



Northgate Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes for 01/16/2020

Time: 6:00pm - 7:29pm

Board Members Present: Pennie Morley, Amador Aguilar, Frank Pack, Jeanne Pack, David Wilbourn, Kelly Bence, Bayard Mentrum, Kaethe Mentrum, Ramona Gillett, Tony Zitzelberger, Sherri Stinnett, Marlayne Madison

Absent: Pedro Mayoral

Meeting Opened at 6:00 pm with Pennie Morley, Chair, opening with introductions of those present at the meeting. Twenty neighbors present at the meeting.

First Speaker: Carol Snyder, Salem Parks Foundation: The Parks Foundation has held in its account funds designated for Northgate area the total of \$135 which was originally donated for a dog park which would be located in the Lansing Park. The City of Salem said that area in Lansing Park could not be used as a dog park as it was created as a flood zone which collects high water protecting water from running into the housing area of the community in case of heavy rain that which could create flood conditions in that neighborhood. This money is held for the Northgate area and Northgate Park also can request these funds.

There was a Lansing dedication to the three teen girls that lost their lives.

Snyder said she is available to assist in the grant that is available for parks if we need assistance for our new plans for Northgate Park.

Second Speaker, Brandi Dalton/Land Use Planner/Kale Housing Development. Rachael, Engineering:

There is a new subdivision which has been approved by the city in 2007. It will be a 324 unit apartment complex with several play areas, swimming pool and other amenities for the residence of this complex. The city is also planning a future park in this area. The complex is going to go above the requirements of the city for parking and placing it at 1.80 cars per unit. The complex will have studio, one, two and three bedroom units. The rent will be what the market requires and not low income. The school board was part of the process early on but decided that this was not an area they wanted a new school at this time and pulled out of the planning.

The School Board contracts with U of O students to do the analyses of the need for a new school. The students do an evaluation of how many students can come into existing schools. This is the school board concern and not with the city.

The citizens and Neighborhood Associations who are concerned with overcrowding in the schools need to attend the School Board meetings and ask questions of the School Board.

The city is working on improving the the roads in this area to accommodate this new development. New turn out lanes and lights will be designed.

The city Planning Commission will have a meeting on January 28, 2020. This meeting is open to the public.

This project has an aggressive completion date of the summer of 2021. The name will be North Star Apartments.

Third Speaker, Matt Ausec, Ward #5 City of Salem Councilor: The City Council has discuss unsheltered persons and what ways are available to house them. We are looking at the vehicle camping from the model that is used by Eugene. We are also increasing the space in the women's shelter from 10 spaces to 19 spaces. We have a work session on January 21st and another session on this topic on the 27th at which time we hope to have some temporary solutions. That does not help the emergency situation facing Salem now. Proposals and discussions are still in the works. City Council is working with the Governors office to trying to get funding to get the money in this short legislative session. We must wait to see if they take up this issue.

Also, at one of the Council meetings we had a declaration of an emergency in regards to the homeless crisis, People started asking if FEMA was involved. The cities declaration of an emergency has nothing to do with FEMA.

The State Hospital grounds to build low income housing has been a struggle. The state decided to give us the land but the land still needs to be divided. We had federal grant but it expired. Long term plans for low income housing are 3-5 years out.

The city is revising city building codes as they need to be cleaned up and updated periodically. Also, this can help clean the language of the document up and make it an easier process for building low income housing. Growth boundaries were also discussed.

Frank Pack, Chair of Land Use, gives report: Frank reminded attendees that CERT training was starting. He read from his cellphone parts of notices he had received in his email. 3100 Watson Dr., will be divided into three lots.

Marlayne Madison, Secretary, Chair of Parks, give report: Kaethe Mentrum and I met with Jennifer Kellar, City Parks Operations Director and Jake, Maintenance Director on Northgate Parks Improvement. Sherri Stinnett had suggested we look into having high school art students working on large boards that could be erected in the Northgate park at a visual attraction and to maybe keep graffiti from covering the boards. The city representatives said they had tried that but it turned out to not be beneficial choice. The city was willing to put up boards in the park and anyone could paint them, but we would

have to have rules to how the boards could be used. They would not be permanent artwork and would occasionally be painted over. This would mean that citizens would have to go through the park and if they noticed appropriate art they would need to report it and it would be covered over. This could create more of a problem than it is worth.

The city will be places desperately needed picnic tables in the park and benches when the weather is better. We are grateful to the city for this help in making the park more useful for families.

Kaethe explained her idea of a Kiddie Tot (2-5 year old's) Nature Play Area Design in an area of the park that seemed well suited for this type of play structure. The city will need to come out and see if the space is sufficient for the play equipment, what styles will pass for a vote by the NGNA and what material can be used for this project. It was suggested that it will take about two years to complete this project and that we should put in for two different grants at this time. We have two years to use the grant money once it is approved and funded.

The city liked the idea of the nature play structure for the little tots. This will be a long process but worth it.

Next the discussion was on the Peace Garden and the replacement of the memorial plaque that was destroyed. The Peace Garden has not turned out to be the beautiful place we had hoped for. The NGNA is rallied to help clean up the garden in the Spring and it seems few people the garden was intended for come to clean up this garden area. When the garden is planted it is not kept up with and it does not seem to be the place that was envisioned it to be.

The Capes meeting which met on this day at noon I brought up my concerns on the garden and that we were working on having a new plaque made as the original plaque which represented the death of the young man, Montez Bailey by Lorenzo Garcia-Ceja in 2009.

The plaque originally had words of colors of tolerance and forgiveness. We cannot tolerate violence in and fashion and using words like "color of tolerance" are wrong. Better words are courage, unity, and compassion.

Then a member of CAPES, Ms. Flora Morales spoke of being in a gang when young and how her brother was in a gang and now is a good father and family man. She passionately explained how places a new plaque would just give the rival gang another reason to smash it. The garden and the plaque represent the old anger that has embroiled the gangs against each other. She suggested that we change the "Peace Park", which seems to not bring peace, to a family area where there could be a concrete slab and covered picnic tables where families could have birthday celebrations and other get-together for different events and neighbors could start new and put the past behind them.

She said it wasn't the garden that brought anger but the entire area because it represented what one side thought was the city taking sides.

Amador said he was confused and had to think about this as he has worked on the garden area for four years. Foodshare was working with him in creating a garden space.

Frank Pack stated that if the gangs do not like what is in the park then they can stay out of the park . Marlayne responded that all people in the area, gang members, homeless, citizens of the area have a right to use the park. Frank stated the meeting was over and stood to leave the building.

Pennie, Chairperson, said the meeting was not over and we had some other business to finish. The Chairperson stated that we will table the discussion on the Peace Garden and memorial plaque until the next meeting.

Pennie said we needed to approve the November minutes. Marlayne made a motion for the November minutes to be approved. Sherri Stinnett seconded the motion. We assumed the minutes were passed in the chaos of the meeting, but did not have a vote.

****PLEASE NOTE: Minutes for November 2019 meeting being carried forward to the February meeting.***

Northgate Neighborhood Association is now looking for a new location to meet for the third Thursday of every month.

Adjourned at 7:29 PM

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***Spanish interpreter will be present.**

***Intérprete en español estará presente.**