

Highland

Neighborhood
Association



July 8, 2021, 7:00 pm. Attendees at the meeting @ 945 Columbia St NE were:

Christian Kelly, Chair, Susan Huston, Secretary

Austin Ross, City of Salem, Planning

Debbie Aguilar, Salem Police Department, and her daughter

Cheryl Bennett, Visitor

Ofc. Shawn Bennett, Salem Police

Taylor Bennett, Police Graffiti Abatement Team

Rick Kokel, 1070 Locust Street

Rex Urban, 1915 Laurel Ave

Lisa Marks, 2325 Myrtle

Duncan Beevers, 2460 Laurel Ave NE

Jes Poynter

Lynelle Wilcox, Safe Sleep United

Officer Aguilar gave a report for the 1950 Laurel Avenue building and apartment that has been referred to the Problem Oriented Police Team to find out if it qualifies as a nuisance property. They have reached out to the management company and organized a designated time period to try and successfully manage the problems. They are hoping this can happen before it moves into a chapter 98, nuisance property. One of the neighbors has "Defender" video camera on the areas and has offered to work with law enforcement on sharing the activity in the area. Salem Police Officer Bennett may contact him tomorrow via "Scam" and review the information. The same neighbor brought concerns about an abandoned trailer on his property. Austin Ross found an image of the same trailer on google earth at another location, and Officer Bennett was able to locate the people who had abandoned the trailer (full of garbage) before the meeting was over.

Lexis Nexus was discussed by Officer Bennett that will enable crime data to be shared with neighbors.

Chair Kelly mentioned a lost child who had been found wandering the neighborhood by a neighbor and would like to acknowledge the neighbors' assistance.

Taylor Bennett, from the Graffiti Team, spoke about the process of gang tagging and the result of not having the images removed before it's seen by rival gang members. The sooner the

Highland

Neighborhood
Association



graffiti is removed the more likely it is that violence can be avoided by removing continued communication between gang members. He also explained briefly the five day of notice window given to property managers to have the graffiti removed.

Austin Ross graced the group with an informative and extensive scope of the Salem long term comprehensive plan within the urban growth boundaries, zone changes, trends, multifamily housing, public transportation, parking, and the overall "walkability" of the Highland area. Ross answered many questions from the Chair, and the group, about the vision for the Highland Neighborhood in the next twenty years.

Chair Kelly expressed an interest in everyone supporting local business, hosting a street barbecue, a block party with live music and possibly a local Halloween haunted house. Rick suggested cash prizes for the "most improved garden". Kelly also suggested that local community groups and/or spiritual leaders might be interested in helping the older residents with their yard maintenance, and having the NA meet in different businesses in the neighborhood monthly as part of a "vendor outreach" connection.

Kelly suggested that the Highland Neighborhood Association find someone who could possibly access the Facebook page and post often enough to create more neighborhood participation. Rick suggested that he distribute fliers door to door. Kelly hopes to use the Highland FB page to collect new members and highlight the neighborhood meetings on the second Thursday of every month. He is interested in reaching out to the Latino population and asked if anyone remembers a woman named "Teresa" who used to attend the meetings.

Safe Sleep shelter representative Lynelle reached out to the group to say that she was always willing to come to the meeting more regularly and talk out any problems that come with having a homeless shelter in the neighborhood. They are open for visitor tours. They have their own outreach program currently.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm