

Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association

Minutes

February 15, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 7PM by chairman, Alan Alexander

Irma Dowd, the full time Neighborhood Services coordinator for the city of Salem, was introduced.

Neighbors introduced themselves.

Minutes were approved as circulated.

Police Officers Hughes & Menges

Officers encouraged neighbors to call the non-emergency number when they notice something suspicious. They like getting those calls.

A neighbor asked about leaving porch lights on at night. The officers encouraged neighbors to do so to discourage crime.

Councilor Cook reminded neighbors that there is no problem with porch lights, but there are some codes regarding lighting up their property.

Officers told neighbors to not start their cars and then go inside. Your car becomes an easy target for thieves.

A neighbor mentioned that she had noticed one of her neighbor's car had tires slashed and scratches in the car. The officers were not aware of others.

The officers looked at the pictures of the graffiti at Sunnyslope Park and did not see any evidence of gang graffiti.

Officers encouraged neighbors to call if they see someone in a park or wandering around with a spray can. They want to talk to them.

A neighbor mentioned police activity on the property of Liberty Christian Church on Skyline one evening. Officers were not aware of what went on, but mentioned that they were looking for a couple of youths who have been causing trouble in the area.

Alan Alexander mentioned the Police Foundation fundraiser on February 28th at Roth's in West Salem – Breakfast with the Chief. Alan said the breakfast is free, but bring your checkbook because it is a fundraiser. Funds are being raised for an Emergency Response Vehicle which will centralize communication and provide space for officers to work out of.

A neighbor asked about the use of body cameras. Officers indicated that there is not enough storage for the video. Also, the time it would take for a tech to review video before it can be released to the public was also mentioned.

City councilor – Sally Cook

She apologized for missing our January meeting.

She mentioned the low-income property tax exemptions. Sunnyslope Manor on Cunningham Lane receives an exemption. There are tax incentives for non-profits to provide low income housing.

There is an eighty person affordable housing facility going in on Portland Road.

She talked about other ways the city is working to address the homeless issue. She would like to get to the root cause of homelessness. An inter-governmental agency has hired, as of January 29th, a homeless coordinator to help deal with the issue. She reminded neighbors that some people are banned from shelters for substance abuse and behaviors

A neighbor mentioned the circular walkway to the bridge that has become unusable due to the homeless camping on the walkway. Sally indicated that ODOT owns the property and at this time has not issued a letter of No Trespassing consent. Until ODOT issues that letter, the city cannot remove the campers.

There is a committee looking into the fastest, cheapest way to impact traffic to and from West Salem over the Marion and Center Street bridges.

She talked about the costs involved in the sobering center which is currently an alcohol only facility.

The police facility has completed the predesign phase.

She mentioned the Army Corps of Engineer proposed project to drain Detroit reservoir for 2 years to install a cooling tower to help lower the temperature of the reservoir and therefore improve fish habitat. It was mentioned that there is no guarantee that this project will work. The city could lose its sand filter which is the cheapest and best way to filter water and would have to install a more expensive system. The city of Salem is not the only city to get their water from the Santiam and whose water supply would be negatively impacted.

Neighbors mentioned 3 dead trees in Sunnyslope Park that pose a safety hazard in a very busy park. Sally will email city staff to get these trees removed. The undergrowth of which much is blackberries which are an invasive species was also mentioned

She asked if we saw things in the parks plan to mention it to her so she can get it in the Capital Improvement plan which would fund it.

Sally was asked to urge city staff to come up with a master plan for Secor Park. Alan Alexander has also been pushing for a master plan. The population around this undeveloped park is growing and developers are promoting it as a neighborhood park.

Sally brought along a grant application from Safe Routes to Schools for Safe Routes to Parks projects. With the deadline prior to our next meeting, Alan will review the application and submit the application if there is a project that would fit the guide lines of the grant.

She said that the closing of the Nordstrom store at the mall downtown surprised the city.

