities to more easily change speed limits within their boundaries. Also, of interest is adopting a plan to place speed limit signs at more frequent intervals to reinforce the need to comply with the limit. Mark commented that a couple of speeding joy-riders were arrested last night on Fairgrounds Road.

#4 Officer Reports

Jason VanMeter, SPD, reported that a couple of arrests have been made in the killings that occurred recently I the Hoover School area.

Chris Wolfe, Compliance Services Officer, reported that the load has slowed down with the COVID pandemic. Officers are trying to cut back on face-to-face contact, which they have been so used to doing. Sam interjected that a group work party of volunteers will be helping a Grant neighbor with upkeep and compliance issues on February 13th or 14th. It will include mowing and general cleanup. Officer Wolfe said this property has been a years-long problem. Officers work to stress the “compliance” over the “enforcement” as often as possible.

#5 Councilor-Elect Update

Virginia reported that:

- The COVID vaccine center at the Jackman Long Building on the State Fairgrounds, has been administering 400 vaccines per hour. They are capable of providing 1000 per hour.
- The Pavilion on the State Fairgrounds has been set up as a temporary homeless shelter with an inside capacity of 100 individuals and room outside to accommodate 16 car campers.
- ODOT is keeping a head-count of campers at the Market Street exit. There may be signs added to the area, such as Caution and/or Congestion, along with speed reductions posted.
- Citizens can contact their Legislative Representative regarding HB 4001 which addresses Navigation Centers. Additionally, the Marion County Commissioners are also considering support for a center.
- The City has a tree program that offers a rebate for trees planted on private property.
- The City has a website to report and track needed sidewalk repairs. It also has a crosswalk site where new work can be requested. <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/safer-pedestian-crossings-program.aspx>
- This month, the City has begun to shut off water service for unpaid bills. They are intending to prompt those in need to come forward so the City knows who really needs help and are not just taking advantage of the program. There is \$500,000 to help. However, there is no information on the City's website to make it easy to know about the help program. Ray said that he was aghast that the City is shutting off water. Could they use the Nextdoor website to get the word out? Paul said that the Councilors make the policy. The world needs to be seen through an equity lens. It is hard for some of us to see a world with stacked-up bills. Tim said that the SAC has a benevolence fund and they have actually getting a fewer than normal number of requests for help.
- NESCA is planning a Mill Creek Cleanup this spring – probably around Earth Day in late April.
- Tina asked about the Library construction schedule. Virginia said that, as far as she knew, it was on schedule.

#6 Salem Police Chief

Chief Trevor Womack is making the rounds - visiting the Salem Neighborhood Associations during his first two months in office. He is enjoying the meetings and hopes to visit in person, soon. He is from Stockton California, where he was raised and has spent his entire career. Rising to the level of assistant police chief, he had to help deal with the rebuilding of the Police Department when the city went bankrupt. In Stockton, he learned lots of new comprehensive tactics rather than traditional police responses. He participated with the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice, which began under the Obama administration. It is a research project that involves six communities and included an effort to get true community input.

Womack's mother was born in Oregon and he has visited often over the years. Police officers are pushed into retirement after 30 years of service. He felt he still had too much to offer and looked for another opportunity to serve and Salem's opening seemed like a good choice to pursue.

His first action is to conduct a thorough assessment of the organization, including staff interaction, what's working well, and, what should go. The Strategic Plan that will adopt the results is expected in January 2022.

Commenting on the December 6th protests, he said the perception is that the SPD was heavy handed on one side and imbedded with the other. He wants to move more to public safety and modify the handling of these situations. A neighbor said he was encouraged by his comments as many have felt that minorities have not been dealt with fairly. Womack said SPD have to correct perceptions and gain trust with the community through a thoughtful process.

A neighbor asked about houseless residents and said that we need a conversation about how to address the needs of that community. He cited the CAHOOTS program used in the Springfield-Eugene area, asking Womack how he sees the SPD and social service responses being used. Womack responded that the SPD must respond to obvious criminal behavior, but too often that is not the reason for the call. Police officers are not equipped or trained to deal with mental health issues. There is no agency to

relieve homelessness. He supports funding those models without defunding the police. SPD has to continue with a caring attitude.

#7 **RP-2 Parking**

Tina Knight brought her request to add RP-2 Parking to the Church and Gaines streets area north of Market Street. During Pre-COVID times, non-resident cars were squeezed into the parking available in the area. Neighbors experienced, litter, cars that were hit, no parking for their guests, and no space for delivery vehicles to use. She is working with Tony Martin at the City of Salem to establish the permit area. She has the support of all, but one, of the adjoining residents. Tim moved that ***“Grant Neighborhood Association support the establishment of RP-2 parking on Gaines and Church streets, as requested.”*** Tina seconded the motion. During discussion more specifics were obtained. The restrictions will allow non-residents to park once per day for up to 90 minutes. The hours will be 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and will not include Saturdays and Sundays. The location will be: both sides of Church from Market to Gaines (1200 block); both side of Gaines from Cottage to Church (600 block); and, the south side of Gaines from Church to the alley to the west (500 block). Vote was 8 in favor, 0 opposed. Jeanne will provide a letter to Tony Martin confirming the NA’s support. A copy will be sent to Tina Knight.

#8 **Board Member Reports**

- CERT – no report.
- Land Use Updates – Paul reported that the building at 990 Broadway has reached its build-out shape, so neighbors can see its shape and size.
The new comp plan progress has been updated. The Our Salem plan maps have been released. He has been approached about a potential development at Capitol and Norway streets, but no details as of now.
A land use request is approaching for property at Commercial and Shipping streets. It will include a salon, offices, and a marijuana retail outlet. S
- North Neighborhoods CPT – no report.

#9 **Other Business**

Karma Krause and Joel Smallwood, from Salem-Keizer School District, were present to provide an update on the progress to resolve the Grant School bus drop-off area on Cottage Street, at Gaines Street, which is being added to serve the Medically Development Learning Center program that is being moved to Grant. The proposed street modification changes came about after an on-site meeting last summer with several NA board members. The plan is to move the bus lane north on Cottage to minimize some of the impacts to the area that the NA thought were excessive. Changes include closing the south Cottage Street pedestrian crossing at Gaines and installing a raised crossing on the north corner to provide safer pedestrian visibility, and also to act as a speed bump for controlling vehicle speeds. The closure will prevent conflicts between the pedestrians and the parked busses. The walk will be removed between the north-south sidewalk and the Cottage Street curb. The entrance to the school off of Cottage Street will include a covered walkway and upgraded landscaping of the area. They avoided taking out as many street trees as possible, but three will still have to go. The larger, healthy trees are preserved and a tree with a larger potential crown will be planted on school property in the large space north of the entrance walk. The existing birch tree, located between the existing between the covered walkway to the gym and the school building, will be kept for as long as possible until the new tree starts to gain maturity. The large rhododendron at the doorway to the school will be removed for safety issues. It blocks security cameras and the view to the door. Joel and Karma will return to meet with us once the plans have moved along farther. The biggest hold-up is that the same architect is working on several projects for the district that need to begin construction this summer. The timeline for this project is to get a set of drawings out in the next several weeks and constructing this summer.

Tina asked them to review the outdoor lighting at the school. Neighbors have commented in the past that it is not enough for good visibility for pedestrians attending functions at the school.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright