

Monthly public meeting - Minutes

Tue, June 23, 2020 from 7 p.m. till 8:30 p.m.

- 7 p.m. / Welcome – Arnaud, Bill, Darrin, Seleste, Darwin, Kirk and guest Nancy McDaniel from Northeast Neighbors neighborhood association (NEN).
- 7:20 p.m. / Guests
 - Tom Andersen: City Council updates
 - He sent an email saying he'd look into
 - COVID-19 and city response
 - Homeless progress
 - Changes to sidewalk ordinance – needs to ask about current status
 - Lack of progress on work on State St.
 - Support for owner-run businesses
 - Tom also indicated he was opposed to the commercial airline expansion effort currently underway and regards it as unsound, and that it will likely come back to council next year, at which time he expects to oppose it as he did in the recent vote on a funding application.
- 7:45 p.m. / Old business
 - Habitat for Humanity Land use application reply (letter) – Jeff sent an email comment indicating our agreement and city approved it.
 - Bike ride through the neighborhood with R. Milan Davis, the City's new Urban Forester (Jeff, William and Shannon, article) – Done – Bill, Jeff and Shannon met with him he said 230 trees were planted last year; he thinks that's way too little and will advocate for more. He said city would take care of watering new trees. He lives in SESNA, at 22nd & Mill. He has a revised list of acceptable trees and is flexible about when trees can be planted, when it's not hot or in a dry spell. Nancy suggested a look at the city's tree ordinances is in order, as they are out-of-date and could benefit greatly from updating.
 - Making improvements to Aldrich Park (Committee Parks, letter) – Got SSC \$1K for resurfacing. Asphalt slurry won't help with dips and holes in the surface, though. We will discuss further the notion of installing more permanent and suitable concrete basketball courts, which would be a complete replacement. We will bring it up with city people in the near future. As it is, the courts may be a liability for the city because they are unsafe, actually, and a simply slurry will not make them safer – the same, or new potholes will re-occur. On the backboard question, NEN has recently gotten quotes for backboards, so that cost element may have been established.
 - Turning the Geer Line into a neighborhood park (Committee Parks) requires the city designating it as a park. Will invite Patricia Farrell to discuss at next meeting to discuss that. Why not work with Davis to get Simpson median west of 25th planted? That would be a nice small park.
 - Opposing commercial flights at Salem Municipal Airport (Bill, letter) – Tom sees as a long shot – inertia seems bound to seek commercial service. Need to get a sense of new councilors on the subject. Study will happen, slow process is moving on...purely a political decision. The economics are sketchy, though, and may make it unfeasible. This issue goes back a long time. Studies were done but the city didn't listen. It's on a slow track and we should “keep our powder dry” and let it go as it will.
 - Hold meetings in the neighborhood parks for July and/or August? – In a poll, members felt the park being too loud was biggest concern. July will be a Zoom meeting, per a majority.
 - Presentation of new SESNA website (Committee Digital Assets) – A work in progress, Nancy saw a typo – neighbors...and it will be fixed, per Arnaud. Darrin has done a good

website in past years and it needs updating. What's there presently looks good.

- Remarks on bylaw revision proposal (Executive Board, Seleste, Darwin) Darrin saw some changes needing to be made. Arnaud worked on language. Seleste looked, saw most questions had appropriate response language. Kirk will talk with Irma this coming week regarding the Grant Agreement and the T&A account. We will vote on changes to the by-laws at our annual meeting later this year.
- Letter with NEN on lack of progress on work at State St (Bill, letter) A number of fuzzy exchanges between Laura Buell of NEN, Darrin and Shannon, and Eunice Kim produces information that there will be new pedestrian crossings (at 19th & 21st) are in the current Capital Improvement Plan for construction in 2024, and that there is no funding for any of the road diet fantasies the NEN and SESNA neighborhood associations identified as a top priority for State Street in 2016.
- On opening street space between 12th and 14th for restaurants, Fernandez response to our letter (and 21 pages of testimonial support) was they could petition city and pay for parking spaces they use. NEN will write a letter of support.
- 8.00 p.m. / New Business
 - Ambiguity on access to Richmond School Park – Signage is in error. Shannon was going to talk with school district. Mayor told Darrin to talk to the school board. Arnaud will work with Shannon on getting this more clear.
 - SESNA public stance on transparency and accountability for police departments – Bill spoke about DSA's interest. SRO controversy. School board blackface incident. Should SESNA take a position on these issues? Nancy suggested NA's might get together to look at the issues and determine if a position or positions should be taken. Some are advocating three-point plans that we may discuss in the future.
 - Letter to City Council on using public space for neighborhood restaurants (Darrin, letter) Done. Only response was letter from Fernandez.
 - Capitalauction.net request for support in acquiring a business license (#board, June 16) Arnaud will write a letter of qualified support and post on Slack for board approval.
 - Digital communication continuity (Committee Digital Assets) – skipped
- 8:15 p.m. / Committee and partner updates
 - Committee Beautification – More houses on Ford St are looking good; Seleste needs to connect with Marcia and any help from others is appreciated.
 - Committee Digital Assets
 - Improved communication with Slack?
 - Committee Flood Watch – nothing -- Stop the drought!
 - Committee Land Use
 - Outdated information on project Street Trees – Bill will talk with Jeff.
 - Committee Outreach and Business -- nada
 - Committee Parks -- nada
 - Committee Transportation -- nada
 - Liaison Capital Park Wesleyan Church – David's not here, so there's no update.
 - Liaison Schools – Shannon, also not present.
 - Liaison South Salem Connect – We got agreement for our \$1K allocation of T&A funds for the Aldrich Park basketball court resurfacing, funds we may apply to a full court rebuilding next year, in combination with a SPIF grant and much greater city support.

The meeting ended at 8:45pm.