

NESCA MEETING MINUTES

June 15, 2021

ZOOM Meeting

1. Welcome, Introductions, Announcements, Approval of Minutes: Mike Beringer, Chair

Due to technical issues with opening the Zoom meeting room, the meeting started a bit late and not all guests were able to access the meeting. Because of the difficulties, Christi Wolfe, City of Salem Code Enforcement Officer was unable to attend, and we will attempt to reschedule a visit with her.

Mike welcomed and introduced everyone who was able to join the meeting. A motion was made to approve the May 18th meeting minutes as provide, and seconded. Motion carried.

2. Salem Code Enforcement: Officer Christi Wolfe (unable to attend due to ZOOM issues)

3. Guest Speaker: Salem Police Chief Trevor Womack

- Chief Womack has been in Salem as the new Chief for six months now and is trying to get to know the community by attending as many neighborhood meetings as possible. Prior to his position here, he was the Chief of Police in Stockton CA for 29 years, a diverse community about twice the size of Salem. During his time in Stockton, he experienced a variety of situations including the city going bankrupt during the great recession. The result of that fiscal crisis was budget defunding of the police department and witnessing violent crime skyrocket dramatically. The “silver lining” for the police department was the opportunity to rebuild from the ground up. As he was beginning to max out with public service employment situations, the timing of the opportunity to come to Salem seemed to be a good fit for him. He believes his experience during some of those very difficult times in Stockton prepared him well to help with issues and problems in Salem.
- Chief Womack said his approach will be:
 1. Three-month introduction phase
 2. Assessment phase
 - a. Individual audit
 - b. Internal audit to determine what steps need to be taken
 3. The 2nd half of 2021 will be strategic planning for moving forward
 - a. Principal policing to increase community trust through smarter policing
- Shootings in Salem
 - Strategies for dealing with shootings (increased this year city-wide, but especially in NE)
 - Zero tolerance – loses relationships with the community
 - ✓ Floods neighborhoods with police; lots of stops, etc.
 - Focus on issues
 - ✓ Gang related
 - ✓ Narcotics
 - ✓ Domestic violence issues
 - ✓ Social stress because of the pandemic
 - Homicide clearance rate is close to 100%
 - Most recent homicides are NOT random violence
- The National Night Out **will be** happening again this year on the first Tuesday of August.

3. Guest Speakers: Ashley Hamilton, MWVCAA Arches Program Director & Lindsay Dent, MWVCAA Program Manager

The Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency provides services and opportunities to the homeless communities in the city of Salem and Marion and Polk Counties. Compared to the national average, our area has an elevated chronically homeless rate.

- Basic needs
 - In response to COVID, collaborative outreach was put in place to take resources to the camps of the unsheltered to provide onsite assistance with basic needs including mobile showers.

- Day Center provides service such as mailboxes, hot lunches, bus passes, showers, laundry facilities, sack lunches and pet food, computer and phone access, and resource navigation.
 - 53,000 visits since opening in 2019.
- Supportive Services
 - To assist with such needs as obtaining birth certificates, assistance with veterans' services office, food stamps, etc.
- Coordinated Entry
 - Housing assessments, averaging 129 assessments per week. There have been 1194 active households on the Coordinated Entry lists in 2021.
- Housing programs provide intensive case management for up to two years.
 - 804 households were successfully housed in the most recent fiscal year; 566 with permanent housing arrangements
- New projects:
 - Tanners Project
 - Veterans Transitional House (for males and females) on Center Street with 36 residents.
 - 24/7 care to guide them through a two-year program into permanent housing.
 - Redwood Crossing (in partnership with Salem Housing Authority)
 - 37 units with 6 respite beds (in partnership with Salem Health)
 - Long-term housing with onsite support for the chronically homeless.
 - Hotel Program (this program is winding down)
 - 24/7 staffing at two facilities supporting 119 hotel rooms
 - 324 households including families with children, wildfire victims
 - Support services including COVID vaccine clinics, food pantry, shuttle van
 - Super 8
 - Funded by Project Turnkey and the City of Salem
 - 24/7 onsite resident manager and onsite security
 - Preference given to those displaced by wildfires and for chronically homeless
 - Connection to community partners
 - Wrap around services to permanent housing
 - Access to medical and mental health care; addiction treatment
 - Help with obtaining personal identification documents
 - Help with developing skills to manage daily living activities (budgeting, cooking, etc.)

Ashley mentioned that the difference between a facility such as the Super 8 and a traditional shelter is that the Super 8 residents will have their own bed for a dedicated period of time. Traditional shelters do not save beds, causing lines of people waiting to get in. There will be no queuing of people at the Super8 as is usually seen at the traditional shelter.

Mike Beringer mentioned a recent situation where the proprietor of a business, adjacent to the Shilo Inn, was beaten to the point of requiring hospitalization by one of the homeless residents of the hotel. This incident causes our local community to be a bit leery of having the large concentration of homeless residents at the Shilo and Super8 and the question was asked: "will we be safe?" Ashley informed us that the Shilo has asked that all of those currently housed there by MWVCAA be removed as they are going to be doing some remodeling of their location. In addition, the 24/7 onsite security and resident manager that will be at the Super8 was not available in previous hotel situations. The residents of the Super8 will be monitored for drug and alcohol use, which will not be permitted. There will be a warning system in place and if the banned activity continues, the individual will be evicted from the property.

