

**Highland Neighborhood Association**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 14, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Steve Emerson at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum of Board of Directors present. Introductions were made by all and there were 18 neighbors in attendance.

**Meeting Minutes Approval** – Approved of minutes by acclimation with no changes.

**Police Officer Report** – Officer Hodges was present and stated that car thefts and burglaries as well as other crimes are down, however, we still have an issue with the displaced transient community. He wanted to remind everyone that no matter how minor an issue or concern is, please call Salem PD on anything suspicious. By calling in this information, this helps to address the problems and make resources available to the areas where they are most needed. If you don't report these issues, there is no knowledge and people will not be informed or warned.

Mary H. asked Officer Hodges to pass on a thank you to the officer that came upon the scene of a hit and run accident that involved one of her family members and asked that thanks be passed on from her and other family members as without this officer being there at the right time this family member would not have survived.

There was also a question about whether Salem PD had knowledge of a homeless camp over by Cherry Ave that has been mentioned by other neighbors. He stated he had not heard of one but would ask around. There has also been a lot of tagging going on in the neighborhood and Salem PD does keep track of the type of tagging so that they can monitor gang activity. If anyone sees an area that has been tagged please contact the Graffiti Abatement Hotline at (503) 371-4264.

Officer Hodges also stated that neighbors can call him anytime and his phone number is (503) 932-4997. As he stated 5 minutes of your time to call in an issue to Salem PD can greatly improve the quality of the neighborhood.

**City Update – Mayor Chuck Bennett** – Mayor Bennett stated that Chief Jerry Moore will be retiring from Salem PD and there is hope to fill his position within the Salem PD force rather than recruiting from another state.

He stated that all neighborhoods are having the same issues such as car thefts, burglaries, shootings etc. He stated that if you feel you are not getting the results you need for an issue that you can contact him through his office or through his email at [cbennett@cityofsalem.net](mailto:cbennett@cityofsalem.net).

Regarding the issues of homelessness in the City of Salem, Highland Neighborhood is looking at several housing projects being brought into the area to help with homelessness and this could have a considerable effect. The northeast section of Salem will be one that is affected the most since most of the services and resources needed are all located in the downtown area. There is talk of finding a way to do a Low Barrier Shelter which is one where couples with pets etc. that aren't drug-free will have a place to stay.

The City Council will be discussing and voting on the proposed Sit/Lie Ordinance at the next council meeting. This ordinance is being fully supported by Salem PD and not for the purpose of arresting people but to encourage them to explore other housing options and resources. There is a need for safe camping areas and the city is looking for one that is a more structured environment.

Mayor Bennett then asked if there were any concerns from neighbors that he should hear about. One neighbor commented about the fees that she had to pay to the City of Salem so that she could put additional housing on her lot for her disabled son. She stated that the house itself cost her \$20,000.00 and that she had paid almost \$5,000.00 to the City for fees and permits. She felt that the City should consider giving a discount on those fees as an incentive to get more people to do this.

The UGM has broken ground on construction for their new facility and the construction could take up to one and a half years to build and that the UGM is also short about \$ 800,000.00 of their goal for this project. The new police facility is slated to open in September of 2020, and it was suggested that the Neighborhood Association should consider using the community resource room for meetings once the facility opens.

**City Councilor Comments – Councilors Cara Kaser and Matt Ausec**– Councilors Kaser was unable to attend and Councilor Ausec was in attendance. Matt wanted to remind people to go to the city website and to learn more about “Our Salem” and to let them know that there are workshops online for people to express their thoughts and opinions.

The City Council did pass the new garbage rate increase which should amount to around \$1 to \$ 2 per month. It was suggested by City Council that it should consider the possibility of increasing services but that members didn’t feel it was needed at this time.

**Neighbor Concerns and Announcements – Issues not on agenda or previously discussed** – One neighbor brought up a concern about a small piece of property located by South and Tamarack and wanted to know who owned it as she felt this would be a good community project to clean it up and make it nicer looking. It was discussed and determined that the property belongs to Hollywood Terrace Apartments and it was suggested that this person reach out to the current property manager and see if they would be interested in making some changes.

New Business – There is currently a new land use proposal for the property at K & S Auto Sales on Fairgrounds. The proposal is to tear down the existing structure, build a new building with a coffee shop/café along with a drive-through area.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:335 p.m. and minutes were written by Mary Harp.**

**Next Neighborhood Association Meeting: December 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**