

NESCA Meeting Minutes - February 19, 2019 – 7 pm

1. Minutes from January meeting were approved
2. Police Report – Officer Wren spoke, gave information on the Salem PD officer arrested, was on admin leave pending charges, now resigned. Salem Police always open to questions from the public. Addressed shopping cart issues in Thorpe Park area. Eli has taken pics of the shopping carts in question. Suggested collapsible carts?
3. Amador from Enlace spoke about his efforts to make a good community connection between the Hispanic community and the other parts of the Salem population, with much success so far.
4. Discussion about homeless and problems associated with them, the vacant houses they use, and that we need to keep an eye out for people entering vacant homes.
5. No City Councilors in attendance, so no City reports at this meeting.
6. Richard Berger from Mountain West gave a detailed presentation on the latest proposal for the North Campus Development, the first new presentation since over a year ago. The plan showed a lot of good improvements over the initial layout, shuffling the higher density housing to the center area of the development. He asked for our input on suggestions and possible changes we might request to the plan. With the exception of the Park Avenue side of the complex, the plan was met with good response.
7. Aaron Panko from City of Salem about the zoning request application.
8. Carol Snyder from Salem Parks spoke about offering grants for park improvements, \$3k - \$4k funding available for projects accepted after submissions. Bottle drop fundraiser was explained.
9. Sam Thomas from Lenity Development spoke of their proposal 4 acre lot next to Fred Meyer East.
10. Eli gave Parks report, spoke of graffiti vandalism in parks, and of damage by vehicle driving on grass in Geer Park.
11. Street Cleaning delayed one month due to weather and recruitment issues.
12. Meeting adjourned

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Councilor Hoy Update

My apologies for not being able to attend in person. A Council Work Session regarding downtown streetscape and implementation of the recommendations from the Downtown Homelessness Task Force has been scheduled for the same time.

CITYWIDE UPDATES

- **ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE** The city is supporting Portland General Electric's (PGE) proposed transportation electrification pilot program. The pilot will increase the availability and accessibility of public charging infrastructure. Public charging increases access for electric vehicles and raises awareness.
- **SILETZ TRIBE** City Manager Steve Powers met with Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and other representatives to discuss areas of mutual interest between the Tribe and City. An outcome is to work on a memorandum of understanding that will protect historic and cultural areas from disturbance.
- **MULTIFAMILY HOUSING DESIGN** On Wednesday, February 27th there will be a public workshop on the design of [multifamily housing](#) in Salem. The workshop is for residents and property owners to provide input on ways to improve the City's multi-family housing design standards. Initial concepts for updating the City's multifamily housing regulations will be presented at the public workshop. The workshop is part of the [Multifamily Housing Design project](#) to update the City's regulations on housing developments with three or more dwelling units. The project aims to help meet Salem's housing needs by removing barriers to multifamily housing development and ensuring new development is compatible with neighborhoods. The workshop is from 6-7:30 p.m. in the [Salem Public Library](#), Anderson Rooms. Refreshments will be provided, and a Spanish translator will be at the event.
- **BUILDING PERMITS** There were 1,391 permits issued from July, 2018 through January, 2019, the highest number of any July through January period since 2011. The total includes new construction, alterations, demolitions, fencing, accessory dwelling units (six), and other building activity requiring a permit.
- **COMP PLAN UPDATE** The top 20 indicators to evaluate existing conditions and how Salem could grow have been selected for *Our Salem*. Using the indicators, *Our Salem* will examine the existing conditions of the city and how it could grow in the future under current policies. The work is part of the first phase of the *Our Salem* project, which is a multi-year project to update the *Salem Area Comprehensive Plan*. The indicators are organized

into the result areas of Welcoming and Livable Community; Safe, Reliable, Efficient Infrastructure; Strong and Diverse Economy; Good Governance; Natural Environment Stewardship; and Safe Community. The top indicators include housing affordability, access to frequent transit, property tax revenue, total greenhouse gas emissions, tree canopy, and traffic/pedestrian accidents. The complete list of top 20 indicators can be found on the [Our Salem project website](#).

- **BIOGAS COGENERATION** The new biogas cogeneration facility at the Willow Lake Water Pollution Control Facility, when completed, will produce up to 1200 kW of renewable power, enough for 900 homes, keep 5,000 tons of pollution-causing gases from being released per year, and save the wastewater system more than \$300,000 per year.
- **LIBRARY RETROFIT** With Howard S. Wright Construction and Hacker Architects, experts in library design, under contract, work will begin on designing the Salem Public Library seismic retrofit and renovation. There will be an open house on February 19 between 6 and 8 p.m. for the public to share ideas about what we treasure about the Salem Public Library building, what we hope could be improved, and meet members of the design-build team. The design-build team will address the unknowns of this sizeable renovation project within budget in a busy and expensive construction market, finding a structural seismic retrofit solution that doesn't adversely impact the Library space, and maintaining Library operations in a cost effective way during construction. In late April, there will be a community open house to share ideas gathered at the February conversation and how it influenced initial design and to take ideas/input on visual preferences. In fall of 2019, another community open house will share how ideas from the February and April open houses influenced design, take ideas/input on Conceptual Design, and share next steps for (possible) temporary location, construction documents/permitting, construction. Construction will start in January 2020 and be done in summer 2021.
- **Homeless Rental Assistance Program** Homeless Rental Assistance Program (HRAP). Launched in July 2107 with \$1.4 million in City funding. As of January 2018, 115 in our community have been placed in housing. The Police Department's Downtown Team regularly interacts with this population and works to connect them to our service partners and housing. HRAP is the largest housing first program in Oregon

Neighborhood(s) Update

- Feb 11th Council Meeting
 - Bridge vote
- Safety improvements coming to the crossing of Sunnyview at Scotsman
 - Pedestrian refuge island

- Safety improvements coming to intersections at Lancaster/Sunnyview, Lancaster/Market & Lancaster & D
- Budget Committee Vacancy - Ward 6. See city website to submit application
- Pictsweet Property Update
 - Site plan
 - 874 lots (owner-occupied)
 - No apartments planned currently except in the commercial zone near Auburn
 - 7.5 acre park
- Cherriots
 - 9/7/19 - Saturday Hours and extended hours begin
 - 7/1/19 - New fares for youth
 - \$1 all-day pass
 - Offering free rides to warming centers