

Highland Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Steve Emerson with a quorum of Board of Directors present. Introductions were made by all and we had 12 neighbors in attendance.

Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2018 –No additions, corrections or deletions to the minutes and they were approved by acclamation.

Police Officer Report – Officer Erick Hernandez stated that the NE section of Salem has been seeing more car break-ins and attempted car thefts. It has been more located in the area of Tryon, 5th and Shipping, as well as the 300 block of Market. The area between Commercial and Liberty is also being hit significantly. The police are planning on trying to increase patrols in the “alley” within the area as that seems to be a favorite for thieves. Suggestions were made to keep outside porch lights on and homes well lighted and install cameras if at all possible as well as changing some lights to make them motion sensor type and if possible to point them toward the alleys to help deter illegal activity.

A neighbor that was unable to attend the meeting emailed a board member wanting to know if the increase in graffiti along Brooks and Pine near Center 50+ was gang related. Officer Hernandez stated that he was not aware of an increase but would check with Graffiti Abatement for more information. Graffiti in general is anyone spraying anything on a building etc. but that 90% of it is gang-related. Most graffiti is done during the summer when school is out.

There has been a recent situation of “skimmers” being placed on ATM machines at Credit Unions and several were located. There has been a group of people going up and down I-5 using skimmers and it has been advised prior to using a machine to make sure it is secure and this can be done by wiggling the card reader. Always be aware of your surroundings and if you see something suspicious, call it in to Salem Police.

Code Enforcement Office – Officer Stephanie Wyle stated that she has had 118 new cases since the October meeting of which 45 of those cases are still open. There are 16 cases that were for abandoned vehicles and 6 cases were for derelict buildings and those cases should be closed within a couple of weeks.

Most of the complaints that have been received have been about junk with abandoned vehicles being the second highest complaint. A neighbor asked about motor homes and it was stated that they are not allowed to be over 8 feet wide and 21 feet long and any oversized motor home is not allowed to be parked on the street. If a motor home is on private property and legally parked it can be hooked up to electric for a short visit from a family member, friend, and etc. but only allowed for up to 72 hours. If a neighbor notices one that has been there for more than that time and it is apparent that it is being lived in, it should be called in to Code Enforcement.

If a neighbor notices a vehicle that has not been moved or has been sitting in an area for more than 5 days without being used, it is considered an abandoned vehicle and will be subject to a citation as well as being towed. If it is an obvious junk vehicle, it cannot be there for more than 3 days. If the plates on a vehicle are expired or missing, they can also be cited as well as towed.

City Councilor Comments – Councilors Cara Kaser and Matt Ausec– Councilor Kaser stated that the Downtown Homelessness Task Force had their first meeting. She stated there are 17 people on the task force and that over 100 people attended the meeting. The task force is focusing on homelessness in the downtown area and finding more specific things that can be done in the next six months to help both people and businesses dealing with issues in Salem.

Councilor Kaser also gave an update on what is happening with the new police facility. The City is in the process of reviewing proposals for a Construction Manager/General Manager position to work with the architect to help coordinate the process and make it go smoother. The police department will also be doing some filming of episodes to help keep the public abreast of what's going on and what's next.

Neighborhood Chairs Meeting – Gary Obery – Gary attended the first of 4 quarterly meetings of neighborhood chairs for the Neighborhood Associations. He stated it was well attended and that one of the main focuses of this meeting was finding ways to get more use of social media and finding ways to bring people to face book pages, etc.

Salem Parks Foundation – Dan Saucy - The Salem Parks Foundation (SPF) offers an annual competitive grant program for Salem Parks. Grants will be awarded to Neighborhood Associations that demonstrate how they will enhance one of their parks.

In 2003, the SPF Board created a grant program offered annually so neighborhoods may apply to the Foundation for funds to improve neighborhood parks. The SPF Board visits each neighborhood association to provide information about neighborhood parks and park needs and to provide information about the process of applying for a neighborhood park grant.

Please have your grant proposal reviewed by the City of Salem Parks Operations staff prior to submission. Once the project has been approved by Parks Operations, please have the proposal signed by both the Chair of your Neighborhood Association and by the Chair of your Association's parks committee. Deadline: April 30, 2018. Applications will be reviewed in May and notifications will be made in early June. For more information go to www.salemparksfoundation.org or call Betsy Belshaw at (503) 370-8789.

Neighbor Concerns and Announcements – **Issues not on agenda or previously discussed** – One neighbor stated that they have noticed an increase in vehicle/pedestrian crossing issues on Broadway and Shipping as well as a couple other areas of Broadway and wondered if there would be a way to get increased patrols on Broadway to gain control. Councilor Kaser stated that she would talk with Chief Moore about increasing pedestrian crossing patrols in the downtown area as well as in Grant and Highland Neighborhoods.

Mary Harp reported that the results of the traffic study were available and that it was found there is a traffic flow of 600-700 cars that travel on Locust as well as Maple Street by the Deaf School. Some posted speed signs have been installed on Locust and one was installed on Maple Street. It was also felt that the survey on speeds of vehicle through the area was incorrect as she has seen many vehicles going a lot faster than that.

Several people attended the Planning Committee meeting on The Winter-Maple Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and gave testimony in support of the project. The commission voted to accept the plan with a few minor changes and have agreed to pass it on to City Council for their vote.

Other Business/Announcements - The following are upcoming events of interest to neighbors:

February 13 – Downtown Streetscape Open House – Courthouse Square – 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

March 6 and March 20 – Downtown Homelessness Task Force meeting at the Anderson Room of the Salem Public Library from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes were recorded by Mary Harp.

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