She would like to reach out to stores in neighborhoods about keeping up their properties.

Land Use – Evan White

There is a proposed subdivision along Skyline Road. He is advocating for sidewalks and bike lanes. Currently, there is just a rezone request. Sidewalks and bike lanes will be required once the developer files a site plan.

Evan mentioned that there are people looking at ways to alleviate the congestion on the bridges without building a new bridge.

He also mentioned that the legislature passed a \$5.3 billion dollar transportation budget which includes increased fees and increasing gas taxes. In the proposal is upgrade for the bridges in 2025.

Lockwood Apartments

Alan reported that as of a couple of weeks ago there was no further activity on the rezoning request for the property adjacent to the apartments. When a rezoning request is made, neighbors must be notified. Renters are not required to be notified, but a notice must be posted on the property.

Alan said he talked in general terms to the head of code compliance, Brady Rodgers, about the problems at the apartment. Brady indicated an attempt should be made to solve needed repairs by submitting a written request to fix an issue to the landlord/property manager. They have 30 days to fix the problem. A safety issue like a furnace that is out should be fixed much more quickly. If that does not work, there is a written form that can be submitted to code compliance on the city website.

Kevin Bay mentioned that there has been a lot of repairs being made at the apartment complex recently.

Salem Parks Foundation – Alan Alexander – board member

The foundation is a private, non-profit foundation that provides grants through neighborhood associations to fund projects in city parks.

The city also budgets \$75,000 per year (Salem Parks Improvement Funds) in grants for park improvements

The foundation's current focus is McKay park which is deemed the worst park in Salem in a part of town with the least amount of resources. The playground needs to be moved and replaced at a cost of \$100,000.

Sunnyslope Park – Bill Kelly

There was graffiti on the walls of the play court and the back of the message board on either Thursday evening 2/8 or Friday evening 2/9. Bruce Miller sent pictures to the graffiti hotline (503-371-4264) on 2/10. The city came out on the following Monday and cleaned it up

Bill reported that the city came in and outlined where the covered picnic shelter will be installed. It is no longer visible. A work plan is being put together. A date has not been announced for installation

Salem Municipal Judge Jane Aiken

She is running for reelection and has a challenger for the position (Alan reported that her opponent has asked to be on the agenda for our March meeting)

If elected she has a 5-year plan to improve space, technology and security in the municipal court system. When the police move to their new facility, she would like, as part of the renovation, to have 2 court rooms. She wants training for court staff and establish an e court 24/7 access system. She also wants to establish a system where court appointed public defenders are no longer appointed by judges. She wants some flexibility in the court budget.

Her website will be up in 10 days.

She is willing to come back to our March meeting so questions can be asked of both her and her challenger.

Sunnyslope Community Garden – Jack Dalton

March 1st is a meeting for all interested gardeners at the Temple on Cunningham Lane.

All sites are being re-numbered.

Next Meeting – March 15th. On the agenda is someone from the School District and the political action committee giving information about the school bond measure that will appear on the May ballot

Irma Dowd -full time Neighborhood Services Coordinator introduced herself. She is bilingual and has spent 10 years working in the public works department. She was hired as the neighborhood services coordinator the last week of October.

She brought along a flyer for the State of the City Address by Mayor Chuck Bennett Wednesday, March 28th at the Salem Convention Center. Lunch is \$20.00 with doors opening at 11:15. Lunch tickets can be purchased at the door. There is free seating for those who do not want to purchase lunch. She also brought information about coffee with the Mayor on February 23rd at Jo Mocha.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Miller

Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association Secretary

Attendance:

Paul Leonard

Irma Dowd

Officer Hughes

Bill Kelly

Jack Dalton

Officer Menges

Chuck Ayers

Judge Aiken
Evan White
Nicole Jackson
Alan & Judith Alexander
Brian Gumbs
Ken Bay
Bruce & Linda Miller