

SESNA Annual meeting - Minutes

Tue, November 24, 2020 from 7 p.m. till 8:30 p.m.

- 7 p.m. / Welcome, approval of October minutes, additions to agenda
Attendees: Tom Andersen, Councilor, Milan Davis, Salem Arborist/Forester, Arnaud, Shannon, David M, Raquel Moore-Green, HD 19 Representative, Darrin, Bill, David T, Jason Van Meter, Salem Police, Selesté, Marcia. Kirk.
October minutes were approved, unanimously.
- 7:10 p.m. / Neighborhood concerns
None were reported.
- 7:20 p.m. / Guests and special topics

Tom Andersen: City Councilor, “state of the city” report; bring questions!
On State St, met with Ogilvie, and Eunice Kim who have seen our letter. He’ll send a letter supporting it soon, and requesting the crosswalks moved up on the CIP.

The climate action plan, CAP is happening with a couple of task force meetings being done, and Council has established goals of 50% less GHG in 2035 and carbon neutral by 2050. 2016 is base year.

Bill asked about a crosswalk, again, and Tom assured us our request is being heard. On policing, Bill pointed out the different behaviors of police with para-military rally at the Capitol and people rallying for BLM at Pringle Park, who were treated so roughly.

Tom also mentioned the BLM and Proud Boy protests, commenting that SPD is between a rock and a hard place. VanMeter spoke at length that the differences had to do with what was happening in the streets, given police need to keep them clear for emergencies. Past weekend’s events were minor, somewhat overblown in social media. He is open to calls from us at 503-932-1474, or emails at jvanmeter@cityofsalem.net.

There is a police performance audit happening with consultants and a community task force that will be producing an analysis and set of recommendations in the near future.

Arnaud asked about SCAN’s letter on homeless people in parks. The city allocated \$1.4 million and a high-level staff person (Gretchen Bennett) to deal with this. Action should happen before the winter sets in for good.

If we run into gun-toting people in the parks (or anywhere in the city) give the police a call. The non-emergency number is 503-588-6123. Dial 911 if it’s a genuine emergency (menacing others or actually shooting!).

Milan Davis, urban forester: update on tree ordering/planting
Is working on doubling the number of trees planted this next year – “if there’s a spot in front of your house and you agree to water it (3 years), we’ll plant a tree.” How can folks select a tree? rdavis@cityofsalem.net, or 503-361-2215 (desk phone)...He has begun to establish a tree inventory for the city’s approximately 20,000 trees and their condition. He will support volunteer groups planting trees. There is a lot of work to do on new tree planting efforts, as well as removing old and dead trees, particularly cherry trees and pears. Planting is happening now and will continue through the winter. The median on Simpson between 24th and 25th will get some trees soon, too. We can get the new tree location maps from Milan to help us identify potential new locations.

Shannon Priem, SESNA Chair, recap of year (please join in comments)

Shannon will write an annual summary up and share it around. SESNA accomplished a good deal this year. Implementing and utilizing digital tools is a major one. Thanks to Arnaud and Shannon in particular, and Darrin for a major social media effort.

- 7:45 p.m. / Old business
 - SPIF intent letter accepted! We can proceed with grant for Aldrich BB court replacement (maybe). The final application, with full costs, is due January 30. Shannon, Kirk and Darrin will contribute. Kirk shared a hypothesis that when the full cost is known, the project may exceed what we can do with a SESNA “match” and that the project may have to be done under other city auspices.
 - School district/city parks sign confusion update (Richmond, Aldrich parks) Shannon got a promise from Peter Fernandez that there will be new, more clear signs at some point in the future.
- 8.00 p.m. / New Business
 - SESNA bylaws revision – vote was passed accepting new by-laws in spirit, allowing for any required wordsmithing for eventual final approval. Intent is to update them to support virtual meetings, a new working structure (projects in addition to committees) and to remove no-longer-practical historic practices (primarily snail mail requirements).
 - Outreach to attract more interest in SESNA, e.g. polling...
Might we send a notice of SESNA neighbors through the schools? Shannon will speak with the principals at Bush and Richmond. And there’s always hand leafleting, leaving flyers at doors. There was no resolution other than to keep pushing on social media. Best choices seem to be public events like our parties in the park of prior years and the tree outreach. What about each member emailing people on their own block.
 - Election of SESNA Board members Bill and David T will continue; Darrin and Arnaud will be leaving the board, though both will help in small ways for future projects. New Board, approved unanimously, will be Shannon, Marcia, Seleste, Bill, David T and Kirk.
 - Beautification Awards! Presentation of winners...
Seleste has been identifying and tracking possibilities for awards. Eight are finalists. Among them, 1840 Trade St and 1865 Trade St are two, and a third is at 405 25th St. Also winners were 265 18th and 215 14th St. Owners of 13th Street Nursery were also recognized for a greatly improved store front. Other nominees were 360 27th and 410 23rd St, which was totally redone inside and out.

Board authorized payment of \$50 to Shannon for a gift certificate for the home winner from 13th St Nursery. We also authorized \$125 for purchase of recognition signs. And \$100 in gift certificates for Arnaud and Darrin for their contributions. The signs will be paid for from communication funds and the awards for Darrin, Arnaud and 13th St Nursery will be paid for from our Trust & Agency account.

The new signs will be updated to include the new SESNA logo.
- Discuss 2021 retreat ideas-- We’ll talk about this at our next meeting on 12/22, as will how to present the beautification awards, and who will pick up digital tasks.
- 8:30 p.m.: Project/committee updates
 - Digital Assets Com. (Web, social media) With Darrin and Arnaud leaving at year end, continuation of the new set of digital tools will need to be transferred to someone or several people, but it’s not clear who that will be. At minimum, someone needs to learn

about the Mailchimp email application and be a user of Facebook.

- Liaison Capital Park Wesleyan Church – Habitat for Humanity has gotten roofs installed on the new homes going in. New house “blessing of the walls” postponed, David will let us know when it will happen. The warming center finally got attention from the fire marshall and will be subject to the Covid rules of a 25 person maximum. Warming center opened last Saturday and the food bank continues operating.

Land use committee – Kirk will post on our google drive an interesting article Janet Lorenzen of 350 Salem circulated on climate action plan impacts on Zoning codes.

- Liaison South Salem Connect
SLF and South Salem Connect partners keep on doing yeoman’s work on homelessness and a new women’s shelter has been opened on State street.

We adjourned at 9:09pm