

## **SESNA Minutes of April 27, 2021**

Attendance: Shannon Priem, Melanie Zermer, David Tompkins, Jeff Leach, Seleste Liyange, Tom Andersen (City Councilor), Beth Payne, Darrin Brightman, Lt. Van Meter

### **Welcome, approval of March minutes, additions to agenda**

Minutes approved unanimously.

### **Neighborhood concerns**

Melanie Zermer spoke about KMUZ FM's coverage of the School Board race.

Seleste asked if people are allowed to use the covered area at Richmond Elementary when school is closed. All agreed that it is likely to be OK.

### **Guests and special topics**

- **Tom Andersen: City Councilor: city updates, budget starts, questions**

**Remarks on the issue of people openly carrying weapons on May Day.** Tom is on the legislative committee of the City Council and supports legislation that allows the municipality to regulate the right to openly carry guns in town. Each town would have the right to decide for itself. The Mayor is now working to convince Peter Courtney, the Senate President to support it, but chances seem slim.

**Climate Action Plan:** Salem is moving toward a 50% reduction by 2035. The plan has a broad cross section of the community working on it, including the Chamber of Commerce and 350.org. The council is now identifying top priority projects (ten have been tentatively identified). The plan is slated to be approved in February after further public comment.

**Police:** Tom was disappointed by a recent audit of the force, which did not speak to many of the issues facing city policing. Tom and some other councilors support introducing a form of the CAHOOTS program used in Eugene which creates a different division of labor between police and social services. This would require some shifting of resources. We need data to determine the right mix of police and social service resources. Funds might also come from the state.

**Public testimony or Neighborhood Association testimony to the Budget Committee would be welcome.** Information on CAHOOTS is available from Gretchen **Bennet** in the City Manager's Office.

Tom would like a canoe race established along Mill Creek in SESNA.

- **Lt. Jason VanMeter, city police; updates, questions**

This coming May Day might be the next major protest at the Capitol. SPD is prepared for any disturbances.

Shannon noted that new Covid restrictions might cause us to have to move the planned May 25 event with the Police Chief Trevor Womack from the sanctuary of the Wesleyan church to the gym. It is possible we'll have to switch to Zoom.

- **Erik Wurgler, “Project 12-13” corridor enhancement launch**

We are interested in this project and will invite him back.

### **Old business**

- **Salem Parks Foundation grant ideas**

We are considering ideas like benches, possibly combined with tree plantings, garbage receptacles, exercise equipment, and so on. We have about a month to get this done.

- **Finalize May 25 “Meet the Chief” SESNA meeting at Capital Park Church**

We have to wait to see what the new Covid-19 regulations will stipulate before we can make final decisions. We may have the event in the Church sanctuary, the gym, or on Zoom.

### **New Business/reports**

- **Finalize summer meeting, activity plans**

Jeff reports from the neighborhood chairs’ meeting that we can meet in the parks in the summer. Large events, however, are on hold until July at the earliest.

- **Updated Google Drive, volunteer hours**

We need to update our volunteer hours.

- **Quarterly Chairs Meeting update – Jeff Leach**

### **Project/committee updates**

- **Web, social media: Welcome, Dave MacMillan!**
- **Flood Watch Com.**
- **Land Use Com.**
- **Outreach and Business Com.**

On July 24 the Wesleyan Church is planning a big community yard sale. It is planned as an outreach event with up to 30 tables. Shannon is looking into the possible need for a permit.

- **Liaison Capital Park Wesleyan Church – Habitat for Humanity, warming center**

The Habitat houses are done and people will be moving in soon. The warming center closed in March.

- **Liaison South Salem Connect: Need Kirk’s replacement**

**Good of the Order, adjourn -- 8:38 p.m.**