

NESCA MEETING MINUTES

July 20, 2021

ZOOM Meeting

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

Mike opened the meeting at 7 PM and welcomed all who had checked in. A motion was made to approve the June 15th meeting minutes as provided with no corrections or additions. Motion carried.

2. Guest Speaker: Salem Police Detective Grant Foster

- Detective Foster provided a general overview of the crime situation in Salem. His primary focus with the department is with shootings and violent crimes which are up from last year. This year there have been four homicides compared to one at this time last year; 81 confirmed shooting calls this year with 63 last year, and 15 injured this year, 12 last year. Property crimes seems to be relatively consistent and don't seem to be in any one geographic location, spread evenly across the city.
- In response to a question about homicides possibly being gang related, Detective Foster said the three most recent cases provided no reason to believe they were.
 - Hoover Park does have a lot of gang activity by a local gang called the "Savage Block Gang". They have expanded across the city. While there is no named "gang unit" in the Salem PD, a lot of effort and proactive measurements are being made in the way of arrests, particularly late at night.
 - When Lt. Van Meter was the NESCA contact, he worked closely with Hoover School Principal Bridget West to keep her informed of police activity so she could share news and information with the parents. Detective Foster said that Chief Womack is very focused on getting information to the community as quickly as possible. He suggested subscribing to the Live Updates available on the Salem PD website for the most current information on situations around town.
- In response to a question about a recent shooting on the northbound I-5 ramp, Detective Foster said he could not comment on that as it is being investigated by Oregon State Police.

3. City Councilor Reports:

Virginia Stapleton

- Virginia passed along the good news that Councilor Chris Hoy is doing well following recent surgery and is expecting to go home tomorrow.
- Virginia said she and her family just returned from two weeks in Montana, seeing the glaciers in the park before they are gone. She said it was a wonderful experience.
- Council had hoped to have completed the Zoning Sub-Committee on medium and maximum density, but there were more questions, so it was pushed out. They hope to have it wrapped up next month.
- The Library Steering Committee will be getting surveys out to the community soon. Virginia stressed that it is very important to take the survey for future development. She knows that having a branch in East Salem is something NESCA is very interested in and taking the survey will be a good way to let the Committee know.
- Sheltering Update:
 - The Portland Road (old DMV location) has 25 new beds.
 - 3737 Portland Road has 50 inside camping spaces (much like at the Oregon State Fairgrounds), with eight car camping parking spaces, and 30 temporary shelters.
 - Re the shelters: They are now being provided by a location contractor rather than buying from other areas, so Virginia feels this is also a "win" for Salem.
 - Windows to the West (west of City Hall on Commercial)
 - The new UGM building with greater capacity will be opening this week.
 - 80 hotel rooms for medically fragile
 - The city is looking for new properties that can be used. A couple of places mentioned were the current temporary library facility, if a lease extension can be arranged with the church that owns the building, and the Marion County Democratic office.

- Marilyn Moritz suggested that the former Brattain property on Hawthorne, which is now vacant and near the former Super8, might be worth investigating. Ian Johnson also commented that, while it is perhaps a tough way to go, sometimes condemnation may have to be used to gain additional properties.
- ODOT began clearing the camps from the Market Street and I-5 underpasses on Monday (7/19) and will continue working with ServePro to clean everything there and along the ramp area. A resource station has been set up in the Denny's Parking lot to provide assistance to those who are being displaced.

