



## Northgate Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes: 7:00 pm – 8:16 pm, 10/9/18

**Board Members Present:** Amador Aguilar, Hazel Niles, Jeanne Pack, Frank Pack, Pedro Mayoral, Marlayne Madison, Crystal Niles-Williams

**Absent:** Jason Pack, Chelsie Anderson, Katya Goloviznina, Leslie Caudillo

**New Officers Voted In:** Frank Pack voted in as Chair, Amador Aguilar voted in as Vice Chair. Votes were unanimous.

**City Staff in Attendance:** Brady Rogers, Neighborhood Division Administrator, Irma Dowd, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Jessica Preis, Neighborhood Partnership Coordinator, Kerry Mayhew, Salem Leadership Foundation Coordinator, Toni Whitler, Salem City Parks Planning.

**Meeting started promptly at 7 pm** and was led by Brady Rogers, City of Salem Neighborhood Division Administrator.

**Received Salem Police report by Officer Horton**, who has been on the force for 1-1/2 years. He also said that Salem is looking to hire new officers. Officer Horton cleared up a rumor that there were kidnappings happening at the Lancaster Mall. This was all a myth and fabrication.

He also stated that there is a little more gang activity and that graffiti is being done more often in the area. We are told to report any graffiti to the non-emergency police line, so they can keep a record of activity. Cars are easily stolen when left running in a driveway to warm up while the driver is in the home. Do not leave cars running and unattended. The most often stolen cars are Honda Civic Accord mid 1990's. Donut shop that had someone crash into had one injury and no death.

**Ward 5 City Councilor, Matt Ausec** spoke about the Revenue Committee Strategic Plan. They have designed a buffer built into the plan. The city expenses are growing faster than revenue so they are working on how to increase revenue to pay for these services. Mr. Ausec also announced that there are still many openings on commissions for volunteers to join.

**PLEASE GO TO CITY OF SALEM WEBPAGE TO CHECK OUT THE OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER.**

Our new police station will be breaking ground on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon for those that would like to enjoy the celebration.

**Guest Speaker, Mayor Chuck Bennett:** The mayor announced that the council had passed a 3% rate increase on water. This will be per year to keep up with what is needed to keep the water safe and clean for the public and the system maintained.

The city and private programs work together to help low income, elderly and those that are sick to get help if they are unable to pay the water bill. Please contact the City of Salem, Customer Services at 503-588-6099 when you know you are going to have a problem and before your water has a late payment due.

**Urban Renewal project in NE Salem** has invested millions to upgrade this area. This project has businesses also investing in updating their current businesses.

The mayor said there will be a new dairy and cheese factory, Ochoa Cheese, that has a retail shop that sells ice cream on the south front side of the new Cornerstone Apartments. This business is moving from Albany. They will bring approx. **30 jobs to the area.**

The city has also invested in the **Career and Technical School** to give those students who want to be trained for a technical career that opportunity.

The sign introducing citizens and guests to entering Salem located on 99E and Verde Street is worn and needs to be addressed on whether to refurbish the sign or replace the sign.

The mayor talked about how the sign was part of project by the Salem Master Gardeners organization years ago. These many years later the sign that introduces new people to Salem needs to either be refurbished or replaced and it will be up to the community on what they feel would be the best way to display this welcoming sign.

The City of Salem had a group in Portland do a study of public satisfaction of citizens in Salem and it turned out very good. 91% of the public are very satisfied or satisfied with living in Salem.

The mayor said he must look at various new taxes to consider and bring to the public on how to pay for the increasing costs burdening the city.

**Warming Centers:** The city is working on several locations of warming centers. The temperature for opening the warming centers has now increased from 27 degrees to 32 degrees. The Cherriot is giving homeless citizens a ride to these centers on very cold days with designated areas to catch a bus.

**Toni Whitler, Salem Parks Planning:** Northgate Neighborhood Association is one of the largest areas covered by any association. Salem Park Improvement Fund has money available for adding requested improvements to a park and as an example a bike rack. We discussed permanent bathrooms, but they are too costly to put in any of the parks at this time. One bathroom installed was \$275,000 and was delivered pre-built and dropped into the space.

Temporary toilets must be emptied and cleaned on a regular basis which needs funds and labor to maintain.

Neighborhood Parks are approx. 1/2 mile in size and walkable. They close at 10 PM.

Community parks are larger and approx. 3 miles in size and close at midnight. These parks hold sports events.

Northgate does not have an urban park at this time, but the city has purchased 45-acre property to develop into a park. This property is located on Hazel Green just east of Cordon Road.

- **Minutes of June and September meeting were approved with correction:** Crystal Niles-Williams had been listed as a guest. This was corrected and part of the community and member of Northgate Neighborhood Association.

**Meeting closed: 8:15 PM**

**NEXT NORTHGATE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING:  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018 @ 7:00PM**

**Hee Hee Illahee RV Resort Clubhouse  
4751 Astoria Street NE**

**LINKS: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/salem-police-station.aspx>.**