

NESCA MEETING MINUTES

August 17, 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. Corrections and additions to the meeting minutes of 7/20/21 were read:

- b. Transportation – Julie Redden requested a “Road Closed Local Access Only” sign to be added at Ladd and Park is changed to read: a “Road Closed Local Access Only” signs were placed at Ellis and Englewood from 23rd through Park.
- b. Transportation – information added: “Road Closed Ahead” signs requested and placed at Hawthorne and D and 17th and D.
- b. Transportation – information added: Kevin Hoffman said he would request a traffic cart on 23rd and would request additional police presence to watch for speeders.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the July meeting minutes as corrected and amended. The motion carried.

2. Salem Police Officer Report: Lt. Debbie Aguilar

- Lt. Aguilar introduced herself to the meeting attendees, providing background information about her 21 years with Salem PD. She is currently working with Chief Womak on various projects including the Community Engagement project, visiting Neighborhood Associations throughout Salem.
- The school year will be beginning again on September 7th for 6th and 9th grade classes, the next day for all others except kindergarten. Traffic control will be more visible around schools for awhile until the community is more aware that school are, once again, in session. Schedule changes that the community should be aware of are:
 - Grade School classes are beginning earlier (8:00 AM approx.), so drivers need to know that children will be walking to school at earlier hours.
 - Middle School classes will be running from 9:20 AM - 4:00 PM so, again, drivers need to be more alert to the fact that kids are walking home at later hours than in the past.
 - High School classes will be from 8:30 AM – 3:20 PM.
- Lt. Aguilar was at the NEN meeting last week. A main topic of conversation was around the issues of violence, especially in and around Englewood Park and wanting to know what Salem PD is doing about it. Salem PD uses a two-pronged approach to these situations. There are undercover officers who do visit the park in unmarked cars. As such, neighbors are not going to see the police presence and possibly feel that nothing is being done. There are also more visible police patrols. There will be meetings tomorrow with the Criminal Investigations Section Lieutenant and the Strategic Investigations Unit (mostly undercover) Lieutenant to determine what may be able to be done that is a more “visible” approach which might be more of a deterrent. She requested that if anyone has questions or concerns about Hoover Park (or any others), that she will take those concerns to tomorrow’s meeting.
 - Eli Brody mentioned that he has seen men hanging around the park in the afternoon, supposedly talking on their phones, but who are actually just watching the kids. He feels this is potentially dangerous and he no longer takes his grandchildren to the park.
- Lt. Aguilar said that many of the violence problems are gang-related and usually tied to drugs. SPD would like to arrest many of them for firearms violations, assault, etc., but often don’t have enough probable cause to do so. They generally can arrest on drug-related issues though and then hope to find other evidence that would tie them to the greater crimes.
 - Chris Hoy mentioned there seems to be an uptick in graffiti and asked what people should do. Lt. Aguilar said for people to contact the city Graffiti Abatement Hotline number. Providing a description of the graffiti, if possible, is also helpful as they can determine which gangs are involved by the type of graffiti. The PD can then track some of the movement of the gangs by their graffiti tags.
 - Marilyn Moritz questioned if motion sensor lights might be a possible deterrent, especially at Hoover Park. She also mentioned that some of the lights don’t appear to be working. Lt. Aguilar said the lights

are sometimes hard to get fixed as some are owned by PGE and others by the city. She will, however, have the lights at Hoover checked on. Security cameras were also discussed.

- Salem Police Department has funding available and is in the process of purchasing body cams for all officers as well as updating car cams.
-

3.City Councilor Report: Chris Hoy

Councilor Hoy said that in a follow-up to Lt. Aguilar's report on the body cams, the City Council did make that a priority and were able to provide the funding with assistance from the State Legislature.

- Permit Application Center:
 - The office is now using a hybrid schedule but is mostly open again for in-person business. There will be at least three employees to help at the counter with others working remotely. July business included:
 - 226 reviews of building plans, and
 - 2,410 building inspections
 - Building inspectors are now integrating drones into their processes which provides a new level of support they hope will speed up processes.
- Boards and Commissions are mostly staying virtual for the time being. The City Council is now following a hybrid model with meetings, some in-person, some remotely from home.
- The City Employee Health Clinic has seen more positive covid tests in the past two weeks than in the past two months.
- Downtown Outdoor Dining
 - Three parking spaces per requesting restaurant were allowed for outdoor dining during the pandemic. The plan was to begin charging for those spaces in September for those restaurants who were still wanting to have this option available. As many of the businesses are somewhat struggling, the Council decided to provide some financial relief by waiting until next July before instituting any fees.
- Salem Public Library
 - The Grand reopening of the library will be on September 25th. Chris said that everything looks wonderful and the front entry has been completely redone to provide a much more open, welcoming feeling.
 - The library will be open to the public prior to the Grand reopening on September 1.
- Cascade Gateway Park
 - It has now been closed. There are still 40 vehicles that need to be towed. Sadly, the park is a real mess and will require a lot of cleaning to make it again usable for family recreation.
- Navigation Center off Mission Street
 - The Center will be opened this winter for use as a temporary warming shelter when needed and then opened fully for the intended use in the Spring of 2022.
- Protests at Planned Parenthood (Ward 6)
 - Chris has talked to Chief Womak and City Manager Steve Powers about the situations that have been happening at this location. He has stressed to them that these situations need to be treated differently than protests at the Capitol Mall. These conflicts are in a neighborhood, next to multiple apartment buildings, and the fights and dispensing of bear mace among the opposing groups is often right next to kids' bedroom windows. The City Manager was receptive to Chris's feedback and he and the Chief will be trying to find better ways to deal with these conflicts.
 - The question was raised regarding permits for gatherings and if one isn't required in this situation. The answer is "yes" they are supposed to, but the officers must weigh the risks of trying to enforce that requirement. As it is only a ticketable offense and often there are 200 participants vs 15 officers, it's probably best not to try to enforce the permit issue.
 - Chris reiterated that as this is in a neighborhood and must be brought to a better resolution. Because of his former law enforcement background, he does realize the officers are doing their best at this time.
- Homeless and Affordable Housing
 - Yaquina Hall

