



Minutes of the Meeting
Of
November 18th, 2021 at Northgate Wesleyan Church Annex, Salem, OR

Executive Board Members Present: Bayard Mentrum, Chair; Flora Morales, Community Outreach; Kaethe Mentrum, Secretary/Park Chair

Board Members present: Pennie Morley; Becca Strieper; Jess Cruz; Mike Hoselton; Timothy Beck; Joann Barnhart; Ross Black

Member: Bill Berry

Absent with an excuse: Don Jensen, Land Use Chair

Absent without excuse: Pedro Morales

Absent City Liaison Coordinator: Irma Dowd

Present Speaker: Jose Gonzalez, Councilor

Present Guest Speakers: Jayne Downing, Sara Brennan and Marlina Compos from Center for Hope & Safety

Present Guest Speakers: Rob Kellar, Aaron Edelman from City of Salem (Water and Sewer Lines)

1. Bayard started the meeting at around 6:05 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
2. **Pennie moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 16th, 2021. It was seconded by Kaethe Mentrum. Everyone was in favor and the minutes was voted in.**
3. a. Jose Gonzalez, our Councilor, said when he drove around, he has seen homeless encampments here and there in Salem. He also talked about the one close to the KROC Center. He had a conversation with Timothy Beck online who had precise information about it.
Our Councilor asked if anyone knows of any candidates for the mayor's position.
Jose also talked about land use. He said we need more affordable housing. Since he is in the real estate business, he knew firsthand about how housing is so rare that if one became available for sale, he was getting so many calls from people who were increasing the asking prices, some offering to buy the site unseen and the phones wouldn't stop ringing. Bayard added the State is mandating that the City is no longer required to inform residents of residential areas if a duplex, triplex, quadplex or a cottage cluster which is 5 to 12 detached units, surrounded by common court yard, can be built next to them. In addition, no parking spaces are required and the only way to know if someone is developing next to you is to keep checking Salem's Permitting Records on line. Jose said it's coming.
- b. Jayne Downing was our guest speaker. She is Executive Director of Center for Hope & Safety (CHS). They have started bringing in a few people to their facility which used to be the Best Western Hotel, 4646 Portland Rd NE. CHS has been operating for 48 years in Marion and Polk Counties. They provide services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. They operate a 24-hour crisis line (in Spanish & English), emergency confidential shelter,

support groups (in Spanish & English in Salem & Woodburn), community education, outreach, housing, court advocacy, services in Department of Human Services offices, and much more.

They are putting in a lot of safety measures, including cameras throughout the property that will be monitored, iron rail fencing and gates that can only be accessed with a code. They are working on a laundry that will have 24-hour a day access on site. CHS will have staff on the property working with the families living there. The families they serve are usually very quiet. They are trying to rebuild their lives and CHS is helping them do so. The occupants will not be the same type of people who camp outside. They are mostly women and their children that reach out to CHS so they can begin their lives free of violence. While in CHS' care, these people are provided necessities as food, clothing, hygiene items, school supplies, etc. and they are not asked to leave during the day like other homeless shelters. The people in their care are focused on getting jobs and/or going to school and looking for permanent housing.

CHS was granted a total of about \$30 Million by the State, County, City.

c. Rob Kellar from City of Salem explained about the following:

- the sewer/water line replacement from Portland Road NE to Eva Ct. NE.
- A water line relocation near Harlan Dr NE. Sanitary sewer main installation from Harland Dr. NE to Lancaster Dr NE.
- Sanitary sewer pump station relocation from Marion County's right of way to 4493 Hayesville Dr. NE.
- Expected time of completion is December 2022.

4. Executive Board Member Reports:

a. Don Jensen has an excused absence. He is vacationing in Mexico.

b. Flora Morales, Community Outreach, said so far she has nothing to offer. She was busy taking care of the zoom aspect of the meeting.

c. Kaethe Mentrum, Park Chair, said:

Northgate Park: Salem Electric has added two more light poles close to the entrance on the south side.

Concreted bench is not yet placed.

Fisher Park: A City Parks Planner is expected to come to our January meeting to speak about this park and the others in detail. Kaethe asked in the SPIF grant to widen the soft trails from 1 ft. wide to about 4 ft. wide and for the trails to go through the newly bought extension of the wooded area. Also picnic tables to be placed in there if possible. These requests are pending City Parks approval.

Stephen Yoshikai Park : This park is city-owned and undeveloped, located between two schools. A cricket pitch is located in the center of the site. The baseball/softball fields are not on the park property; they are part of Adam Stephens Middle School.

This Park needs a master plan. The process of developing the plan will include consideration of off-street parking, accessible paths and play equipment. More information to be provided by City Parks Planner in January.

5. Bayard, Chair discussed about:

- the fact our Mayor Bennett will not be running for the next term. So far, they only have one candidate who is a self-claimed Democratic Socialist.
- Chinese Communist woman Saule Omarova whom President Biden selected as Financial Controller. She wrote an article America needs only one bank – The Federal Reserve. She is proposing to closedown private banks and have the government take over the US banking system. She is also proposing the government to control stocks, money market, interest rates and inflation, and to take private citizen's money out, if needed. The Republicans are trying to block her.
- The Siletz Indian casino they want to open in 2-4 years in Northgate. There are both pros and cons about this casino.
- **Bayard asked if we should take a break from meeting in December. Pennie made a motion to approve it and Kaethe seconded it. All was in favor. The vote passed.**
- Pennie suggested using the cannery for the homeless housing. Michael objected saying it is prime property. Pennie also suggested east of Cordon Road near the old prison. Kaethe said it is about the only place you can see

the horizon in Salem close to us. Pennie said we might have to give up on that idea for the homeless. **Writing a group letter to the officials was brought up. Pennie made a motion to table the group discussion until the meeting in January, 2022. Kaethe seconded it and all was in favor.**

Just before closing, Flora brought to everyone's attention Timothy Beck urgently talking via zoom about the increase in the homeless encampment at Claggett Creek.

Pennie moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kaethe and all was in favor.

The meeting adjourned around 7:25 p.m

The next meeting will be January 20th at 6 p.m.