Mike thanked Ashley and Lindsay for the comprehensive presentation. If there are any questions about any of the MWVCAA programs, readers are invited to contact Ashley Hamilton at

The ARCHES Project
 Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
 503-399-9080 (Main Office)
 ashley.hamilton@mwvcaa.org

4. City Councilors Reports:

Chris Hoy

- City Council passed their new budget. Highlights include:
 - Spanish and ASL interpreters will now be funded for each City Council meeting
 - Body and car cameras will be purchased for Salem PD
 - Two new PD positions were approved
 - A lieutenant and an analyst position
 - Homeless Services funding
 - \$8.1m to help with homeless sheltering
 - Help with the purchase of a hotel
 - Navigation Center in SE Salem
 - More outdoor managed campsites (such as the Portland Rd. complex)
 - Extending the hotel program for Arches
 - Using the old UGM site for a short period of time once they move into their new building
- The Our Salem mapping project has been completed and the comments period is ending.
 - Information will be out in the next couple of months after compiling all comments and incorporating those that are pertinent
 - Nothing will be set in stone until such time as the City Council votes on it.
- Tribal Lands Casino in NE Salem:
 - TV ads and mail flyers about a possible Indian Casino in NE Salem are providing false information. They are anti-casino and state that those who are also not in agreement should contact their city councilors. As the land is tribal land, there is NOTHING that the city council can do to either prevent or promote the casino. Chris stated that should it go forward, the city council will certainly work closely with the Tribe, but the go-ahead will be from the Governor and the Department of the Interior. Chris said councilors are always willing to hear from constituents but in this case, people need to know that they are not involved in this at all.
- Library opening
 - Currently there is no date provided, although it will be soon. Chris said he is hoping for an August 1st reopening.
- Additional information regarding the previously mentioned Navigation Center.
 - What is this? (See below)

Virginia Stapleton

- Council Work Sessions
 - 7/19 Sheltering update
 - 9/20 Climate Action Plan update
 - 10/18 Our Salem Planning Commission work session
- Navigation Center
 - “Enhanced Shelter”
 - (Info from Chris Hoy) The former DHS building south of Mission Street (behind the large realty building, exact address not known at this time) will be repurposed as a “low barrier shelter” for temporary shelter. The main difference with this center will be that it will provide wrap around services to help the individuals where they are and for what they need. Do they need to be placed in a hotel, apartment, or other housing situation? Assessments will be made to develop a plan to get them into the proper location.

5. Committee Reports:

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| a. Land Use: | Ian Johnson (no report) |
| b. Transportation | Julie Redden (not in attendance, no report) |
| c. Parks | Eli Brody |
| | Eli is asking for feedback on what the community wants to see happen at D Street Park |
| d. Hoover School | Teri Lupoli (no report) |
| e. Watershed | Gary Pullman |

Gary will be meeting with Evan Sekulic (Neighborly Ventures, The Jory) on site to discuss trees.

f. Oregon State Hospital Campus Redevelopment

Report provided by Evan Sekulic, Neighborly Ventures Construction Manager for The Jory apartment complex

- Tree Preservation Efforts (exciting progress!):
 - As a result of months of planning, representatives from the city inspection team, city urban forestry department, design team, developer, and contractor all met on site earlier this week to review what had been exposed by the vac truck process in front of the “fair” rated trees. With the goal of tree preservation, flexibility was agreed upon in the rock section under the curb where needed and depth of concrete gutter “pan” where needed. By using the survey equipment, they were able to determine that many of the roots were down low enough to not conflict with the curb and in places the curb could be poured around it as requested by the urban forester. The result will not look different from the top once completed, but root sections have been saved by these efforts.
- Park Avenue:
 - Construction of the ½ street width improvements and storm water structures will continue over the next month and then transition to D Street. The developer is most appreciative of the flexibility and understanding of the people who live closest to the work. The direct line of communication between the community and the Neighborly Ventures team seems to be helpful in making the process as smooth as possible. The developer is eager to return the street in even better condition as soon as possible.
- Onsite:
 - It seems that there is community interest in a tour of the Rec building. Evan said he will be happy to lead a tour of the rec building to interested community members as it nears completion, around December.

6. Other Business:

- Emergency Cache:
 - Mike said he has received mixed reports. Visually the space still looks quite empty, but he was told things had been better organized so it looked a bit emptier. He is still a bit unsure if it has been restocked.
 - Chris Hoy will talk to Greg Walsh to ensure this is done.
- NESCA Litter Patrol:
 - Eli announced the next litter patrol is scheduled for this coming Saturday, June 19th. Everyone who would like to participate is asked to meet at the north end of the park and ride lot at Market and Hawthorne (next to the Holiday Inn) at 8:30 AM. All needed safety and work equipment will be provided.

There being no further business, Mike Beringer, Chair, apologized again for the ZOOM issues and thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. **The next scheduled NESCA meeting will be held via ZOOM, July 20, 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*, Teri Lupoli*, Eli Brody*, Gary Pullman*, Mark Neuman, Ken Gettys, Ian Johnson, Trevor Womack Salem Police Chief, Chris Hoy City Councilor, Virginia Stapleton City Councilor, Evan Sekulic Neighborly Ventures, Ashley Hamilton MWVCAA, Lindsay Dent MWVCAA

*NESCA Board Members