

Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association

Minutes

July 19, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by chairman, Alan Alexander.

Minutes for the last meeting will be approved at the next meeting.

Neighbors and guests introduced themselves.

City Councilor – Steve McCoid

Sally Cook is on vacation and asked Steve to attend on her behalf.

Steve reported that both he and Sally are concerned about safe routes to schools especially Crossler Middle School. Part of Davis Road is in Steve's council ward. Davis Road is dangerous for drivers and pedestrians. The Oregon Department of Transportation has a grant program of 20 million dollars to provide funds every 2 years to help provide students with safe ways to walk and bike to school. The deadline to declare interest in applying for a grant is August 15, 2018. Sally wants support from the neighborhood association for the city to apply for a grant. Steve indicated that he believes this first round of grants will be focused on high needs schools – those with a high number of students on free and reduced and free lunches. Crossler Middle School is not a high needs school, but believes we need to apply. She asked that the neighborhood association write a letter to Public Works and the City manager requesting the city apply for a grant for the Crossler Middle School area.

The city council has approved the rezoning of the State Street corridor to a mixed -use zoning which will involve widening sidewalks, planting trees and having bike lanes. Building can be 55 feet high – 4 story building. From 12th street to 14th street there will be 2 lanes with a turn lane and from 14th to 25th there will be 4 lanes with bike paths

The proposed street design, the Hybrid alternative in the State Street Plan, generally conducts a road diet on State Street between 14th and 17th Streets and makes pedestrian improvements east of 17th Street. In the western road diet portion, the new design reconfigures the street into three lanes (one travel lane in each direction plus a center-turn lane), adds buffered bicycle lanes, widens sidewalks, retains on-street parking, and adds a pedestrian crossing with a median at 15th Street. The bicycle lanes would connect to the existing bike lanes that run north-south on 17th Street as well as the family-friendly bikeways on Chemeketa Street NE and Mill Street SE via 14th Street and 24th Street. The proposed street design also includes a proposed bicycle/pedestrian

bridge on 24th Street SE across Mill Creek to improve connectivity to existing bike lanes on State Street that begin at 24th Street. From 17th to 24th Street, the proposed street design retains the existing four travel lanes, widens sidewalks to 12 to 15-foot wide, and adds pedestrian crossings with rapid flashing beacons at 19th and 21st streets. The City plans to add a pedestrian median on State Street at 25th Street, and that is not changed by the proposed street design. The one-way traffic restriction between 12th and 13th streets is also retained in the proposed street design.(copied from a city document – staff report 7/16/18)

The council is considering water rates which will probably increase less than 3%.

October there will be an open house regarding the city strategic plan.

Police station – The economy is so strong that rates are going up. The trade wars have increased the price of steel, aluminum and lumber by 25% The city is looking at using \$2 million dollars of urban development money to help pay for the community room and public art. They are looking at ways to save money on the project.

A neighbor asked is there was any issues with the serving of hard liquor at the 4th of July event at Riverfront Park. Steve indicated there were no problem at the event. Steve indicated that there are only 2 parks that hard liquor can be served at and at only 4 or 5 events.

City water -They were able to figure out how to use activated charcoal which has never been done before in 20 days to filter the water. There were 7 places around the city that water samples were taken. If any one of them tested above the levels for cyanotoxins, the alert was issued.

Chairman Alexander shared some information from the City Manager's report that Sally forwarded to him.

As a result of a Supreme Court ruling, the city will no longer deduct any fees or dues from "fair share" employees. The unions are still the specified employees' representative. The city will maintain its practices regarding collective bargaining, disciplinary matters, grievances compensation etc.

On June 28th a neighborhood chairs meeting was held. Discussed items were homelessness, the water advisory and last month's training on land use and codes as well as future training for chair and board members.

Police Officer Walker

He brought with him Police Cadet Leanette who is 15 years old and a student at McKay High School.

He told neighbors like in winter do not leave your car running unintended. Also do not leave windows open at night.

