

## NESCA MEETING MINUTES

October 19, 2021

ZOOM Meeting

**NOTE:** NESCA Meeting Minutes are usually compared to the ZOOM recording to ensure accuracy. Unfortunately, the recording was unavailable this time. Please notify me of any corrections or additions you feel need to be made.

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

Mike opened the meeting shortly after 7 PM and welcomed all who had checked in.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the September 21st meeting minutes as provided by email. The motion carried.

### 2. Salem Police Officer Report: Sgt. Grant Davis

- Topic for October for Salem Police Department is the Strategic Plan. Sgt. Davis suggested everyone go to the website and look at the plan and then take the survey. The survey is available in English and Spanish. SPD wants the community to have a voice in this plan and encourages participation through the survey.
  - [Salem Police Strategic Plan \(cityofsalem.net\)](http://cityofsalem.net)
- Councilor Chris Hoy provided an update from Chief Womack.

### 3. City Councilor Report: Chris Hoy

- Redistricting
  - All levels of government are redistricting, including the City of Salem. Unlike state and federal redistricting, the city boundary changes are not a political process, but changes are made to create equality based on census data. With the assistance of the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments, who works with the census data to redesign the boundaries, the city will likely see all boundaries move west and south. There will be a work session on November 15<sup>th</sup>. There will also be public outreach so the public can weigh in, with a hearing in December
  - Ward 6 is 1,891 acres and is the most diverse in the city.
- ODOT properties
  - ODOT has been working to clean up problem camping areas along Center Street, especially near the bridge, along Market Street, and near Fisher Road. There seem to be camps springing up again near overpasses and bridges and they are trying to keep it under control.

### 3. City Councilor Report: Virginia Stapleton

- The “20 is Plenty” plan is in place in other cities to try to calm and slow traffic.
- “Vision Zero” where the goal is zero traffic/transportation related deaths.
- There was an “Our Salem” work session last Monday night. It will be back in Council in December.
  - Public comment is welcomed on the Tree Survey and the Climate Action Plan on the city website.
- Salem Art Commission
  - Reworking rules regarding murals to make it easier to have murals around the city.
    - Looking for businesses that would like to donate a wall for a mural when the rules are updated.
    - Considering the possibility of public contest for the murals.
    - Also looking at the possibility of intersection art where our city’s diverse ethnic art might be showcased.

Questions/comments for Councilors:

- Is it possible to have art under the interstate overpasses (for example at the Market Street overpass).
  - Virginia: As this is state property, the city would not be able to do anything there.
- The art project is really a great thing. Also, regarding pallet housing in West Salem, thanks was offered to city councilors who voted on the unpopular project.

#### 4. Guest Speaker: Jake Snell, Parks Operations Supervisor, City of Salem

- Jake has been with the City of Salem for 5 years and has been involved in Parks & Recreation for 19 years. As he is involved with operations and maintenance, anyone needing planning information should speak with Rob Romanek. Jake is the 'point person' with whom Marilyn Moritz, NESCA Vice Chair, has worked in obtaining the Thorp and Hoover kiosks and, most recently, the Geer Park benches (pending installation).
- Jake provided the information that within the 18 neighborhood associations there are 90 City of Salem parks. Thorp, Hoover, and Geer are located within the boundaries of NESCA.
- D Street Field
  - The city recently took over ownership of this property. At this time all that has been done is to mow the field and to empty the trash. New trashcans will be brought in as well as Mutt Mitt dispensers. Jake asked for suggestions for location of these dispensers with most agreeing that near parking areas would be ideal, with one on the NE corner of the property and a second one on the SW corner of the property.
- Geer Park Master Plan
  - Planning Phase 2 with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2024.
    - Skate Park
      - There will be community input available for the design of the skate park.
    - Updating of the bike park

#### 4. Guest Speaker: Ron Halter, Owner Lancaster Garden Senior Apartments

- Ron gave a brief history of the property that is at the east end of the D Street overpass from 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE to 37<sup>th</sup> Place NE. In 2003 when the D Street Overpass was widened, 2 properties were condemned with the result being that two ramshackle buildings were basically shoved together by the owner and turned into one large boarding house. As expected, this immediately resulted in increased crime issues. Ron, and with help of NESCA, worked to get the property cleaned up. The owner left the country, and the mortgage holder basically gave the property to Ron. He then had the building condemned and torn down so he could develop 13 one-bedroom apartments, the first stage for the Lancaster Garden Apartments that abuts to the I-5 wall on the west and 37<sup>th</sup> avenue on the east.
- The property between 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and 37<sup>th</sup> Place NE was operated for several years as a group home for developmentally disabled citizens. The home was generally quiet and the neighbors respectful. The residents have now been moved and Ron has purchased the property. As he was unable to renovate the building into usable apartments, he has had it demolished.
- Plans for the new development call for 22 additional units in three buildings, with 14 units being two-bedroom and eight units being one-bedroom. New guidelines require that all buildings be street facing, but all parking will be interior. Currently the property is being cleaned up and prepared for winter. He hopes construction can be started in Spring of 2022.

#### 5. Committee Reports:

##### a. Land Use:

*Ian Johnson*

- A letter was sent to Katy Coba, State Chief Operating Office for DAS, reminding DAS that we were a part of the process when they started the RFP process for the North Campus and that we are interested in being included in the conversations about the Center Street/South Campus project.
  - CCs of the letter were also sent to state and local government officials.
  - It may be needed to resend letters. However, Ian pointed out the goal is to provide our information and desire to be included without becoming pests.
- Dome Building
  - As previously reported, Corrections will be vacating the building. Ian is not sure what the long-term plans are for the building since it is unlikely to be needed for office space as government's need for space is going down, not up.

