

## NESCA MEETING MINUTES

April 20, 2021

ZOOM Meeting

### 1. **Welcome, Introductions, Announcements, Approval of Minutes, Treasurer's Report: Mike Beringer, Chair**

Mike welcomed and introduced everyone and opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. A motion to approve the March 16th meeting minutes, as provided, was made and seconded. Motion carried.

### 2. **Police Officer Report: (No Report)**

3. **Guest Speaker:** Eunice Kim, Long Range Planning Manager for the City of Salem. Eunice has been working on a multi-year project to update the Comprehensive Plan (the "Our Salem" project) and provided an overview of the project.

- This new plan will include unincorporated areas that have previously not been a part of any of the planning. The City Council recently accepted the "Vision" goals. Details, policy ideas, some from the "Vision" and others from staff, include:
  - Inclusion & equity
  - Transportation impacts
    - Cherriots is participating in the project. Counselor Virginia Stapleton is on the transportation committee and will keep us updated.
  - Fully accessible meetings & materials
  - Affordable housing throughout the city, not just in certain areas
  - Green building
  - Shelter to housing to address needs of unsheltered residents
  - Innovation for parks & recreation
  - Connections and how to make parks easier to access (trail systems, etc.)
- Additional ideas are being collected through on-line meetings every Wednesday at noon and again at 5:30. There is also an on-line survey for those who are not comfortable in meetings but would still like to have their opinions known.
- Eunice mentioned there is a new interactive map on the website that people may enjoy watching as it will change with the project.
- Contact info for Eunice is: [ekim@cityofsalem.net](mailto:ekim@cityofsalem.net) and her phone is 503-540-2508.

For complete information on the Our Salem project, see:

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/our-salem>

3. **Guest Speaker: Salem Police Chief Trevor Womack.** Due to a scheduling conflict, Chief Womack was unable to attend this evening. At the Chief's request, he will be added to the Agenda for our May meeting.

### 4. **City Councilor: Chris Hoy**

- With the retirement of Brady Rogers and the elimination of his position, the City Manager reorganized Neighborhood Services into his office. Irma Dowd, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, is now working with the City Manager. Chris feels this is a good move for the neighborhood associations.
- Steve Powers, City Manager, has made plans to revamp the city website to make it more user-friendly. The company selected to redo the site has experience with city websites. If anyone is interested in how our new website may look, they are encouraged to look at the city websites for Hillsboro, Redmond, and Bend. There will be work happening over the next few months. A date for completion was not provided.
- Even though the economy does not seem so great right now, building permits were issued for 61 single family homes – the highest number in a one-month period in the past 10 years.
- The property next to the amphitheater at Waterfront Park is being considered for a 72 bed post-acute recovery center.
- The vaccination center at the fairgrounds continues with donated help from city EMTs.

- The old DMV location on Portland Road has been reopened as a pallet shelter site. Chris went on a tour today and said the units are quite nice, large enough for 2 people, and are heated. Port-a-potties will be on site, as well as facilities inside the main building. The Church at the Park is responsible for security at the site.
  - Unsheltered residents have been brought to the site from Cascades Gateway Park, I-5 & Market, and Wallace Marine Park.
  - It is hoped the City will be able to secure more locations and additional pallet shelter communities can be established. Finding appropriate locations is difficult.
- The new traffic control cameras for speeding and red-light infractions have now been installed at the Center/Hawthorne intersection in NE Salem, and at the intersections of Commercial/Madrona, and Commercial/Kuebler in SE Salem. There was a “grace” period with only warnings when they were first installed, but now they will be issuing tickets. Chris mentioned that the tickets are fairly spendy so it is just better to slow down and stop when needed.
  - There have been a lot of requests for these cameras at the intersections of Lancaster and Market and at Lancaster and Sunnyview. Currently data from traffic counts, accidents, etc. does not seem to qualify these intersections but Chris will continue advocating for cameras at these locations.
- Street lighting: streetlights are being replaced on D Street as well as other areas throughout the city. Neighbors may notice a change in the amount of illumination with the changes.
- Follow-up on city tree clean up from the ice storm:
  - The City has retained an insurance consultant and eight to ten tree crews. 85% of the reported trees have been inspected. The crews are “triaging” to determine which trees need immediate attention and will work backwards from there. They are also checking for damaged sidewalks from uprooted trees. There was a LOT of damage to trees in many of our parks and the larger parks will have first priority.
  - Wood chips are still available for free and can be picked up at the Bush Park parking lot.
  - Residents are not to put debris on the curb as it will NOT be picked up by the city.
  - Question: are there any city grants to help citizens who do not have the financial resources to care for hazardous trees that are on private property? Of concern are trees that could have a public impact by falling on the street, on a car, or a pedestrian.
    - Chris nor Councilor Virginia Stapleton were aware of any specific program for this but will check and get back to us.