He indicated more wanted criminals are running away from officers. He asked neighbors to be a great witness. If you see someone running through backyards or see lots of police in your neighborhood stay in your house and report information to the police. If someone is in your backyard, do not scare them off. The police want them to try to hide so they can apprehend them. Especially if you see a canine officer working, do not come out of your house. Your scent can through them off. A neighbor asked if this information could be put on the app NextDoor using bullet points so neighbors can assist police, not hinder their efforts.

Chairman Alexander mentioned speeding on Cunningham Lane.

Sunnyslope Park Update – Bill Kelly

The park is being kept up well and lots of people are using it! He has noticed parties of 40 to 50 people using the covered picnic structure.

This week, on Monday, a young man was taking a dog through the park off leash. The dog was hit on Matthews Loop S. The dog was not badly injured

He submitted the following message that will also be put on the app NextDoor.

A reminder to all dog-walkers using Sunnyslope Park

Please make sure your dog is on a leash at all times as you enter, use and exit the park. A recent injury accident to an off-leash canine on the corner of 18th Place and Matthews Loop S. could have been avoided had the dog been on a leash. Salem requires dogs to be leashed unless they are in a specified dog park. Let's keep our pets, park users and motorists all safe! Submitted by Bill Kelly Vice Chair SNA

Secor Park – Alan Alexander

Every developer in the area on their application mentions Secor Park as the neighborhood park. Secor Park is in the city budget to start the master plan process. It is the first step in the right direction. After the master plan is approved, it will have to figure out how to get the money to implement the plan.

There is an open house regarding the new police facility at South Salem High School on July 25th at 7:30 PM.

Judy Alexander moved that the neighborhood association draft a letter to the city manager asking the city to apply for a grant from the Safe Routes to Schools program for safety improvements for Crossler Middle School area because of an inadequate

road, increasing development along the road, a lack of sidewalks and bike lanes and no light at Liberty Road S and Davis Road. Bill Kelly seconded the motion and it carried.

Development on Liberty Road south of the community garden

Alan spoke to the developer today. He is approved to build 5 single family houses on the property. He had to cut down lots of the trees but assures neighbors that he will be planting appropriate trees.

Property at Kurth and Browning Ave

Nothing has been done with the property. Alan will call Brady Rogers to inspect the property. Neighbors wondered if it would qualify as a derelict building.

Alice Howard expressed concern about the median at Joseph and Skyline. Once a year an inmate crew comes and cleans it up. The rest of the year, the weeds take over. She learned that the trees are dying and will be coming out in the next year or two. She would like the neighborhood association to have input on how it is landscaped. Alan will ask someone to come to the neighborhood association to talk about what will happen with this strip of land that is an entry into the neighborhood.

The August Neighborhood Association Meeting is cancelled.

The September meeting on September 20th at 7 PM at Schirle Elementary will be our annual meeting. Salem Health has requested 15 to 20 minutes to make a presentation. He will ask someone to address the homeless situation in Salem.

Back to School Nights

Alan will contact Liberty Elementary and Schirle Elementary about the neighborhood association having a table at their Back to School Night on September 4th. Bruce & Linda Miller, Bill Kelly and Alice Howard have offered to help man tables.

August 7th is National Night Out

A neighbor wondered why the street sweeper sweeps once a month when there is nothing to sweep up? This will be a question asked when someone comes to the neighborhood association to talk about street maintenance.

Bill Kelly mentioned that October 31st is the deadline to send a letter of intent to apply for a grant from Salem Parks Improvement grant program. Bill would recommend applying for a grant to resurface the tennis/basketball courts at Sunnyslope Park.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Miller

Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association

Secretary

Those in Attendance:

Alan & Judith Alexander

Bill Kelly

Bruce & Linda Miller

Officer Walker

Police Cadette Leanette Mabinton

Paula Hansen

Mary Reitan

Alice Howard

Steve McCoid