

Highland Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Geoff Darling with a quorum of Board of Directors present. Introductions were made by all and there were 20 neighbors in attendance.

Meeting Minutes from November 8, 2018 – Approval of the minutes for October and November has been postponed until January 10, 2019 meeting.

Police Officer Report – Officer Davidson stated that graffiti, burglaries and car break-ins have all been a problem within the northeast area of Salem. It has been a problem because pin pointing who the suspects are had been difficult. Crime rate has been increasing at a steady pace and due to the holidays coming up, it could increase. She emphasized that people need to make sure to lock cars, front doors, garages and be alert to porch pirates during this time. Officer Davidson also stated that if there is no probable cause police are unable to do anything.

One neighbor asked whether more patrols could be made in the Highland area over by Church Street as there has been an influx of people walking around the neighborhood at all hours of the night and day and it seems to be increasing on a regular basis.

Another neighbor asked if there seemed to be a significant amount of presence to deter the amount of people roaming around in the neighborhoods. The police have taken the position that they are not pushing people out of an area if they are just walking around and they are not actively causing a disturbance or involved in a crime. At the same time neighbors are still encouraged to report any suspicious activity.

District 2 covers the area of Keizer to Shangri-La street all the way to Front and Union streets downtown. This also includes all the way east to Fairgrounds Road and back to Union Street.

How does a building get considered a nuisance property? This is a code enforcement issue and one to discuss at the next meeting when Code Enforcement is in attendance. If a neighbor is concerned however, they can contact them directly as well.

City Councilor Comments – Councilors Cara Kaser and Matt Ausec– Neither of the councilors were in attendance.

Neighbor Concerns and Announcements – Issues not on agenda or previously discussed – There were several neighbors in attendance that had some concerns about a property rental in the area of River and 4th Street as well as the property manager was in attendance. Neighbors were concerned about drug activity that has been taking place at this property as well suspicious activity. These neighbors did not feel that the property owner was listening to their concerns and that no action is being taken on the part of the property owner.

It was suggested that all parties that had concerns write up a brief description as to the issues they are having and to email those to the Chairperson and Co-Chairperson for the Highland Neighborhood Association at least a week prior to the meeting in January 2019 so that the board could look at these concerns to help guide them to a resolution.

Another neighbor asked if the City had any information on how to educate people on the proper use of bike lanes and bicycle safety while in those lanes. There is nothing at the time but it was suggested that maybe a video be done for the "Done In 1" Series.

There was also a question about what the process is to get a 4-Way Stop sign at the intersection of River Street and 4th Street. It was suggested that they contact the city to do a traffic study of the area to see if it warrants a stop sign.

It was requested that Mary Harp contact the Oregon School for the Deaf and ask that they attend our meeting in May 2019 to discuss some issues that people are concerned about and to also learn more about what the school has to offer and what their plans are for increased student safety.

The Salem/Keizure Boundary Redistricting Task Force wrapped up with their final meeting and they will present their report to the school board on January 15, 2019. There were minor changes for the Highland area.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. and minutes were recorded by Mary Harp.

Next Neighborhood Association Meeting: January 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.