

Northeast Neighbors, NEN, Minutes for November 9, 2021

Meeting convened 6:35 by Chair, Lynn Takata

Board members present: Jacqueline Schindele, Leslie Polson, Lynn Takata, Nick Cantonwine, Lainy Kruger, Laura Buhl, Ken Houghton, Ken Simila, Jeremy Mills, Delana Beaton

Minutes of October 12 meeting approved. **Jeremy Mills** moves, **Ken Simila** seconds.

Councilor Virginia Stapleton gave report from Salem City Council. She commented on the benefits of funding coming from the federal government to address transportation needs.

Regarding housing of our homeless, Ms. Stapleton announced Nov 18 as target date for the opening of Yaquina Hall offering housing for 51 people. She said currently 130 people living in their vehicles are on the waiting list for approved safe overnight parking. Restrooms and trash collection capacity will be needed at each approved site. She said the conversation is again open re the sobering center and that RFP may be released in January. She announced that volunteers are needed for the warming centers throughout the winter months. She announced that the head librarian of the Salem Public Library has resigned. She announced plans for a general obligation bond being considered. Councilor Stapleton mentioned the need for volunteers to serve on several city boards and commissions. She announced Nov 20 and Dec 11 as dates for free leaf haul drops at Brown's landfill. Dec 6 Council will consider proposals for redrawing of city ward boundaries. Councilor Stapleton commented about possible program for public art at intersections.

Invited **guest speakers** were **Principal Dustin Purnell** of Parrish Middle School and **Principal Gary Eschemendy** of Englewood Elementary. Principal of North Salem High unable to attend due to happy duty of accompanying the NSHS soccer team to the state playoffs. Go Vikings!

Principal Eschemendy described Englewood as a Kindergarten through grade five elementary. It is a Title I school. 75% of students are on free or reduced lunch schedule. Due to additional teachers added to staff, currently primary grade class sizes are held to fifteen students. Fifth graders did have an outdoor school experience. Over 11 thousand dollars were raised through the jog-a-thon. An alum donated a free pumpkin for each student. Due to COVID restrictions, Englewood is currently unable to admit volunteers to serve.

Principal Purnell discussed the major construction currently underway at Parrish. It is scheduled to be completed in August 2022. Science classrooms will be added and upgraded. Parrish currently has a six period day class schedule and opens daily at 9:20 AM. They have a trimester plan. Enrichment Academy before and after school offers multiple activities.

For needs, Mr. Purnell mentioned substitute teachers, instructional assistants, custodial staff, groundskeepers, crossing guards, and classified staff substitutes.

Councilor Stapleton commented about the negative effects of noise pollution on learning and shown on achievement scores.

Announcements:

Gretchen Hughey from Evergreen Church spoke about offering “backstop food” in ziplock bags available to be taken home in backpacks.

Neighborhood Cleanup will be organized again in 2022. Republic Services has offered services equivalent to approximated \$1400 of pickup fees.

Our member **Leslie Polson** has been announced as the Oregon Substitute Teacher of the Year. Congratulations Leslie!!

Kevin Huttman spoke about possible additional parking spaces on enter street between 12th and 13th. **Councilor Stapleton** stated she prefers using this street space for bike lanes, working to connect other segments of bike lanes. **Lainy Kruger** suggested using all alleys for bike transportation. **Jacqueline Shindele** suggests using D Street as a bike route instead of Center.

The Board delayed discussion of email voting until the December meeting.

Lynn Takata announced there is now a six person board for the Englewood Forest Festival.

Action Item: Moved by **Jeremy Mills** and seconded by **Lainy Kruger** a motion to allocate \$300 for outreach and printing for the EFF. Passed unanimously.

Action Item: Election of Board members. Current board members Delana Beaton, Cindy Kimball, Lainy Kruger, and Jacqueline Schindele were up for re-election. Erin Grimm and Jenna Otto, long time active member of NEN tree committee, were two new candidates. All were elected/re-elected. Welcome new board members!

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM. Next scheduled NEN meeting December 14, 2021.