- The transfer of Yaquina Hall to the city has been a bit of a bureaucratic nightmare but the State did finally come through and it now belongs to the city. Because of all the delays caused by the State, compensation was paid to the city for its expenses.
- Sequoia Crossings on Fisher Road
- North Broadway has a large parcel of land that will be developed and will be a great facility for families
- Private Developer
 - A new affordable housing project is being built by a private developer off 27th and Kuebler. Chris said this is a very exciting project since it is not publicly funded. He is hoping that it will be successful enough to encourage other private developers to consider building affordable housing.

4. Guest Speaker: Anthony Gamallo, Sr. Transportation Planner, City of Salem

- Safer Crossings Program
 - This program is online for citizen feedback and has been a good tool to help with new projects. The City may be getting some funds through the Covid Relief program which can possibly be used for pedestrian crossing improvements. Funding is not yet secured, but the city is hopeful that it will be made available and wants to be prepared when it does. It is hoped they will be able to upgrade/install five or six new crossings.
 - From no crosswalk to striped walkway
 - From a striped crosswalk to a lighted or center island walkway
 - Currently looking at the Childs/Lansing area on Market Street NE for possible upgrades. This area ranks 20th out of 127 possible sites for an upgrade through the Safer Crossings Program. Several factors are analyzed when deciding what type of crossing and where to install a crossing:
 - How busy is the road?
 - Crossing distance (in this case 4 lanes plus a turn lane)
 - Population – commercial and residential
 - Distances to nearest crosswalks (closest is Savage Rd. to the east and Park Avenue to the west).
 - The Childs/Lansing project would be located at the beginning of the west end left turn lane and would have a median crossing island and rapid flashing beacon.
- Support for the Childs/Lansing program was voiced by Ian and Teri.
- Eli questioned the safety of the on ramps to I-5 Northbound as well as I-5 Southbound. Anthony said there are discussions with ODOT but it's currently unclear if it would be ODOT or the city who would need to address any issues. He did say that whatever fix might be determined, it would be very expensive due to the layout and the many lanes involved. Chris Hoy mentioned the directional signs on the off ramp have been repositioned at eye level, making it impossible to see anything around them and it is very dangerous. Anthony said he will take the concern to ODOT.
- For more information: www.cityofsalem/safercrossings.net

4. Guest Speaker: Evan Sekulic, Neighborly Ventures, The Jory (North Campus)

- Evan thanked the neighbors for reporting the vehicle(s) that have been on the site causing mischief and doing some damage to the property.
- Evan is in contact with the contractor by text or phone at all hours of the day and night, so if anyone ever has questions or concerns, he asks that they reach out to him.
- 25th road work is nearly completed.
- The construction on D and Park should be completed within the next couple of weeks. The steel plates on Park are due to manhole covers that are needed which should be completed soon and the plates removed. Sidewalks on D and Park should be completed in September.

5. **Committee Reports:** No reports were given this evening.

- a. Land Use: *Ian Johnson*
- b. Transportation *Julie Redden*
- c. Parks *Eli Brody*
- d. Hoover School *Teri Lupoli*
- e. Watershed *Gary Pullman*
- f. Oregon State Hospital Campus Redevelopment

6. Other Business:

There being no further business, Mike Beringer, Chair, thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. The Board was asked to stay connected to the ZOOM site for a short meeting. **The next scheduled NESCA meeting will be held via ZOOM, September 21, 2021, beginning at 7:00 PM.** The meeting link will be provided to those on the NESCA distribution list ahead of the meeting.

Submitted by: Teri Lupoli
NESCA Secretary/Treasurer

Attending:

Mike Beringer*, Teri Lupoli*, Marilyn Moritz*, Lynn Cardiff*, Eli Brody*, Ian Johnson, Jim Lupoli, Lt. Debbie Aguilar Salem PD, Anthony Gamallo City of Salem Public Works, Chris Hoy City Councilor, Bob Stainbrook, Courtney Knox-Busch (sitting in on behalf of Irma Dowd) City of Salem, Evan Sekulic Neighborly Ventures, Leslie Polson, and the screen name of Mano's iPhone (on D Street)

*NESCA Board Members