4. Guest Speakers:

- **Officer Christi Wolfe, Salem Code Enforcement**

- Their new on-line reporting system seems to be working well. The new system did slow them down a bit, but everything seems to be going fairly well now and cases are being sent out to Field Officers quicker than in the past.
- Officer Wolfe apologized for not having current stats available at this time, but the new reporting system slowed down the ability to get the information as they're still learning how to use it.
- NESCA has several houses being watched but two just had Sheriff's lock out and one derelict house.
 - 30th off Ellis
 - A real hub of criminal activities and a lot of trash but is in the process of being cleaned up.
 - Charter Place off D St
 - Also, a lot of criminal activities and she saw a few stragglers still hanging around, but they seem to be leaving.
 - Ladd St. derelict but no squatters
 - Corner of Knox and Edina. It is boarded up and vacant but has now purchased so it is hoped we will see changes soon.
- No citations are currently being issued for cars parked without current registration. A 3-month grace period was in place during the pandemic, but a recent Governor's order has extended that to 6 months.
- Houses that have been in a state of "renovation" for a lengthy period can continue to stay that way without any work being done if the building permits are current. The primary example in the NESCA area is a house on Market Street which is a blight on the neighborhood, and which has been in a state "renovation" state for years. Officer Wolfe said they are trying to get this changed to be a bit more heavy-handed with these situations. The house on Park Avenue (that had not had any work done for a long time) is now seeing progress.

- **Patricia Farrell, Parks & Natural Resources Planning Manager & Project Manager for the Climate Action Plan**

- Patricia provided a short Power Point presentation, but suggested that those who are interested may want to visit the website: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/climate-action-plan.aspx>
- The CAP was started in 2017 with the city's strategic plan. October of 2020 the City Council voted to adopt two goals:
 - 1. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% (from 2016 levels) by 2035.
 - 2. Become carbon neutral by 2050.
- Task Force was established by the Mayor that included a wide cross section of the community.
- Currently the Task Force is about 2/3's of the way through with the plan. They are still working on some aspects to determine who's in charge, funding, etc. but they are well on their way.
 - Visioning 2020
 - Vulnerability Assessment Winter 2021
 - Strategy Development Winter/Spring 2021
 - (CURRENTLY HERE) Implementation Planning & Strategy Refinement 2021
 - Finalization of the Plan Fall 2021
- It is known that 53% of the emissions come from transportation. Community ideas on how to reduce the GHG (greenhouse gases):
 - Expand public transit
 - Reduce driving into Salem to work

- b. Transportation *Julie Redden* (unable to attend; Julie's report provided by Teri Lupoli)
- Julie requested a "Road Closed Local Access Only" sign to be added at Ladd and Park. Information received from Kevin Hottmann let her know that one will be provided. She had also requested that the closure sign at 27th and Park be moved a bit westward but learned it cannot be moved due to the "No Parking" sign placement.
 - Lynn Cardiff reported there is a possibility of a 4-way stop being installed at Evergreen and Englewood.
- c. Parks *Eli Brody* (unable to attend; report provided by Marilyn Moritz)
- Salem Parks Foundation awarded NESCA with grants to provide two new park benches for Geer Park.
- d. Hoover School *Teri Lupoli*
- It's time to start thinking about the back-to-school supplies and backpack drive. The Salem First Church of the Nazarene also does an annual back-to-school drive and in the past has included Hoover School in their distribution. They have reached out to Teri about joining forces for the Hoover School effort which is greatly appreciated. Bridget West will be contacted to find out what supplies the school would like us to concentrate on. Cash can also be donated. All supplies can be dropped off at Teri's house, as in the past, to be taken to the school at the end of August.
- e. Watershed *Gary Pullman*
- The Mill Creek cleanup project is done at Olinger on the first Saturday of the month, around 9 AM.
 - The rainwater detention basin on 37th off D (north end of Lancaster Gardens apartments) needs trees.
- f. Oregon State Hospital Campus Redevelopment – email report from Evan Sekulic
- Highlights and status changes
 - Evan connected with Gary Pullman because of his question at the last meeting. They walked around the project and realized the main item in question was related to work being done by another contractor for the city in the adjacent park.
 - Park Avenue ½ street improvements have been completed (i.e., new asphalt is complete) and the street reopened.
 - Initial planning for the fair-rated tree bump outs for sidewalks on Park Avenue are now marked out. Sidewalks will likely be the last of the components to be completed.
 - D Street improvements, similar to those on Park Avenue, are proceeding and detours for through traffic have been set up.
 - For those interested in the type of amenities that will be offered at The Jory, Evan provided the following website:
 - <https://www.thejoryapts.com/apartments/or/salem/amenities>

