

Northeast Neighbors, NEN, board meeting

Minutes October 12, 2021

Board Members Present: Lynn Takata, Ken Simila, Jeremy Mills, Delana Beaton, Joan Lloyd, Leslie Polson, Lainy Kruger, Laura Buhl, Cindy Kimball, Ken Houghton, Jacqueline Schindele (by phone) Ten guests also attended.

Meeting opened by Chair Lynn Takata at 6:30 on Zoom.

Minutes of September 14, 2021 approved unanimously.

Sergeant Dawson of the Salem Police Department announced that Chief Womack is seeking public feedback on the Salem Police Department Strategic Plan.

Laura Buhl, NEN Land Use Co-chair gave a presentation on traffic safety and **Vision Zero**. Vision Zero is the idea that a city should have no fatalities on our roads. It started in Sweden. For example, in Oslo during a recent year there were no traffic deaths. Can we even envision that here? Vision Zero is multi-disciplinary. Another effort called **20 is Plenty** is compatible. 20 is Plenty works to limit speed in residential areas to 20 miles per hour. Vision Zero has developed clear steps.

Step One is for a community to set clear goals of eliminating traffic deaths – pedestrian, cyclist, motorist.

Step Two is for city leaders – mayor, manager, and city council to make strong commitment to achieve Step One.

Then implementation of policies proven to help achieve the goal. Street trees slow traffic. Bike lanes slow traffic. Road diets slow traffic. Vision Zero Network.org offers more information. Laura suggests letters to the mayor, city manager and city council in support of Vision Zero. **Lynn Takata** suggested at the December meeting of NEN when goals are reconsidered, that perhaps Vision Zero could be added/adopted by the board. An adopted goal with a committee and a lead.

Action Item: Laura moved NEN actively support the 20 is Plenty movement which works to limit speed in residential areas to 20 mph. Cindy seconded. Unanimously approved.

Action Item: Regarding protection of city trees, there is strong board support for a development code to protect trees over 30 inches in diameter. Agreed that critical root zone would be protected from soil compaction of heavy equipment. **Cindy Kimball** moved and **Joan Lloyd** seconded that NEN send a letter in support of the city staff recommendations and the position of the urban forester, and also to extend protection to Douglas fir trees. This motion carried with nine (9) yea and one (1) nay vote.

City Council report was given by Councilor **Virginia Stapleton**. She summarized the city council meeting of last evening, Oct. 11. She also announced that a Transportation Bond will be presented soon. She announced that the Council will soon have a work session on the Our Salem Plan, a comprehensive planning effort.

Action Item: Ken Houghton moved and **Cindy Kimball** seconded that the board reimburse Lynn Takata for an amount up to \$150 for paying to continue the NEN Zoom account for another year. This motion passed unanimously.

Announcements: Jeremy Mills reported that there will be a creek cleanup work session every first Saturday beginning at 9:00 AM. **Ken Simila** announced a tour of the newly remodeled North Salem High School this coming Wednesday beginning at 3:00 PM. Please enter at west side entrance.

Meeting **adjourned** at 8:25. Next scheduled meeting Tuesday, November 9 on Zoom at 6:30 PM. Guests always welcome.