

## SESNA Minutes of January 26, 2021

Attendance (Shannon Priem as Chair, Bill Smaldone, David Tompkins, Seleste Liyanage, Darrin Brightman, Jeff Leach, Darwin Sandow, Marcia Hoak, Councilor Tom Andersen, Dave Macmillan, Lt. Jason van Meter)

1. December minutes approved unanimously with minor correction (fragment sentence) on page two.
2. Neighbors' Concerns
  - Ed Bollinger asserted that last October someone set a house he owns on fire. He expressed concerns with the homeless in the area.
  - Shannon noted the success of the litter pickup on January 18.
  - Bill noted some late-night gunshots recently, but no one else had heard them.
3. Police Report
  - Talked about police efforts to respect homeless rights and protecting the rights of local residents. Goal is to remain neutral and “have the right people at the right time” to respond.
  - The City has been giving attention to recent cases of people firing weapons in different parts of the city.
  - Inauguration Day at the Oregon Capitol was quiet. The police had arrested some of those who had committed crimes at earlier protest events and taken them out of circulation. Investigations leading to arrests are still in progress.
4. City Council Report: Tom Andersen
  - Councilor Andersen introduced a City Council resolution condemning white supremacy and institutional racism. Councilor Leung introduced a resolution declaring racism a health emergency. Both of these passed unanimously.
  - Tom views both the problem of racism and homelessness as national problems and these are connected to the deepening problem of economic inequality.
  - Recent City actions to combat homelessness: Opening up the State Fairgrounds to 100-135 homeless people.
  - State funds and some urban renewal money can be used to buy buildings and apartment complexes. Expected state money did not turn up last year, but we are going to try again for Cahoots money, which is funding for dealing immediately with homeless people used in Eugene.

- The Council is looking closely at the police having to also do social service work. The goal is to have social service people do this work.
- The Climate Action task force is beginning its work on the Climate Action Plan. It is very broad based and consists of 41 members. The Council will be making the policy based on the recommendations of the TF. He is pleased with the progress. The next meeting is in February. Neighborhood Associations can connect with the process via Patricia Farrell with the City.

#### 5. Old Business

- SPIF grant application is due Friday. It is a request for funds to improve the basketball court at Aldrich Park. To fully replace the court would cost \$135,000. SPIF can only go up to \$50,000 but can be “banked.” Instead, Shannon suggests we go for a replacement of just the hoops (cost of \$8,000). Shannon will send information on the bids to the group for advice. She wants to put together something for Friday’s deadline.

#### 6. New Business

- The Future of SESNA. Darrin and Arnaud left the board in January. Kirk is recovering from illness. Shannon will be stepping back to deal with health matters. We can keep going for a while as a skeleton crew, but we have to start thinking about more outreach (post-Covid). Tom Andersen thinks the problem is widespread in the current context.
- Jeff L. notes that having a plan to bounce back will be good once Covid is in hand.

#### 7. Committee Reports

- Dave Tompkins reports that the church food bank is reopening. The new Habitat Houses are coming along quickly. The Warming Center has lacked volunteers to open. There has been a leadership change at ARCHES and that might be a factor.