6. Other Business:

- **D Street Park Neighborhood Association Designation: Ian Johnson**
 - NEN is asking to be shown as part of the D Street Park in addition to NESCA; to have it carved out to have a section shown as a part of NEN, not NESCA.
 - Ian pointed out the intent for the D Street Park has always been to have it be maintained as an open field, unimproved park much as it has always been, which was the proposal NESCA made to the city in 2011/2012. The park has always been open to anyone from any neighborhood in the city and NESCA believes it should stay that way. It is felt it should be listed solely as being in the NESCA area as the boundaries on three sides of the park are NESCA neighbors, thus the most impacted by any changes to the park. The fourth side is listed as hospital property. To split the park would be an administrative nightmare for the city, especially if two divergent views developed.
 - NEN neighbor Ken Simila discussed the four parks that NEN has lost over the years and mentioned that NESCA had gained several. As the D Street Park is used by members of their community, they feel it should also be partially considered as NEN's.

- While empathetic to NEN's park losses, Ian stated this is not the time or place to attempt to right past wrongs. NEN has two nice neighborhood parks in their area, McRae and Englewood. NESCA has two neighborhood parks, Hoover and Harry & Grace Thorp Park.
 - It was pointed out by NEN Chair Lynn Takata that they were never notified of any of the meetings with city planners regarding Geer Community Park or the D Street Park and not included in any of the planning. Geer Park, while within the geographical boundaries of NESCA, is not considered as a "neighborhood park" but rather a Community Park. As such, all planning, notices, etc. are sent from the city and the planning survey was on-line on the city's website where anyone could participate. As NESCA has neighbors that back up to Geer Park, NESCA invited the planners to attend meetings to learn of the plans. They accepted the invitations and were interested in the suggestions made by NESCA. However, they did not seek out NESCA over any other NA in the city solely for our input.
 - Lynn Takata mentioned several times that they were never notified of what was happening with Geer Community Park or the D Street Park. Ian suggested that one of the things that we might suggest to the city is to ensure that information on park notifications be sent to all NAs, not just the one in which the park is located.
 - NEN has adopted an official position to partition the park and submitted it to the city, which is not arbitrary and apparently not negotiable. However, the city has not yet taken a formal stand on the matter.
 - A motion was made to make the park a part of both NAs. There was no second and the motion was tabled.
 - A motion was made and seconded that the D Street Park stay within the NESCA boundaries. The motion carried. NESCA suggested that we then invite the city to mediate between the groups.
 - A motion was made to go Neighbor to Neighbor, but there was no second and the motion was withdrawn. *Lynn Takata stated that NEN will not go to any mediation.*
 - After further discussion, NESCA agreed to meet with NEN for a "neighborly" gathering in the backyard of a NEN member to further discuss this on August 5 at 6:30 PM.
 - The NESCA Board will determine at a later date what position will be taken and then proceed as needed.
- **National Night Out.** NESCA will be holding our annual gathering, once again hosted by Mike and Lucy Beringer in their cul-de-sac. Everyone is invited to come and bring something for the potluck table. Also bring your lawn chairs.
 - August 3
 - 384 Illinois Ct. NE
 - 6:00 PM

There being no further business, Mike Beringer, Chair, thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM. **The next scheduled NESCA meeting will be held via ZOOM, August 17, 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*, Marilyn Moritz*, Lynn Cardiff*, Gary Pullman*, Ian Johnson, Ken Gettys, Jim Lupoli, Detective Grant Foster Salem PD, Christi Wolfe Salem Code Enforcement Officer, Patricia Farrell Salem Climate Action Plan, Virginia Stapleton City Councilor, Bob Stainbrook, Lynn Takata, Ken Simila, and a screen name of "Arturo" from 1790 B Street.

*NESCA Board Members