

Lansing

Neighborhood Association

555 Liberty Street SE Room 305 Salem, Oregon 97301 503-588-6207

February 23, 2021 meeting minutes, 7 pm – 8 pm.

Attendees: Patty Tipton, Chair. Terry Pratt, Vice-Chair. Claudine Shaw, board member. Irma Dowd, City of Salem, Coordinator. Kaethe Mentrum, neighbor.

Guest speakers: Police Chief Trevor Womack, Irma Dowd with the City of Salem.

Chief Womack introduced himself to the group as Salem's new Chief of Police as of December 1, 2020. He comes to us from Stockton CA. (double the size of Salem) where he was born and raised. Chief has 29 years of police experience; this is his first position as Chief of Police and is eager to meet with each Neighborhood Association and has been attending several NA meetings each month. Chief Womack explained his plan for his first year on the job; 1. meet Salem residents and attend NA meetings, 2. Assessment phase, 3-4 months 3. Strategic Planning phase, remaining 6 months. Chief was asked on his view on School Resource Officers, he said he believes it's a great program, helps build a stronger community and a great opportunity for recruitment. Patty asked if Salem Police Officers are given the opportunity for counseling to help them deal with personal issues due to mistreatment from the public especially during the recent protests and violent and verbal altercations with the public. He said there are several recourses available to officers and believes in the importance of taking care of his staff. Salem Police Foundation's 2021 focus is on the Officer Wellness Program. March 5th there will be a conference open to the public about wellness. New SPD building opened in December. No tours at this time due to Covid but anyone can stop in to look at the new building and community room. All first responders who wanted the Covid-19 vaccine, have now done so.

Irma Dowd works closely with each of Salem's 18 Neighborhood Associations as Salem's Neighborhood Services Coordinator. She reminded the board that any volunteer work they do in the community, earns the association financial credit toward Lansing's Communication Funds that can be used for outreach efforts. Irma will help Lansing in reaching out to more neighbors to help increase interest in meetings and get more people involved. A post card will be created and sent out to Lansing neighbors in the next month. It is currently budget season at the City. Meetings are currently taking place to discuss budget issues and additions. Salem residents are welcome to attend and comment on budget issues or provide ideas on how the budget should be built. Irma and her supervisor Brady Rogers host quarterly Chairs' Meetings and the first one of 2021 took place in January with a huge turnout (via Zoom) with lots of City information from several City departments shared with the board members in attendance and lots of great questions asked by the Chairs. Neighborhood Enhancement Administrator Brady Rogers is scheduled to retire on April 1st, 2021. He has been with the City for nearly 25 years.