##### b. Transportation:

*Julie Redden*

- No report

##### c. Parks

*Eli Brody*

- Eli thanked everyone who came out this past Saturday for the NESCA litter patrol. It was a good day, and a lot of good work was done. The next litter patrol is tentatively planned for March 19, 2022.
  - Eli apologized for not having visited the parks lately. He did add his thoughts on the D Street Field, stressing that he believes 'Field' is what it should be called, rather than the D Street Park. His reason is because historically (for well over 50 years) that property has been just that, a field for general use without a lot of unneeded or unwanted improvements. He would like to see it stay mostly that way to retain a piece of history.
- d. Hoover School *Teri Lupoli*
- While there was no report for Hoover School, Teri did mention the NESCA sock drive currently underway. All socks collected will benefit the HOMES Youth Resource Center, a drop-in center for homeless youth (boys and girls) between the ages of 11 and 18. Everyone was encouraged to help with a package of socks if possible.
- e. Watershed *Gary Pullman*
- Gary was pleased to report on the 12 new trees on D Street and also new trees on 25<sup>th</sup>
  - The rainwater basins (raingardens) are now in and most are planted.
  - Mill Creek clean-up continues around the Olinger Pool area.
  - Concerns over the watershed east of Hawthorne (east end of Geer Park) were expressed due to the homeless camps with trash and sewage. It is likely that this property is all state property but hopefully the city can coordinate with ODOT. Gary will go by and take a look at the area.
    - We will continue to work with Code Enforcement Office Wolfe and mention areas of concern to the Salem Police Department.
  - Gary mentioned that a private group of friends raised nearly \$7k to help with a pallet shelter. He hopes that more can be raised. At Gary's request the link for donations to aid with pallet shelters is included here.
    - [www.church-at-the-park.org](http://www.church-at-the-park.org)
- f. OSH North Campus Redevelopment *Ian Johnson*
- No report

## 6. Other Business:

- Marilyn Moritz congratulated NESCA Secretary Teri Lupoli on being a recipient of a City of Salem "At Your Service" award, presented by Councilor Tom Andersen on October 8, 2021.
- Mike thanked Marilyn Moritz and Eli Brody for all their help with the clean-up of the property at 942 Edina Street NE, brought to Mike's attention by Code Enforcement Officer Christi Wolfe. Marilyn Daily, Director for Center50+, also arranged for a crew who also provided a lot of help. Officer Wolfe was able to provide a large dumpster through the city's "Blight to Bright" program. Mike asked Teri to send Thank You cards to Officer Wolfe and to the Center50+ for their help and concern for our neighborhood.
  - A neighbor directly across the street from this project let us know that he has free firewood for anyone who wishes to come and get it.
- NESCA Annual Meeting for elections:
  - A slate of officers and at-large board members was put forth, a motion was made and seconded to accept the slate as provided. The motion passed. Officers and at-large board members for the 2021-22 year are:
    - Chair Mike Beringer
    - Vice Chair Marilyn Moritz
    - Secretary/Treasurer Teri Lupoli
    - At-large Board Members
      - Eli Brody
      - Lynn Cardiff
      - Gary Pullman
      - Ken Gettys

- Proposed Amendment to NESCA By-Laws originally posted with NESCA meeting minutes of 9/21/21 and which will be voted on in November. It should be noted that this change is preemptive and not in response to any issue:
  - **Draft Provision dated 9/20/2021 to replace NESCA By-Law Article VII, Section 3, Sub D:**
    - “The Executive Board may remove an individual member of the Executive Board by a simple majority vote at a noticed meeting. Any member of the Executive Board may move to remove a member from the Executive Board. To remove a member, the Executive Board must find that the member advocated, supported, or took part in an action that violates a law or regulatory requirement; harassed or threatened others; made verbal or written agreements, committed funds, or took any other action to represent NESCA without prior authorization by the Executive Board; used their affiliation with NESCA for personal benefit, or when the Executive Board deems that removal of the member is in the best interest of NESCA. The Executive Board must present evidence of the member’s violation of this article at the meeting and offer the member an opportunity to refute the presented evidence. Any person removed from the Executive Board for cause will not be allowed to serve on the Executive Board or any NESCA committee for one calendar year. “

There being no further business, Mike Beringer, Chair, thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM. **The next scheduled NESCA meeting will be held via ZOOM, November 16th, 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\*, Gary Pullman\*, Ian Johnson, Lucy Beringer, Jim Lupoli, Ken Gettys, Sgt. Grant David Salem PD, Chris Hoy City Councilor, Virginia Stapleton City Councilor, Jake Snell City of Salem Parks, Ron Halter Lancaster Gardens Senior Apartments, Kari Hornaday, Diane Sangster, John Sangster

\*NESCA Board Members

**The City of Salem has issued a news bulletin (10/20/21) from the National Weather Service:**

Nearly 2” of rain is expected by Saturday (10/23) and another 2-3” next week. With fall leaves beginning to drop, now is the time to check the storm drains near your home for any debris that might block stormwater, causing puddles or flooding. You can help the City and your neighbors prevent street flooding by keeping those drains free of clogs.

