



Minutes of the Zoom Meeting #7

Of

Northgate Neighborhood Association (NGNA)

on

Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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

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

Wendy Zitzelberger, Rebecca Strieper, Pedro Mayoral, Joanne Barnhart

Also attended: Nelson Morales, Code Compliance Officer; LT. Jason VanMeter, Police Officer; Rian and Hannah Rasubala

Absentees: Don Jensen (Land Use Chair) with excuse email, Flora Morales (Community Liaison Chair) without excuse email or phone, Jose Gonzalez (Our Councilor) without excuse email or phone, Delores Pigsley (guest speaker) who could not get in, Ross Black (who emailed later saying he was in the middle of a move) and Irma Dowd, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, City of Salem .

Guest Attendee: Tammi Starr

1. Bayard waited until around 6:17 p.m. to start the meeting as many people came in late. He welcomed everyone present and asked to introduce themselves.
2. **The Minutes of March 18, 2021 was approved. Pennie moved for a vote, seconded by Marlayne and everyone approved.**
3. a) Nelson Morales, Code Compliance Officer, started first due to Jason VanMeter coming in later. Nelson had already joined us earlier and offered to update us. He said he was still backed up with work from Nov until now. There was a lot of turmoil including fire, ice, fallen trees to clear, homeless conditions, but he is now starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel.
  - Marlayne asked a question about the City getting rid of garbage cans.
  - Bayard added in the stateman Journal there was an article about the city proposing to eliminate some trash cans downtown in the theory it would reduce trash. It didn't make sense and Nelson said he will find out as he has not yet heard about it.
  - Pennie mentioned Hawthorne with growing trash in ODOT's area. Nelson encouraged everyone to start calling and emailing these issues.
  - He mentioned Mr. Brady Rogers' retirement.

b) Police Officer Jason VanMeter joined us.

- He said theft is way up but not violent crime.
- They are on the alert at the capital and other places because of Chauvin's trial.
- When Jason said he could not identify people because of masks, Marlayne said people should be told to take them off.
- Bayard asked about State's new bills being voted on allowing homeless to camp on any state property.
- Bayard also said in Portland, they are trying to pay citizens and park rangers to fight crime and Jason did not know about it.
- Kaethe asked him about when we may meet with the gift for the police officers and he said he will adjust his time to ours.

4. Guest, Tammi Starrs is the Program Manager for the City of Salem's 5-Year Capital Improvement Program. She said they have a lot of money toward infrastructure and she talked about preparing a document as public needs to know about what was approved and done. She also said she will provide upcoming projects in the works. She said a lot of the infrastructure was for water and storm sewer lines. They get funding from a lot of different sources. They had urban renewal projects but nothing specific except pipes. When asked what's coming in Portland Road, she said nothing. Bayard asked if the money can be spent to give the homeless permanent homes. Tammi said she knew nothing and to ask Gretchen, who is in charge of the homeless population.

5. Board Member and Committee Reports:

a) Don Jensen was absent (with excused email) and there was nothing to report.

b) Community Outreach Flora Morales: Although she was absent from the meeting, Flora and committee were working on a letter to send to local businesses in the area and more will be presented at a later date. Flora had asked for input.

c) Park Chair, Kaethe Mentrum, reported as follows:

aa) Kaethe already had asked Jennifer Kellar, City Parks Director, for budget which is cost figures for both material and installation, as well as timeline for the two items, namely picnic table with benches and a bench which are to be placed close to the playground in Northgate Park for two families to watch their children.

The deadline for application to City Parks Foundation for grants is May 31st on this. Kaethe already scanned a copy of application to Jennifer Kellar for her approval and signature. That has to go to City Parks Foundation after that.

City Parks is very busy right now sweeping the parks of the unsheltered people.

bb) Kaethe has already emailed everyone snap shots of the April 3rd event. The gathering was minimal due to covid and we were asked by the permit dept to keep it as small as possible. But Hallman's Principal Jessica came up with about 30 artwork of her students. Louise's ukulele band made it very fun. It was too bad we didn't have more people to listen to such good music.

We were able to get some signatures from the people at the park on the canvas to be gifted to Salem Police. Once we have enough signatures, we intend to ask Officer Jason VanMeter to come to Northgate Park to present it there. At that time, we'd like to have as many members as possible for that event. Kaethe will keep you informed as to when.

5. Instead of Chair Report and Neighborhood Concerns, Bayard again took the time for discussions amongst the members present. Some brought up Market Street. There was a meeting on the day before and discussion was made about Market St after a person crossed the street and was killed. So someone at the meeting said we should shrink Market St. to one lane each way with wide bike lanes to reduce the chance of running over someone and having flashing lights put on for crosswalks. Bayard brought up the fact in Portland about Ms. Eudaly when she was Director of

Transportation. Her strategy placed was reducing major roads down to one lane each to reduce accidents and deaths. But actually it did the opposite and created more wrecks and deaths because drivers were frustrated and angry from traffic congestion during rush hour. Plus it created more air pollution.

Pennie said she found it frustrating that with all the money the state spent on improvements under I-5 overpass on Market St. and what we get is a lot of homeless folks living under it. They do run across the street and cause danger. She said we need our councilors to do something to fight the homeless problem.

**Pennie called the meeting to adjourn, seconded by Marlayne and all voted it to adjourn.**

The meeting adjourned about 7:25 p.m.