

Highland Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2019

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 16 neighbors in attendance.

Meeting Minutes Approval – Approval of the minutes for October, November and December 2018 were approved by acclimation with no changes.

Police Officer Report – Officer Hodges is our new District 2 Officer. He works our area on Tuesday through Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. He has emphasized that if you see suspicious activity going on in your area to please call the police so that can investigate it. He also stated to not hesitate to call things in as this is the way that they know what areas are having the most problems so that they can hopefully increase patrols when possible.

City Councilor Comments – Councilors Cara Kaser and Matt Ausec – Councilor Ausec was unable to attend and Councilor Kaser gave an updated report on the activity of the City Council. In the month of November, the City passed the Plastic Bag Ordinance and it should take affect between April and October of this year depending on the size of the business. This ordinance states that there will be no single use plastic bags at the checkout stands.

Pac Trust/Costco Meeting land use decision was no, and Pac Trust has appealed.

There will be a Policy Work Session on January 23, 2019 to discuss the city's strategic plan and how the city is doing with it and essentially looking at the goals from last year, the ones for this year, what to and what not to focus on. Homelessness issue is at the top of the list.

Also, on January 23, Mayor Chuck Bennett will be giving the State of the City Address at the Salem Convention Center and it is free to the public. There will be a lunch available if a person wishes to purchase it.

There will be a Budget Committee Meeting coming up this month. Also, Jackie Leung will be sworn in as a new City Councilor for Ward 4 - Southgate Neighborhood Association on January 14th.

The City will be moving forward in installing an Ozone Treatment Center on Guerin Island(sp). Funds are already available to build it and they come from residents paying their water bills and a percentage of that money goes into a capital improvement fund. This project could take up to one and a half years to complete.

On the issue of homelessness, any camps situated close to I-5 and overpasses are enforced by ODOT. Councilor Kaser stated that she is exploring the feasibility of getting another shelter in the city. She has suggested the Hillcrest site as an option. It is in SE Salem in the industrial area of town. Once there are shelters in place, she plans to push to get an enforcement ordinance on camping in the public right-of-way.

Be Smart Gun Safety – Stephanie Hull – Mom's Demand Action for Gun Sense in America is a grassroots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures that respect the Second Amendment and protect people from gun violence. The Be SMART program was launched to take action to promote responsible gun ownership and reduce child gun deaths. It focuses on education and awareness about child gun deaths and responsible gun storage.

Salem Parks Foundation – Dan Sacey – Each year grants are awarded to local Neighborhood Associations for projects that improve Salem Parks. Grants have been awarded for playground equipment, park lighting, trees and shrubs, benches, trail supplies, chin-up bars, and barbeque grills, among other items. Dan explained that

the Salem Parks Foundation are advocates on behalf of Salem parks and that they raise funds and 100% of the funds goes to parks. These funds are donated to neighborhood parks through an annual competitive grant program. The deadline for this year is April 30, 2019. If you would like more information, please go to www.salemparksfoundation.org.

Neighbor Concerns and Announcements – Issues not on agenda or previously discussed – It was suggested that we come up with a time period for the next Highland Neighborhood clean-up and all have agreed to look at the month of April to do this.

Geoff Darling, Chair, also handed out the Highland Neighborhood Association's newest postcard for handing out to neighbors to encourage them to attend our meetings. A mailing is set to go out to over 600 residents within the Highland Neighborhood sometime around the first of February.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. and minutes were recorded by Mary Harp.

Next Neighborhood Association Meeting: February 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.