

**Highland Neighborhood Association**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 11, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by Geoff Darling with a quorum of Board of Directors present. Introductions were made by all and we had 9 neighbors in attendance.

**Meeting Minutes from December 14, 2017** –No additions, corrections or deletions to the minutes and they were approved by acclamation.

**Police Officer Report** – Officer A. Bello stated that the city is setting up a website for citizens to keep them updated on the progress of the police facility and it can be found at [www.cityofsalem.net/police-station](http://www.cityofsalem.net/police-station). The demolition should start sometime in February or early March 2018. The facility should be ready for move-in sometime around September 2020.

Officer Bello did have some concerns regarding citizen complaints from last month's meeting and how they were being asked to make judgement calls on whether police and/or medical should be sent out and citizens felt that it should not be up to them to make that decision. He did state that it is a constant struggle for the call takers to try and vet calls making sure they are sending the limited resources where they need to be sent. One thing he did say is that it is important to know that even though a citizen is on the phone with the call taker answering questions that a record has already been generated and it has been sent electronically to the dispatcher's desk. If you are asked about whether someone might need medical help, it is better to just say yes.

He also stated that the approach that the city has been taking on graffiti issues and making sure that any graffiti is painted over immediately has made an impact throughout Salem and is working well for the city.

**Neighbor Concerns and Announcements** – There were no neighbor concerns at this time.

**City Councilor Comments – Councilors Cara Kaser and Matt Ausec**– Councilor Matt Ausec stated that he had talked with the City Manager regarding the citizens' concerns about making judgement calls on whether someone needs help whether it is police or medical. He was told that the staff is working on a report as to whether there are more staff needed or if more training might be necessary and as soon as he gets the information he will share it with the HNA.

Councilor Ausec also shared information regarding the “quiet zone” for the railroad and stated that a study was done and that it showed it did not meet all the specific criteria but as soon as he gets a copy of the report he will share that with the HNA.

Councilor Cara Kaser is in the process of forming the Homeless Task Force and she will be chairing it as soon as the members have been selected. This is a task force and not a committee and it will meet approximately 3 times to do brainstorming on specific tangible things that can be done right now as a city to help homelessness. The task force was formed in response to the failure of the sidewalk ordinance that had been proposed by many. The suggestions must be specific, have a budget and a time line. The meetings will be open to the public but there will be no public testimony allowed but they will accept written testimony.

Salem Reads is built on the premise of One Book, One Community and is a community reads project that invites everyone in Salem to come together to read the same book, take part in discussions, and enjoy related programs. For the second season, they have chosen Outcasts United, a captivating and inspiring story about young people overcoming great odds. The book is written by Warren St. John. To find out more information about Salem Reads contact the Salem Public Library Foundation at (503) 588-6183.

Councilor Kaser is also asking that the city lobby to get Salem an exemption to state law so that it can have photo radar on speed signs. Currently Portland is the only city in the State of Oregon that has been granted this exemption.

**Other Business/Announcements** - There were no further announcements.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**

Minutes were recorded by Mary Harp.

**Next Neighborhood Association Meeting: February 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**