

## **SESNA Meeting of October 26, 2021**

Attendance: Board: Shannon Priem (Chair), Bill Smaldone, David Tompkins, Jeff Leach, Seleste Liyanage.

Non-board members: Becky Gardiner (Cherry City Interiors), Steth Steele, Brian White (12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Street Business Association), Leslie Kampstra (Cherry City Interiors), Melanie Zermer, Tom Andersen (City Councilor), Sgt. Steve Galvin, Samantha Crab.

Welcome and introductions; approval of amended minutes for September (passed unanimously); changed Marcia's name to Mary Gilds under beautification award suggestions.

### **Neighborhood Concerns:**

Becky Gardiner and Leslie Kampstra own a parcel on 13th and Rural Streets that the city considered to use for a homeless shelter. The owners have other plans for the property (a medical clinic). Tom Andersen clarified with the landowners that the City was no longer considering that property for that use.

Brian White asked if any other properties on the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor are being considered.

There was considerable discussion of the need for better communication between the city and property owners regarding plans for homeless shelter locations.

**Sgt. Galvin's Report:** Will soon be assigned to SESNA and should be consistently at the monthly meeting. SPD is focusing on its 3-year Strategic Plan. They just did a survey of the public and had over 400 responses. The SPD Halloween event for kids was canceled due to Covid concerns. Police report several "success stories" after helping houseless people get their bearings through services -- all agreed we'd like to hear these stories to help counteract public perception that "nothing is being done."

**Surveillance, Camera, Registration, and Mapping (SCRAM) program:** The City is asking those who have cameras in front of their houses or businesses to join a program that would allow the public to voluntarily provide information upon request by the city. (The SPD does not want 24/7 carte blanche access.)

Brian asked Sgt. Galvin what percentage of the homeless are drug addicted or mentally ill. The officer did not have a hard number but said it is high.

### **City Council Report (Tom Andersen)**

Tom talked about the Eugene-based CAHOOTS alternative policing program. We have something similar (a mobile response unit) in Salem and he talked about ongoing discussions of how our model will evolve. One issue is working with the County Commission, which is responsible for public health. The County has not yet been willing to fully engage in this process.

Tom notes that we don't have the resources to deal with the scale of the homeless problem.

**Tom's classifications of the homeless populations:** 1) people who have lost their jobs and then their housing. These people (often families) are usually amenable to accepting help; 2) some people are addicted to drugs and alcohol and are much harder to deal with; 3) mentally ill people; 4) sociopaths: these folks do not wish to be a part of society and are homeless by choice.

The group then discussed the city's policies at some length and Tom offered to meet with people discuss it further.

Tom noted that the Our Salem Planning process is a major priority for the Council as is the Climate Action Task Force (drawn from a wide variety of stakeholders). There is a draft document available on the website.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Annual Meeting** is November 30 at the Wesleyan Church at 7:00pm. Board elections, Beautification Awards. Topic for discussion: How can Neighborhood Associations participate in the implementation of the Climate Action Plan. We can make the evening like a “meet and greet.”)

**Shannon and Jeff** will sit down to plan **leafletting for the Annual Meeting** combined with information about a **porchlight campaign** and information about the **annual leaf haul** Nov. 20 and Dec. 11.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Wednesday, November 17 at 6:00pm there will be a **free Thanksgiving meal** at the Wesleyan Church. Donations welcome.

**Beautification Awards:** Seleste has before and after pictures of 5 different houses.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.