



Minutes of the Zoom Meeting #4
Of
Northgate Neighborhood Association (NGNA)
on
Thursday, February 18, 2021

NGNA Executive Board Attendees: Bayard Mentrum (Chair), Don Jensen (Land Use Chair), Kaethe Mentrum (Secretary/Park Chair).

General Board Member Attendees: Pennie Morley, Marlayne Madison, Thomas Madison

Also attended: Our Councilor Jose Gonzalez, Louise Whitehead and Rebecca Strieper

Absentees: Flora Morales (Community Liaison Chair), Tony Zitzelberger and Wendy Zitzelberger, (General Board Members with explanations why they could not be at the meeting).

Guest Attendees: Jessica Brenden, Nicole Utz

Absent Guests: LT. Jason VanMeter, Police Officer; Code Compliance Officer Nelson Morales (they were unable to come into zoom for some reason. This also goes for Irma Dowd, City of Salem Neighborhood Services Coordinator, who could not get in either)

Another couple Rian and Hannah Rasubala also could not come into the zoom although they said they tried. Jessie Cruz also had trouble getting in.

Ross Black, owner of Simple Box was invited too but his assistant mentioned later they wish to join in for the March meeting.

1. Bayard started the meeting a little after 6 p.m. He welcomed everyone present. He called the meeting to begin. Self-introductions were made.

2. Guest speaker Jessica Brenden informed everyone about the participation of the students at Hallman Elementary School to exhibit a tree-themed art and hang them on the east fencing of Northgate Park on April 3rd around 1 p.m. for a couple of hours. Permission to hang from the owners of the fences have already been granted. She also said she will be able to bring student musicians and their families to come to play music for the newly planted saplings.

When asked about a canopy in case of rain, Marlayne said she can offer use of hers. She and Pennie said they can bring tables.

Jose Gonzalez, our Councilor mentioned the importance of collaboration of the association with community schools and this was a very important step towards a good relationship with the community.

3. The second guest speaker was Nicole Utz from Salem Housing Authority (SHA). She was extremely informative about all aspects of what SHA is doing for the vulnerable homeless. They continue to focus on apartment style buildings to maximize the number of units they can put on a piece of property. They are trying to get finances. They work with

City of Salem, Arches, developers and banks as US Bank for financing. Their tenants pay for their rent and can stay permanently if they wish. They also do transitional housing. One of their projects is Redwood Crossing and now trying to do another project. They mainly concentrate on the vulnerable type of people and have a long waiting list. When Pennie asked for a tour, Nicole suggested due to covid she can send a virtual tour.

4. Board Member and Committee Reports:

a) Land Use Chair Don Jensen mentioned his appreciation to Bayard and Kaethe Mentrum for doing a good job on Land Use cases in Northgate. He has been extremely busy and was not able to touch some of the matters that came up from time to time. When Pennie asked about the property on Portland Road NE by PGE, Don said the folks who own the property on Portland Rd are trying to remove the "homeless" from that area as the owners have it up for sale. They are trying to clean out the area as it is quite wooded. Don said there is a possible buyer interested in purchasing that property.

b) Community Outreach Flora Morales was absent.

c) Kaethe Mentrum made a report on what is happening at Northgate Park. Re tots' bouncy riders, we will get a result from City Parks for SPIF grant end of February. If accepted and we needed bark chips, Don mentioned he would most likely have a "source" for the needed wood chips for the tot park. Both Pennie and Marlayne offered ideas and places for fund raising. Lighting at NG Park pathway will not be fixed until summer. Re-paving of basketball and tennis courts have been made. On Saturday, April 3rd the event of tree Planting by Friends of Trees starts around 9 a.m. until about 1 p.m. at which time there will be an art exhibition of Hallman Elementary School and music by the students and their families. After that, Kaethe asked for **\$30 towards a carton of spring water bottles and it was voted in and approved by NGNA.**

5. Chair Report:

First, Bayard brought out the fact we needed one more vote for the marihuana facility to allow the property on 2282 Claxter Road NE to be used for heavy manufacture conditional use of cannabis. The reasons for approval was no residential houses around and 20 locals already working there. **We got the last vote for yes from Marlayne. So now this was approved by NGNA.**

Bayard also brought up the Fairgrounds matter for discussion. Marlayne said the unsheltered have not caused problems at the drug store where she works close to Fairgrounds so far.

Bayard asked which dates for another zoom meeting with the NA chairs (including Grant Assoc.) and their board members, and with NGNA board members. These wards represent the NE side of Salem. Except for Grant, each of these wards is being surrounded by Fairgrounds. **Wednesday February 24th at 6 p.m. was selected.**

6. Neighborhood Concerns:

Marlayne was saying the homeless population was increasing and the City is not doing anything about it. Jose Gonzalez then said the City will never get it completely handled and the unsheltered are only going to keep growing in numbers.

7. Just before the end, Kaethe Mentrum asked both Louise Whitehead and Rebecca Strieper if they would like to become NGNA board members and they both accepted. After that, **they were both voted in as our new general board members.** They were well received by the whole association.

The meeting adjourned just before 7:30 p.m.