

SESNA Minutes September 25, 2018

Attendance: Neighbors Marcia Hoak, Jeff Leach, Bill Smaldone, Tom Franco, Selesté Liyanage, Dave MacMillan, Arnaud Verstuyf, Darrin Brightman, Ken Jacobs; Tom Andersen, Salem City Counselor; Aric Wood, Alexandra Dass, Eden Farias, Danielle Meyer, Salem Human Rights Commission; Cpl. Rogers Smith, Lt. Jason Van Meter, Salem PD. Previous meeting minutes approved.

Announcements: (1) Thursday September 28 the Democratic Socialists of America and Our Revolution will be sponsoring a talk at Loucks Auditorium, 7 pm; (2) The Salem Train Depot is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year; (3) the new Greyhound bus station is now open and operating right next door to the train station.

Officers Report: It is quiet in SESNA, just the normal amount of misdemeanor offenses; quite a turn around over the past decade.

Neighbor Concerns: (1) There is an inordinate amount of garbage piling up under the Mission Street-14th Street overpass; since there are no apparent homeless camps nearby Ofc. Smith theorizes the overpass is a convenient pass-through and we are seeing what is being left behind. (2) The street light on the corner of 21st and Ferry is being shrouded by trees and little light is getting through. (3) The neighbor who lives on that corner is also concerned with recent negative interactions with the police. Neighbors will be looking into solutions for the light issue, police will look into other concerns.

Council Report: Global issues : Tom is concerned with (1) the vast global inequality of wealth, (2) a society that attempts to arrest its way out of “status crimes”, (3) Measure 105, (4) border issues, all which have an impact locally, solutions can be generated locally. (5) The Homeless Task Force is close to 80% of its goal of getting 100 homeless into housing; (6) the Congestion Task Force have final recommendation soon; (7) on October 8th an important issue regarding air b-n-b’s in historic areas will be coming before council; public comments welcomed.

Guests: There is some offensive signage on a property in the neighborhood; the message on the signs co-opts the “Black Lives Matter” movement, marginalizes the issue, and makes the neighborhood feel less welcoming; Human Rights Commission members offered their services, resources to get the signs removed.

Old Business: (1) Approved sending a letter supporting property purchase along Mill Creek for additional park, flood mitigation; (2) Aldrich Park Gazebo will be our SPIF grant recommendation.

New Business: (1) Discussed ideas for invites for organizations to join the Annual Meeting/ Neighborhood Open House; (2) approved sending a letter with suggestions for Our Salem, the next update to the Salem Comprehensive Plan.

Committees: Heritage; there will be a guide to SESNA architecture coming soon.

Adjourned 8:45