

**AGENDA ITEM**

**#1 Introductions**

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

Others present: Theresa Joslin, Virginia Stapleton, Ash Dalen, Christi Wolfe, Kris Bifulco, Ray Quisenberry, Carolin VanOrdin, Megan Stevens, Angela Obery, and Carol DeCoursey.

Paul moved that ***“We approve the September minutes as presented.”*** Susan seconded the motion. Vote was 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

**#2 Great Story from Grant**

- Mark reported that Columbia Hall is up for sale. There are several interested parties, but it is not sold yet. It is supposed to remain an event space.
- Nick said that the Cottage Street construction for Grant School is finished. He thinks the speed bumps are not what we expected.
- Sam commented on the nice work Susan did to put together and print a GNA brochure and the work she is doing on assembling a GNA newsletter.

**#3 Neighbor Concerns**

- Jeanne reported that their pick-up truck windshield was smashed around 3:15 this morning with two large rocks that were part of the neighbors’ streetside landscaping.
- Tina asked what the future of the Capitol Press building was, now that the Salem Public Library has moved back into their building at City Hall. Tim said SAC is actively looking for an occupant. Presently, it is being used to store items being gathered to assist Afghan refugees and for Sackcloth & Ashes. Virginia said the city is looking for space for unhoused women and this space may be of interest.
- Sam said that Kris Bifulco is a neighbor to the triangle construction site on Fairgrounds Road and has some concerns about the start times and noise. No one was sure what the city regulations are on these, but suggested those be checked out.
- Lola brought up the issue from last month about residents in a house on Summer Street. Theresa said she talked to folks in the neighboring house, which is a group home. They reported that the subject house is empty now, but will be a group home, also. The house behind the subject house is a group home for 3 younger individuals who require more management.

**#4 Officer Report**

No Salem Police Officer was in attendance.

Christi Wolfe, Compliance Services Officer, reported that our neighborhood has been very low key. She asked folks with concerns to take advantage of the City’s 24-hour online portal to report them. A neighbor asked if the open case with the Kuenzi Apartments on Liberty Street had been settled. She said it had. With ownership assumed by the son, all of the issues have been resolved.

A neighbor thanked her for shutting down the, seemingly permanent, garage sale on the Winter-Hood-Cottage-Shipping block.

Virginia asked who should be contacted to address garbage along creek banks and stuck on bridge piers. Christi said Public Works would be the primary contact, though Parks could also be notified.

## #5 Councilor Report

Virginia reported that:

- Half of the City's wards will have councilors elections in May;
- City Council has approved hiring bonuses for Police Officer recruits in an effort to get the number of officers up;
- Council is looking into the responsibilities that apartment owners have during power outages with respect to their tenants. The City Manager is checking with the State regarding O.R.S. requirements. He will bring back a report in about 2 months;
- A pallet shelter community is proposed for property towards the north end of Wallace Road;
- A neighbor asked about the schedule for cleaning up the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Street area under the Mission Street ramps and overpasses. The campers appear to have moved on about 2 weeks ago, but there is a lot of debris left behind. This area is adjacent to the Train Station. Another neighbor said it is impossible to ride a bike on the sidewalks in the area, especially if you have kids riding with you. Virginia said she had noticed this and would make some contacts.
- A neighbor asked about who to call when the Mill Creek footbridge between High Street and Knapps Place is blocked by campers. You can dial 311 to get Public Works. Another neighbor had called the city about a burned mattress on this same bridge and it went away. He later received an email from the City telling him that the issue had been resolved.
- Paul asked if any of the chunk of money that the city received from the federal government, which they have 2-years to spend, has been used yet. Are their ways for the public to engage with suggestions or comment on proposals? Virginia said she is meeting with City Manager Powers next week and will check on this and get back to us with an update.

