

AGENDA ITEM

#1 Introductions

BOARD MEMBERS:	PRESENT – P	ABSENT – A	EXCUSED – E		
JEANNE BOATWRIGHT	P	TINA HANSEN	P	SAM SKILLERN	P
MARK DECOURSEY	P	CYNTHIA KAVANAGH	E	AARON TERPENING	P
TIM FRANCE	P	ELLIOTT LAPINEL	P	PAUL TIGAN	P
CHRISTOPHER HACKETT	P	NICK MASELLI	P		
LOLA HACKETT	P	SUSAN NAPACK	P		

Others present: Carolin VanOrdin, Virginia Stapleton, Ray Quisenberry, Ash Dalen, Theresa Joslin, Scott Munford, and Carol DeCoursey.

Lola moved that ***“We approve the May and August minutes as presented.”*** Paul seconded the motion. Vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed.

#2 Great Story from Grant

- A neighbor participating in the Free Fridge Program has a fridge, named Oslo, set up at the corner of Norway and Capitol. Neighbors can donate food, both shelf steady or refrigerated, along with toiletries and cleaning supplies.
- Salem Alliance Church is sponsoring a free Family Block Party at the Broadway Commons parking lot and plaza on Sept. 11th from 4:00-7:30 pm and on Sept. 12th from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. There will be a 40’x40’ inflatable obstacle course. Hot dogs and single serve food items will be free. Grant may bring our information tent.
- Angela Obery provided great information about bicycling in Salem at several spots along Winter Street during last Saturday’s farmers’ market.

#3 Neighbor Concerns

- A board member was contacted by a neighbor regarding occupants of a house on Summer Street with the assertion that rooms/apartments are being rented to criminally insane tenants. The Board will look into the claim and report back.
- A neighbor said that someone used a pickax, or some similar tool, to dig up a square of sidewalk in front of his house. He does not know who or why. He said the city repaired it.

#4 Officer Report

No Salem Police Officer was in attendance.

#5 Councilor Report

Virginia reported that:

- Concern is growing about the high rates of Covid-19 infections in Marion County. Salem Hospital has ordered a refrigerated truck to serve as a morgue for the increasing deaths they are dealing with. The impacts to city services are being felt with reduced staff as 30 employees are in quarantine. All meetings are being held virtually. The firefighters and medics are also affected by the vaccine mandate from the state. The Library, set to reopen after all of the seismic upgrades, has been put off. She encouraged all to get vaccinated if they were not already.
- It is important to de-stigmatize mental health care. Through this pandemic many more people are experiencing these health issues, or have friends or family, who are. It is important to be as open, honest, and transparent as possible.
- A neighbor commented on a Senate bill that did not gain traction in the last legislative session. It would change, and lower, the definition of “danger to oneself or to others”. A survey she assisted in

gathering showed that 50% of Marion County jail inmates had mental illnesses. Jail is not the solution for helping these folks. They need mental health care.

- The city has an open Diversity-Equity-Inclusion (DEI) position. The person hired will work on improving the city workforce.
- A car park for the houseless is being added on Portland Road at Catholic Community Services. There is also a hotel in town that is being refurbished that soon will also accommodate the houseless.
- Regarding the Winter and Union street closures around the Saturday Market – they have been going fairly well. One neighbor was concerned because their sole access, via an alley, was cut off. The bus stop moves are becoming more familiar and some of the signage has been adjusted.
- A neighbor observed a decrease in the number of merchants at the Saturday Market and is concerned that the street closures are reducing attendance.

#6 **Street Speed Reductions**

Former Board Member, Ray Quisenberry was present to discuss pedestrian and bicycle safety. Some neighborhood streets in Grant are so narrow that cars have to pull to one side and wait for oncoming cars to pass before proceeding. There are also cars that zip through and endanger the increasing number of bicyclists, scooter riders, and pedestrians. There are inattentive drivers on cell phones and others who just feel free to blow through stop signs. Studies show that safety goes up as the vehicle speeds go down. Ray is interested in the city becoming part of the “20 is Plenty” program that reduces residential street speed limits from 25 mph to 20 mph. Winter and Maple streets are already a 20 mph conduit from Union Street to the School for the Deaf on Locust Street. Reducing speeds from 25 to 20 reduces fatalities by half. Portland joined the program in 2017 for residential streets. ODOT, who authorizes allowed speed limits in Oregon, now allows the reduction to 20 mph in neighborhoods. Eugene has also taken up the program. It is both a U.S. and an international movement. Ray said that everyone that he has spoken with in the neighborhood likes the idea. He would like get the Salem City Council to adopt the program citywide. Aaron asked what the process was for adoption. Ray said that for most cities the city council makes the decision, but in some individual neighborhoods are allowed to decide. Elliott said he was very supportive and added that, to reduce speed, it helps to change the design. Narrow streets look dangerous and prompt drivers to slow down. Mark moved that ***“Grant Neighborhood write a letter to Salem City Council in support of the “20 is Plenty” program and urge the Council to adopt speed reductions in residential neighborhoods.”*** Paul seconded the motion. Jeanne suggested that we include, with our letter, a CC to every Salem Neighborhood Association. Vote was 11 in favor, 0 opposed. Paul will compose the letter.

#7 **Board Member Reports**

- MEETING DETAILS – GNA meeting will continue via Zoom since the Covid-19 infection rates are still climbing.
- CERT - Lola reported:
 - They had to cancel the in-person CERT classes that were to start on September 2nd. They could not present them via Zoom because the fire department could not let them use the meeting room that they use to demonstrate the lessons. They have a Zoom class scheduled to start on October 26th. Anyone interested in attending should contact Lola.
 - On Saturday, September 25th, the Grant CERT team will meet at the cache, located on the southeast corner of Shipping and Broadway streets, for a hand radio exercise to determine distant checks within the neighborhood. It will start at 11 am and go until 1:00. Individuals, or teams, will disperse through the neighborhood and test their ability to reach the radio base at the cache.
- Communications/Outreach – Susan reported:
 - She is maintaining the Facebook page and assembling a list of anyone who is interested in receiving a neighborhood newsletter that is a future endeavor.

- She is still working on the Historic Neighborhood sign-toppers and utility vault wraps and reviewing locations. Jeanne offered that she has historic photos of businesses along Broadway from the 1940's that could be incorporated if vaults are identified in that area.
- Land Use Updates - Paul reported:
 - The Our Salem comprehensive plan revisions are still in progress. Paul pulled up the Grant neighborhood on the shared screen to show what the map looks like at this juncture. The goal/process is to simplify the zoning and arrange uses in groups, rather than have them piecemeal.
- North Neighborhoods CPT (aka N²) - Sam reminded us that all are welcome to attend the N² meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Currently meetings are via Zoom. Contact Sam for Zoom's meeting connection data.

#9 Other Business

- Lola said that the Willamette Heritage Center is going to have their drive-thru trick-or-treat event on Sunday, October 31st. Is Grant interested in participating again this year? The consensus was yes.
- Sam reported that the construction at Grant School is behind schedule due to a tight supply of concrete. September 27th is the new due date for completion of the exterior work. Parent drop-offs will be redirected. Buses will load and unload on Market Street, as they did during the summer program. Tim asked Sam to relay to Principal Marc Morris that the SAC parking lot at Hood and Cottage can be used if they need it.
- Lola asked Mark about any progress on taking a proposal to the City about Apartment Emergency Preparedness. He said it was going slow and would meet with Virginia to discuss about the proper avenue(s) to use. Virginia said she would be glad to meet with him

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright