



Minutes of the Zoom Meeting #2
Of
Northgate Neighborhood Association (NGNA)
on
Thursday, November 19, 2020

The meeting started a little after 6 pm. This was the 2nd Zoom meeting for NGNA.

NGNA Board Attendees were Bayard Mentrum (Chair), Kaethe Mentrum (Secretary/Park Chair), Flora Morales (Community Liaison Chair), Tony Zitzelberger and Wendy Zitzelberger.

Guest Attendees were: LT. Jason VanMeter; Code Compliance Officer Nelson Morales; Highland Chair, Geoff Darling; MWVAA ARCHES, Lindsay Dent; MWVAA Robert Marshall; City of Salem Human Rights & Federal Compliance Manager, Gretchen Bennett; City of Salem, Urban Development Program Manager, Seth Lenaerts; Neighbors Becca S., Joanne B., Cheryl G. Owner of Simple Box, Ross Black; Mr. Black's Attorney, Margaret Gander-Vo; and Special Zoom Helper and City of Salem Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Irma Dowd.

NGNA Absent board members were: Marlayne Madison, Tom Madison (had prior schedule conflict), Pennie Morley (could not get into zoom) and Don Jensen, Land Use Chair.

1. Bayard Mentrum opened and welcomed everyone present. He called the meeting to begin and the following items were discussed. Kaethe welcomed Geoff Darling, Highland's Chair who observed.
2. Salem Police Lieutenant Jason Van Meter informed us about the new police facility where they are trying to organize. The current police quarters are at 555 Liberty St. Salem Police provides law enforcement and public safety services to the community. He said starting on this date, there will be a two week freeze on tours for the community members. He is working from home except for the patrol officers. He said some commented on the beautiful new department. He said nothing much to report on Northgate. The new building at 333 Division St NE will be open to the public by January 2021. LT. VanMeter welcomes anyone to contact him directly with policing questions or concerns.
3. From Officer Nelson Morales. Due to Zoom problems, Kaethe asked Mr. Morales to write the gist of what he spoke, and this is what he said:

"I introduced myself and welcomed newcomers, thanked the new board members for stepping up to the plate on an effort to a better neighborhood, kudos to Irma for all her work and assistance, Flora for passing the flyers. I advised that we are under COVID contact limitations, but we are still effective and can usually attain results. I also advised of our phone mainline (503-588-6421) and a link on the web (<https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/report-neighborhood-problems.aspx>) to file a complaint about neighborhood code violations.

I gave my productivity report from March until the present time as follows: 276 cases, 220 hours spent on the neighborhood, 13 towed vehicles, complaints varied from parking, RV habitation, junk and waste, illegal business and lots of transient related calls. Ninety-four of these calls came from citizens calls, 85 on the web, 11 officer initiated, 73 came from the Police Department and 13 from other agencies. I noted that online reporting is on the rise and encouraged them to continue to do so.

I ended up my portion by stating that we are here to help, in some cases I can refer issues to other parties of interest, and that I was excited and welcome the opportunity to work together in the near future. Meanwhile, I also advised the board to take some time to learn about the position and its responsibilities, capabilities and limitations, I welcomed them to being part of the solution."

Officer Morales, (503) 589-2070, nmorales@cityofsalem.net

4. 2640 Portland Road NE, Homeless Shelter:
 - a) Gretchen Bennett from the city said they are at work addressing homelessness, have approximately 1500 persons in our region who are experiencing homelessness, and there are about 200 shelter beds currently. About 200 others stay in vehicles, leaving about 1,100 persons in parks, streets and sidewalks.
The City acquired the building and it will be leased to the Community Action Agency for 18 months, not longer.
 - b) Lindsey Dent, MVWCAA, ARCHES, said there will be seniors of over 65 years and the most vulnerable placed at this shelter. For example, diabetics, people with chronic diseases. Each will receive a space of 8'x10' and plastic partitions for privacy.
When asked if they can keep the homeless from throwing tarp, towels, etc.to dry over the fence, Lindsey replied they will do what they can but cannot be responsible for everything. When Kaethe asked if they have a washer and dryer, she said they will take them to a facility to do their laundry.
 - c) Robert Marshall, showed the layout of how the homeless people will be placed within the compound, i.e. where the tents and RVs will be laid out. He also said a black tarp will cover the fence.
Bus transportation to be available to different churches for daytime to stay warm or to do laundry work.

