

Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association

Minutes

September 20, 2018

Annual Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 by chairman, Alan Alexander.

Neighbors and guests introduced themselves.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as distributed. Linda Miller, secretary, let those attending know that she posts minutes under documents on the app NextDoor. (Minutes are also available on the city website)

Officer Walker – Salem Police Department

POP – Problem Oriented Policing Unit – A two officer team will begin their duties in January. Where patrol officers can only put a band-aid on issues, the plan is for the unit to work on long term solutions to neighborhood problems like gangs, drug issues, transient camping etc. They may start attending neighborhood association meetings.

Councilor Cook mentioned that in the past we have asked officers to do their paperwork in problem areas like Davis Road and along the creek at Liberty Christian Church/ Circle K area. Officer Walker indicated he varies where he stops to do his paper work from a fire station, school parking lots, church parking lots and other areas.

Chairman Alexander mentioned the break in that occurred during daylight hours on Oakman Street. The criminals went into the backyard and broke a window. Officer Walker did not have any information about the case.

The Officer reminded neighbors that there are no safer parts of town. Criminals are in all parts of Salem.

He addressed a question about home alarms. He indicated that verified alarms are responded to. Unverified alarms are 90 percent of the alarms and most are problems in the systems, but officers still respond.

City Councilor – Sally Cook

This is National Suicide Awareness Month. A Sprague student recently committed suicide and another is in the hospital after an attempted suicide. She reminded

neighbors that problems are only temporary and urged neighbors to be connecting with people.

Denyc Boles, representing Salem Health, said Salem Health is aware of the increase in suicides and is partnering with other agencies to have community -owned conversations about how we can prevent suicides.

Sally reported that Gallaghers Fitness and the Salem Hospital Foundation donated \$87,000 to purchase 106 AED's to place around the community.

Improving pedestrian safety is a concern of the city. There is a committee that will develop plans for increasing pedestrian safety. They will present their ideas to city council at a meeting in March, 2019. A project that will happen before the committee reports is a median/pedestrian refuge island at Commercial and Royvonne. Plain clothes police officers will conduct crosswalk awareness events.

A health hub is opening for city employees.

Commingling of recyclables is still an issue.

The plastic bag ban is on the agenda for October. She briefly went over the some of the things McMinnville did before instituting their plastic ban.

The old strip mall across from Sunnyslope Shopping center was sold for cash and is in the process of being demolished. She is not sure what the owners will be building.

She has connected Irma Dowd, neighborhood services, with resources for neighbors who are having trouble maintaining their properties so they can avoid fines.

Anthony Gamallo – Senior Transportation Planner – City of Salem

He addressed the safer pedestrian crossing program. They are developing a searchable data basis that neighbors can input sites they are concerned about. They receive numerous requests from all over the city. City staff is concerned about equity across the city. Speed and crossing distances are also important in prioritizing sites. The state is providing grants for safe pedestrian crossings. The dollars for grants increase each year. He believes a crossing in front of Liberty Elementary School with a pedestrian refuge island will be funded this year. Priority is being given to crossings at Title 1 Schools. Candalaria is the only school in south Salem that is not a title 1 school. Next year, they hope to get funding for pedestrian crossings at Kuebler and Croisan Scenic Way S and Skyline and Croisan Scenic Way S. A pedestrian crossing at Davis Road and Liberty did not score as high because of speeds.

A neighbor asked about a single speed limit on Davis Road which has been discussed at a previous meeting. He indicated studies would need to be done before that can happen.

Urban Development Director – Kristin Rutherford

She explained all the areas her department covers including what the city is doing to address the homeless issues in the city which she was asked to address at this meeting.

She explained that the reason for homelessness varies. The philosophy that the city will use to address the issue is provide housing first and then address the issues that caused the person to be homeless such as mental health issues and addictions.

Some of the programs in place that she went over were the Homeless Rental Assistance Program, the Police Behavioral Health Detachment, the hiring of a regional coordinator for the Mid Valley Homeless Initiative, Low- Income Assistance (federal grants), the 100 day youth challenge (the city contributed \$12,000 to the program that helps reduce youth homelessness), a sobering center, an affordable housing program working with non- profits and developers to provide low income housing and a downtown Homeless Solutions task force.

When asked about the expanded Union Gospel Mission in meeting the needs of the homeless, she indicated that they only provide services to men.

When asked about the housing first and then dealing with addictions and mental health issues philosophy, she indicated that it is too early to determine if it is successful, but it will be the philosophy the city will use in the future.

Land Use – Evan White

He had nothing to report except the concern people have about the development at I – 5 and Kuebler Blvd.

Alan Alexander mentioned that he spoke to the head Compliance Services, Brady Rogers, about the property at Kurth and Browning. Brady indicated if they have a current building permit there is nothing the city can do. If they do not, then the city can determine if it is a derelict building. If so, fines can be assessed.

Alan also reported speaking to the developer of the property on Liberty Road just south of the community garden. The developer indicated that site prep work is being done and all five houses will be built at the same time.

Salem Health – Denyc Boles

She indicated that Salem Hospital is the only level 2 trauma center in the area and the busiest emergency room from the Canadian border to Los Angeles. They do have a triage program and are collaborating with other groups in the area to keep people healthy.

They are opening a health center in Woodburn that will include urgent care facility.

Salem Health is run by a volunteer board.

Their 450 beds have a high level of usage and the need is to build 50 new beds every year for several years.

Building a new tower on campus is in being considered and at some point building B (the old hospital) will need to be demolished because it does not meet seismic requirements. Also, under consideration is adding two additional floors to the parking structure.

OHSU and Salem Health are no longer partners, but there is still collaboration with OHSU for patient care.

She handed out a flyer that shared how Salem Health is planning for the future by recruiting primary care and specialty care providers, increasing access to digital health technologies and designing innovative care models, building a holistic approach to a health care and expanding our health care infrastructure.

Elections of Officers – Alan Alexander

Alan explained the value of service on the board and opened up the opportunity for those attending to volunteer. No volunteers came forward.

Evan White moved and Bill Kelly seconded a motion that the Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association Board of Directors 2017 – 2018 continue for 2018 – 2019.

Motion carried.

Alan Alexander heard from the parks department that they think they can fast track the master plan for Secor Park in 2019. They will not be able to get to it until January, 2019.

The next meeting will be October 18th at 7PM at Schirle Elementary.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Miller

Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association Secretary

Those in Attendance:

Alan & Judith Alexander

Bill Kelly

Linda Miller

Sally Cook

Evan White

Officer Walker

Dan Joynt

Karen Delsman

Katya Goloviznina

Joanne Gray

Kristin Rotherford

Anthony Gamallo

Ruth Laney

Clinton Gertenrich

