



# Northgate Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes: 6:05 pm – 7:42 pm, 10/17/2019

Absent from meeting were: Amador Aguilar, Vice Chair, Ward #5 City Councilor, Matt Ausec

Minutes of September 19, 2019 were passed.

**Chair: Pennie Morley**, opened the meeting with the introduction of the four representatives of the Salem Cricket Club. They had come to the meeting with photographs of the items they wanted to purchase for the park and discussed their plans to hold training clinics for those interested in learning this sport. Their grant application would include money for some new equipment and bleachers.

The Stephens-Yoshikai Park is located between Stephens Middle School and Yoshikai Elementary School.

NGNA vote approved the Cricket Club to move forward with the Park grant application.

**Mark Bectel, AICP, Public Works Operations Manager:** The current "Welcome to Salem" sign is forty years old. This unique hand carved, hand painted sign includes some scroll work on the skyline.

The city has worked to find craftsmen that would be willing to refurbish this sign, but it was determined by the city that this was not possible to achieve.

The Northgate Advisory Board stated that a new and modern design was now needed. The requirements were that a sign which was easy to maintain, vandal resistant, proper concealed lighting, ground cover that hinders homeless camping, and a very rich northwest feeling was required.

**Kaethe Mentrum, professional artist, NGNA Committee Leader for Sign Design:** Kaethe explained the design she has been working on over several months. This design has a dimensional metal fabricated sign which includes the Oregon Evergreen Trees, Meadow Lark birds flying out of the Oregon Grapes, Salmon swimming upstream to spawn were part of this new design. All the elements of the design representing the State of Oregon and stated her independent nature. The design included ideas for ground cover and elements that could be added. Kaethe is assisted by her husband, Bayard, who is an architect, for the needed design. The design included of spot lights directed on each of the top parts of the sign directly on the birds. The design also included a lighting strip which would wash down over the rest of the sign.

**Marlayne Madison, Secretary of NGNA:** Read a printed short history of the early Oregon settlers that encompasses the inspiration to the artist, Kaethe Mentrum, used to develop the sign design. This history would be mounted separately for those interested in reading the history of the sign.

**Randy Kelley, metal fabricator and artist:** Stood up to introduce himself and explain how a metal design is made and colored. How each piece is made separately.

The NGNA voted overwhelmingly to pass Kaethe Mentrum's design for the new Welcome Sign. The Mark Bectel was very pleased with the design and said he would take photos of the markup and go back to the city to share and discuss the project. It will then go before the City Council for a vote of acceptance and the NGNA will be in attendance that day.

**Marlayne Madison:** Gave report on what is happening with the parking problem at the Claxter Apartments. The person in charge of this issue is on vacation so on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October this topic be addressed by the person in charge of city parking in this area. The NGNA will be informed of what the parking division of the city does with parking in this area.

**Kelley Bence:** spoke on their new business plan changes which involve changing their medical marijuana company to a recreational plant. This was just keeping the NGNA informed of that information.

**Pennie Morley, Chair:** On Make-a-Difference Day; Volunteering in the park to help Amador clean up the garden area. The Chair encourages people on an individual level to do something for a neighbor or someone that needs yardwork down, keeping leaves out of the gutters and volunteering in some way to make the community more livable.

**Sherri Stennitt, Treasurer:** Suggested that NGNA create a children's library at the Cornerstone Apartments. They give us the opportunity to use their Community room for our meetings and we would like to give back to the organization and its residents by setting up a library for children.

**The meeting adjourned at 7:42PM/Next meeting November 21<sup>st</sup>**

**\*Spanish interpreter will be present.**

**\*Intérprete en español estará presente.**

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