5. 5213 Portland Road NE, Containers on property:
 - a) Margaret Gander-Vo, Lawyer for Ross Black, Owner of this property, introduced herself and Ross Black.
 - b) Ross showed slides of some photographs of his family and how his father was responsible for teaching him and sticking with him throughout the process. He showed this is a family affair and he lives in WA state.
 - a) He also showed a plan with landscape that indicated where things were going to be laid out. At one point, Bayard asked if Ross was planning on planting arbor vitae in front of the cyclone fence with plastic slats, Ross said he will rather plant Laurel Hedge due to its hardiness.
 - b) Kaethe then informed they drove up to this property earlier and noticed there was a single-family house on their south side. She asked Ross if that was his property. He responded No. To that, Kaethe asked if it is

possible to plant the same hedges at the side facing the house, at his side of the property for their privacy. Ross said he will do that. He also said he has consulted with the nursery next door and he will come up with a plant that is local, hardy and needs not much care, yet grow tall. He mentioned Laurel Hedge again.

- c) Bayard suggested a drip system.
- d) Joanne(neighbor) asked about the traffic increase, specifically semi-trucks. She was told there would be something like 20 for the entire day and that there would be a traffic study completed as part of the zone change request.
- e) Kaethe asked what the temperature inside the office will be on a given summer day of 84 -90 degrees Fahrenheit and if it is insulated. Ross replied it is insulated with sprayed on insulation and fiber glass batt insulation over that. He said it is, therefore, comfortable.
- f) Kaethe asked if he is thinking of hiring locals. Ross said he already hired three locals so far.
- g) Seth Lenaerts from the City's Economic Development Division suggested Ross Black contact their office to see if there are any incentives or programs they could access. This could happen if Ross applies.
- h) They are planning to apply for their permit to change the code from commercial to commercial/industrial.
- i) At one time, Flora asked if he might be interested to become a NGNA member and he said he doesn't live here. Kaethe told him so long as he has his business in Northgate, he can become a member and invited him to become a board member.

6. Committee Reports:

- a. Don Jensen, Land Use Chair was absent.
- b. Flora Morales, Community Liaison:
Flora mentioned when she tried to follow up by phone calls to where she left the flyers, people hung up on her, told her off. A few people are not interested at all. Kaethe said she heard from Marlayne that Roth Grocery Store has been more welcoming to NGNA so we should approach them. Kaethe said she will go with Flora if she wants. Flora also said she will try some of the schools in the area. She mentioned some local names of schools and churches she wishes to approach.
- c. Kaethe Mentrum, Park Chair:
 - aa. Signs – The Park entry sign has been cleaned up after some requests to the city. However, Parks Operation said they will be replacing three of them with new ones. We don't know when that will happen.
 - bb. We have asked City Parks to make the park hour signs uniform. They have not yet done so.
 - cc. As you know, the community put additional lighting at the path as second priority in the survey. Kaethe was told due to rain the ground will be too soggy for the big PGE trucks to come in and ruin the ground so this will have to wait until next summer.
 - dd. Since there is no dog mitt receptacle at the se entryway, the city park added a sign which tells people to pick up after their dogs.
 - ee. The City indicated a No Drug sign cannot be installed. Smoking of any kind is prohibited at all Salem parks. Marijuana smoking is therefore illegal. They do have No Smoking signs posted around.
 - ff. Kaethe requested the basketball and tennis courts to have a makeover. They have repainted the new paving with lines. Park Operations said they intend to replace old basketball boards and get a new tennis court net at another time.
 - gg. A new water fountain has been added close to the SW entrance.

- hh. As for soccer, Operations made the new mowing clean and neat and no more left-over grass was seen earlier today. Now it can be used as practice place for soccer, frisbee throwing or anything else.
- ii. A small free library kiosk shaped like a small house has been added at the entryway of SW side.
- jj. Kaethe was told next year, Friend of Trees will be having a tree planting event. They will be bringing in the trees to be planted by volunteers. Park Operations will inform us more in detail prior to the event.
- kk. On the newer kids' playground, there were more additions made. They will replace the section of the broken-down bridge with something else. It is boarded up. (11/22 the boards were removed and left blank so kids could fall off and Jake will be alerted.)
- ll. Our Letter of Intent for SPIF grant for free standing play equipment added to the existing playground has been accepted by Park Operations. We now will have to wait for them to approach us which could take until Dec. 31st. Then we need to make the application by January 31st, 2021.
We would like two bouncy riders for ages 2-5 added. The City can order matching colors too. Rob Romanek, our City Park Planner already talked in detail about this in our September meeting. One of the neighbors mentioned someone took down the two plywood boards that helped to block kids from falling out of the two large holes made from the removed moving bridge in the playground. Now it is a hazard for the kids*

7. Bayard said Hannah and Rian Rasubala had a schedule conflict and could not attend.

8. Bayard asked if there were any neighborhood concerns and no one answered.

The meeting adjourned at around 7:35 pm.

Note: Through an email vote by board members which lasted between November 16 through the 18th, 2020, (board members being Pennie, Don, Flora, Marlayne, Tom, Tony) the Minutes of November 4th Zoom Meeting No. 1 was approved.

* (on 11/22/20 Kaethe asked the maintenance director to take care of it asap).