#### 4. City Councilor: Virginia Stapleton

- April is Child Abuse Prevention month.
- Virginia is currently working on a 16 person DEI committee: Diversity-Equity-Inclusion
- Homeowners who have pandemic related financial issues may qualify for mortgage assistance from the Salem Housing Authority by using the available on-line application.
  - Question: is there an alternative to on-line for the SHA mortgage assistance program as there are a lot of people who do not use online services? It was also suggested that the city should consider using the water bills as a good way to provide information to a large population.
    - The Center50+ has “reimagined” how they can operate with the pandemic and have been providing a lot of information in newsletters and mailings to seniors.
- A pedestrian was struck on Center Street between 17<sup>th</sup> and the State Hospital. Virginia shares the concerns of many regarding pedestrian safety in the city.
- City staff is studying the possibility of permanently allowing the use of parking spaces as “extended dining spaces” (allowed during the pandemic for restaurants to have more spacing between patrons). This appears to have a lot of support and may become a reality.

#### 5. Committee Reports:

##### a. Land Use/OSH North Campus

- Trees:
  - Neighbors from NorthEast Neighbors (NEN) and NESCA did a tour of the perimeter of the North Campus to look at the trees slated for removal and sidewalk placement issues.
  - Lynn Takata, Chair of NEN, said they are ok with the removals except for one.

- Evan Sekulic, Neighborly Ventures, mentioned that the southernmost tree shown on Park Avenue was classified as “poor” by city standards. The condition and location make it unrealistic for it to survive.
- Richard Berger, Neighborly Ventures, discussed the trees shown on 25<sup>th</sup> that are to be removed. He pointed out that while the State designed that street and did all the work, it will become a part of The Jory neighborhood. Richard noted, however, that Neighborly Ventures is the contractor, not the designer. The State plans showed trees to be removed but Neighborly Ventures’ plan is to not remove them right away. They will try to save as least some if possible.
- Sidewalks:
  - Lynn Takata has been trying to set up a meeting with Neighborly Ventures, the City, NEN, NESCA and Curtis Pellatz (Senior Program Manager, City of Salem Planning Division) to discuss the sidewalk issues. The hope was to put in permeable walkways with height and location information given to the City, but Richard said the City nixed the idea. It is felt that without creative thinking on this issue, more trees will likely die because of root damage with regular type sidewalks.
  - Counselor Chris Hoy said he will help as needed to advocate for this meeting to promote an innovative approach. It will be noted that the two neighborhood associations are supportive of the developer’s goals to install the permeable walkways for the health and safety of the trees.
- b. Transportation Julie Redden (not in attendance; no report)
- c. Parks Eli Brody
  - Concern about more homeless camps being set up on the SE corner of Geer Park (near Hawthorne) was voiced. Neighbors have had some issues with items stolen from yards. The question of installing higher fences (over the current 6’ maximum height) will be added to next month’s Agenda for additional discussion.
- d. Hoover School Teri Lupoli (no report)
- e. Watershed Gary Pullman (not in attendance; no report)

## 6. Other Business:

- Neighborhood Park Grant:
  - The Salem Parks Foundation grant needs to be turned in soon and ideas are needed for NESCA. After discussion, it was decided that the NESCA grant request will be written to purchase 3-4 park benches from Alternative Services for Geer Park, with two of the benches to be installed near the Bike Park.
- NESCA letter regarding tree preservation for North Campus Redevelopment:
  - A letter dated April 5 in support of NEN’s previous letters to preserve mature trees along D Street and Park Avenue was sent to Curt Pellatz by NESCA Chair Mike Beringer. A copy of that letter will be included in the distribution of these minutes.
- Graffiti Abatement:
  - Marilyn Moritz offered a shout-out to the city graffiti abatement group as they are doing a great job of covering and cleaning up graffiti.
- NESCA Litter Patrol:
  - Eli thanked everyone who recently came out to work on our litter patrol. The weather was somewhat against us, but the crew persevered and completed the job.

There being no further business, Mike Beringer, Chair, thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM. **Our next scheduled meeting will be held via ZOOM, May 18, 2021, beginning at 7:00 PM.** The meeting link will be provided to those on the NESCA NEWS mailing list ahead of the meeting.

Submitted by: Teri Lupoli  
NESCA Secretary/Treasurer

### Attending:

Mike Beringer\*, Marilyn Moritz\*, Teri Lupoli\*, Eli Brody\*, Lynn Cardiff\*, Ian Johnson, Jim Lupoli, Lucy Beringer, Bob Stainbrook, Mark Neuman, Lynn Takata, Cora Brooke, Ken Gettys, Chris Hoy City Councilor, Virginia Stapleton City Councilor, Evan Sukelic Neighborly Ventures, Richard Berger Neighborly Ventures, Eunice Kim, Planning Manager City of Salem

\*NESCA Board Members