## #6 Salem Bike Boulevard Advocates

Angela Obery was in attendance to give us an update on the work being done to promote bicycling in Salem. She is an educator, by trade, and her husband is a traffic engineer who works with pedestrian and bicycle programs. Angela says there are three levels of bicycle riders: those who ride everywhere; those who will only ride on streets if there are bike lanes; and, those who ride on vacation and stick to paths. 60% of the population wants to ride, but are concerned about their safety. Bike boulevards offer: low volume traffic; low speeds; optimization for bikes and pedestrians; safety and comfort; accommodations for all ages and abilities; improved air quality; healthy activity; increased property values for the neighborhoods; safe ways to school; and, benefits to businesses. They are more common in Europe than in America, but they are growing in popularity here. Portland offers routes that crisscross rather than being purely linear. These are then able to connect parks and neighborhoods. Salem has 61.53 miles of bike boulevards planned, but only 2.5 miles developed - the Maple-Winter Bikeway. To slow traffic speeds, it is important to terminate the vista. This means not letting the view extend to 15 blocks, or longer, which prompts cars to drive faster. This requires breaking up long stretches. Providing greenery also slows traffic. Intersections need to be controlled and instituting the "20 is Plenty" program also helps. The Maple-Winter Bikeway is the first bike route in Salem to have the speed lowered to 20 mph. The in-street pedestrian signs, like the ones in Market Street at Grant School crosswalks also help to slow traffic. Street lights cost upwards of \$150,000, whereas, for the same amount of money, two of those signs can be replaced twice a year for 150 years. Plus, there are no poles to erect or blinking lights to maintain. A neighbor commented that that low cost was good as they thought that since the Market Street ones get damaged regularly, they may eventually go away for good. Angela said no - getting destroyed is actually a good thing. It means there was a serious impact to someone who was driving too fast. By being at ground level, the signs draw drivers' eyes and attention to where they need to be - on the road in front of them and on pedestrians and bicycles. The Safe Crossings program that the city has adopted has helped to raise awareness at crosswalks. Angela was asked about how the Saturday-market street closures are working. She said, on Winter Street, folks are on sidewalks and cars are on the street and we have to figure out how to get folks to use the

bikeway. She would like to coordinate some activities on the closed streets to prompt people to get out on the pavement – Irish dance groups; North Salem High School’s marching band; roller derby? She is thankful that Grant is supportive and that the neighborhood is a pretty and inviting place to slow down and enjoy the street view. Nick supported getting bike lanes connected to each other and to community spaces. Concerns were also mentioned about getting all commuters to observe the rules of the road.

## #7 Board Member Reports

- CERT - Lola reported:
  - The class scheduled to start on October 26<sup>th</sup>, and provided via Zoom, will be 5 sessions held on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Communications/Outreach – Susan reported:
  - The neighborhood newsletter was emailed out. Anyone who wants to receive it can go to [www.grantneighborhood.org](http://www.grantneighborhood.org) to sign up.
  - We are registered to participate in the Willamette Heritage Center Trick-or-Treat drive-thru event. Lola donated the fee. Communication funds are needed to pay for the Halloween card we want to hand out to promote contacting one’s own local NA. Jeanne and Susan have volunteered to be there all day, but others are needed for shifts. The event lasts from noon to 4:00 p.m., with setup and break-down slots on either end. Also, candy donations are appreciated. Susan moved that ***“We use communication funds to pay the printing costs for the Halloween/City NA contact cards for the WHC Trick-or-Treat event in an amount not to exceed \$50.00.”*** Lola seconded the motion. Vote was 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.
- Land Use Updates - Paul reported:
  - No new land use items have come through.
  - The Evergreen Church congregation has moved out.
  - His thoughts and comments regarding the Meyers Farm property that has been in the local news lately: In reviewing the application map, there is a lot of single-family housing within a ¼-mile of bus routes on Commercial Street. It defies the city’s efforts to double down on increasing density within that ¼-mile limit.
  - He prepared the “20 is Plenty” letter which went to the city on September 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - He has started a diagram of the stop sign patterns in GNA. What is noticeable is that, not just Capitol, Summer, and Broadway streets run non-stop between D and Market streets, but so do Winter, Cottage, Church and 5<sup>th</sup> streets. It is no wonder that we have so much fast cut-through traffic when there are no impediments on these routes.
- North Neighborhoods CPT (aka N<sup>2</sup>) – Sam had no news.

## #9 Other Business

None brought forth.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright