

NESCA monthly meeting, July 16, 2019

Fresh Start Café Meeting Room

7:00 pm Meeting called to order by Mike Beringer, NESCA Chair

1. Welcome, introductions, approval of minutes: Mike Beringer
Mike welcomed all in attendance, including Officer Renz of Salem PD.
Everyone took a moment to introduce themselves and where they live.
Motion was made and seconded to approve June meeting's minutes; approved by the board.
2. Salem Police Officer Renz spoke about the McDonald's shooting, not random, no need to worry as such, shooter and victim known to each other. He also reminded everyone if going on vacation, be mindful to make your house look lived in while you're gone. Don't post pics on social media of your trip until you return. Go to website for SCRAM program to register to help Salem PD solve crimes, assured the group it is not an invasion of our privacy, only an assist with permission on each situation to help find the perpetrators etc.
He spoke about junker RV's used by homeless as a new trend, explained city code for parking such around town, and what they can do about it, ushering them along.
3. City Council report was read by Eli Brody, NESCA Vice Chair in lieu of Councilor Chris Hoy's absence, Chris submitted to Eli his synopsis of latest meeting at City Hall: Downtown homeless blocking doorways of businesses was addressed. Also mentioned the possibility of an Employee Tax to help offset the city budget gap and open new fire stations. Fisher Road extension to be completed by mid-October.
4. School Supply Drive: Donations may be brought to box on Eli Brody's porch, or brought to next meeting. Needed: Backpacks, pencils, etc.
5. Neighborhood Night Out: August 6th, 6 pm, all in attendance invited, Illinois Ct. N.E. hosted by Mike and Lucy Beringer.
6. Thorpe Park Enlace event discussed: Friday, July 26th, music, food potluck, everyone invited and encouraged to attend (later cancelled due to insurance issues).
7. Kim Grewe from Oregon State Fair spoke: August 23rd through Sept 2 dates; events free with fair admission, parking \$5, you CAN now bring food into the fair, previously not allowed. Kim left flyers and a large amount of free admission tickets to be distributed at the Neighborhood Night Out event (accomplished!). New this year: Sea Lions, Monster Trucks, Beach Boys.
8. Eli reported on park damages this year versus past: \$5000 last year, only \$300 this year.
9. Gary spoke about Watershed: Announced plant sale at Salem Art Fair; importance of trees; completed project next to Olinger Pool near Mill Creek; mentioned a place to plant trees near freeway on 37th St.
10. Hawthorne Street Cleanup: August 24th, 8:30 am. Meet at the Park and Ride on Hawthorne next to the Holiday Inn.

11. It was mentioned that we ought to send thank you letter to Power Collision for planting trees along Hawthorne Ave.
12. Next meeting: Third Tuesday in August, (8-20-2019)
13. Meeting adjourned by Mike Beringer at 8:02 pm

Attending tonight's meeting: Mike and Lucy Beringer; Lynn Cardiff; Margo Wryn; Ed Moore; Gary Pullman; Mary Murphy; Dianne Wilke; Kim Grewe Powell; Walter Engel; Victoria Binning; Eli Brody; Officer Renz

July 2019

NESCA

City Councilor Chris Hoy Report

I apologize for not being able to attend tonight. I have longstanding plans out of town this evening. I had hoped that either Councilor Kaser or Councilor Andersen would be able to attend, but neither are available. If any of you would like to meet individually or as a group to discuss any of these items (or anything else), I'd be happy to do so. I could meet this Friday at 10 or at 2 or another day. Let me know if there is interest in that.

- Monday 7/22 City Council Meeting
 - We will be considering an updated Sit-Lie ordinance
 - This is in response to a lot of feedback from downtown businesses that are having difficulty getting into their buildings, have major messes and are losing business because employees and customers don't want to deal with the situation
 - Applies to the entire city and not just downtown
 - As I understand it (I just got the actual text 20 minutes ago and haven't had a chance to read it yet) it makes it illegal to sit or lie on the sidewalk between 7 am and 9 pm. It also bans erecting structures on the sidewalk any time
 - Key difference between this version and the last one (I led the effort to kill the last one) is that it no longer is a criminal offense if you violate the ordinance.
 - The city has been working with ARCHES and the UGM to beef up services and places for homeless individuals to go and receive services
 - If you violate this ordinance, you will be referred for services. Continuing to ignore can result in an exclusion order (where you're excluded from a particular area for a period of time.
 - Exceptions to these exclusions can be made to receive services
 - Continuing to ignore the exclusion order can ultimately result in arrest for criminal trespass or other charge.
 - **Reminder: All of this is based on my understanding of the ordinance as it was presented to me. I have yet to read it and will make a final decision on my position once I do.**
 - We will be considering a lease for a temporary move for the library to a building near Broadway Commons.
 - Numerous buildings were considered but very few were available.
 - I advocated for a location in east Salem, but none were available or fit the criteria (including Toys R Us, Sears, Book Bin, K-Mart (on Mission). It came down to a choice between the building we are considering or closing the library for 2 years. Which was not an option in my opinion.

- On August 12th we will be considering an operating fee and an employee payroll tax as I discussed with you last month.
 - The current proposal would make the operating fee \$8 for single family homes on your water/sewer bill with other amounts for commercial and multi-family
 - The current proposal for the employee-paid payroll tax would make the percentage .34% (that's about one-third of one percent) for everyone who works in Salem with an exemption for individuals making minimum wage).
 - These two new revenue sources would allow us to fill our budget gap and would also allow us to open new fire stations and hire more police officers. Without them, we will be cutting services. The largest portion of the general fund goes to public safety (police & fire). So, they would likely feel the biggest impact of any cuts.
- Follow-Up
 - Last month I was asked about the completion date for the Fisher Road connection.
 - Here is the answer:

The Fisher Road project is on schedule to be complete by mid-October. There will be a little downtime over the next several weeks because the new traffic signal poles aren't scheduled to arrive until late August. Signal poles are typically late delivery items and it is even worse this year due to the flooding that occurred in the Midwest this past spring. We expect the contractor to start work at the intersection in August so that the work is phased with the signal pole delivery.