

Highland Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Geoff Darling with a quorum of Board of Directors present. Introductions were made by all and there were 30 neighbors in attendance.

Meeting Minutes Approval – Minutes for January 10, 2019 were approved by acclimation with no changes.

Police Officer Report – **Officer Hodges** stated that he would be willing to have his phone number (503-932-4907) published in the minutes as well as his hours on duty are from **1 pm to 11 pm on Tuesday through Friday**.

He also talked about the new program that the City of Salem has put in to effect called SCRAM. It stands for **Surveillance Camera Registration And Mapping Program**. Citizens can register to let the City know that they have cameras on their property. This will help the police in case they need video for an investigation and need to see footage of a particular area.

Officer Hodges introduced Pat McDermott and Ben Ruddell of the newly formed Problem Oriented Police Team. The Team consists of two officers that are handling non-emergency situations and concerns that neighbors have such as littering, drug use, and defecating in public. They are available to help take some of these calls from other officers so that they can handle more pressing or serious calls.

Code Enforcement – Officer Wolfe – Officer Wolfe stated that she had 107 new cases and 26 since October 2018 and 26 are still open. These consist of 2 derelict buildings, one on Commercial St NE and the other on Liberty St. N.E. There have been many complaints on abandoned cars, junk removal etc. There were also questions in regard to grocery carts all over the place and Officer Wolfe stated that stores are mandated to pick up these carts so if there is an issue contact the store that owns the carts as well as the cart removal company.

City Councilor Comments – Councilors Cara Kaser and Matt Ausec – Council Ausec was unable to attend. Councilor Kaser gave an updated report on the activity of the City Council. City Council recently voted on not to proceed with the third bridge, but they are looking at other options such as recommendations that were made by the Congestion Relief Task Force for relieving traffic congestion. Councilor Kaser stated that she is also working with Paul Evans of House District 20 on some legislation at the state level to look at some regional river crossing solutions so that Salem taxpayers are not footing the entire bill.

The City Manager has started posting a brief summary on its website things that have been happening within all the departments and this information can be located at the city webpage.

Kevin Hottman & Anthony Gamallo, City of Salem, Winter-Maple Greenway Updates – Anthony Gamallo stated that they are starting to implement the plan for the Bikeway that was approved by the City Council. There will be 20 mph speed limit signs posted as well as speed bumps installed in the next few months. Letters will be sent to residents that might be affected by the location of the speed bumps. He did state that they are willing to work with residents for any issues they feel the speed bumps may cause. There will be a new traffic study conducted to see the effect of the speed bumps and new speed signs. The speed bumps should be installed sometime in the month of May 2019.

Neighbor to Neighbor – Heather Wright – Heather Wright was in attendance to explain how the Neighbor to Neighbor program works. Neighbor-to-Neighbor mediators are volunteers who have been professionally trained in compliance with Oregon statutes and administrative rules to help parties resolve issues through the framework of mediation.

Mediation is a voluntary, confidential process where people with disputes come together and, with the help of trained mediators, talk about ways to solve their dispute, creating a win-win solution. Mediation lets people speak for themselves and make their own decision. If you are in need of these services, you can contact them at **(503) 585-0651**.

Statesman Journal Reporter – Rachel Alexander – Rachel asked that there be a correction to the agenda showing that she was not with the Statesman Journal but with **The Salem Reporter**. The Salem Reporter is a new online newspaper that is locally owned and started in August 2018. There are currently three reporters in our area and their goal is to provide quality local news and to become more involved in investigative reporting.

The Salem Reporter is subscription based and there is a 30-day trial to see if you want to continue using and then after that there is a cost of \$ 10.00 per month. For more information, go to salemreporter.com.

Neighbor Concerns and Announcements – Issues not on agenda or previously discussed – We had several residents in attendance that live at the intersection of Laurel and South streets. Their concern was based on the property at 1950 Laurel and some major crime issues of drugs and vehicle break-ins. The owner of the property was contacted, and they stated that they were unaware of anything that had been happening. The residents are currently in the process of trying to get the property classified as a Nuisance Property and state that there is an on-site manager but that the manager was not doing anything to correct the issues.

The above residents were connected with Heather Wright of Neighbor-to-Neighbor to see if they could help resolve the issues.

Upcoming Events/Meetings – These are meetings that are upcoming and may be of interest to our neighbors.

February 19 – Library Open House – This is a chance to talk with architects about the seismic retrofitting of the library.

February 19 – Council Work Session for the Downtown Streetscaping plan. Also, at the same time Council will be working on the recommendations of the Downtown Homelessness Solution Task Force.

February 27 – Public Work Shop on the design of Multi-Family Housing and ways to improve design standards and the public is encouraged to provide input.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. and minutes were recorded by Mary Harp.

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