

Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association

Minutes

May 16, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by chairman, Alan Alexander.

Neighbors and guests introduced themselves.

Evan White, land use chair, sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

Minutes were approved as circulated.

Officer Menges:

Regarding speeding on Davis Road, he as well as other officers have been spending time monitoring traffic along the road. Neighbors reported that it is an ongoing issue especially at arrival and dismissal times for Crossler Middle School and when games are held at the school. He promised to patrol in the area when possible and to give the information to other officers.

Bill Kelly mentioned the vandalism of the Neighborhood Association meeting sign at Sunnyslope Park. Besides the destruction of the sign, they were also tossing around an ignition device under the picnic covered area. Bill observed part of the destruction of the sign but was not able to stop it. He mentioned that there is frequent vaping in the park. It was mentioned smoking is not allowed in any Salem park. That includes vaping.

Officer Menges said that School Resource officers are responsible for students during school hours. He explained that they are responsible for more than one school and are often busier at times than patrol officers. He gave Bill Kelly the phone number for the Sprague Resource Officer.

Neighbors expressed well wishes for the officer that was shot this week and appreciation for all our Salem Police officers. Officer Menges gave an update on the situation.

A neighbor mentioned seeing people bring alcohol into Sunnyslope Park and head into the woods along the eastern perimeter. Neighbors were reminded that alcohol is not allowed in city parks, Neighbors should call the non-emergency police number if they observe alcohol in our neighborhood parks.

Councilor, Sally Cook, will email the parks department requesting that the brush on the eastern perimeter of Sunnyslope Park be cleared because of a neighbor noticing people heading into the brush with alcohol.

Code Enforcement officer, Deb Romano, commented that the homeless are moving into the south end of town. She has noticed camping in Woodmansee and Kroger parks, needles along Hrubetz where there are no sidewalks and in and around Kroger Park. Councilor Leung mentioned she had reserved an area at Woodmansee Park and was told that the parks department had to go in and clear the homeless out the area so she could have her event. Discussion followed about the problem of homelessness in Salem.

Code Enforcement Officer -Deb Romano

She has had 98 cases in our area since she attended our October 2018 meeting.

She handed out information on the building codes for building fences on properties. She urged neighbors to call the planning department with any questions.

Sally Cook mentioned that a duck and bee ordinance is being considered by city council. Code enforcement would be responsible for enforcement.

Officer Romano said there are problems with transients in the area. Neighbors are urged to lock doors, windows and cars, keep outside lights on at night and lock gates and sheds. She sees some scary stuff when she goes out running early in the morning.

She reported that the owner of the vacant lot across from Sunnyslope Shopping Center is working on a plan for the property. The property is posted no trespassing with a fence around it.

There has been illegal dumping along Croisan Creek Road. If neighbors witness illegal dumping call the non-emergency police number with the license plate of the vehicle doing the dumping.

Regarding the property at Kurth and Browning, the owner lives out of town and the property is for sale. She walks the property periodically with a neighbor checking access to the buildings. If illegal access occurs to the buildings, it can be deemed derelict with the owner paying a daily fine until the property is secured.

A neighbor reported watching Xfinity stringing wire through the trees and across Matthews Loop to a house on 18th place. Officer Romano was not aware of the situation and will check into it.

It is illegal to string a power cord, even temporarily, across a sidewalk to an RV.

City Councilors Sally Cook & Jackie Leung

The city has applied for a BUILD grant from the the US Department of Transportation for McGilchrist Street. The project would involve 10,000 linear feet of roadway, bike lanes, sidewalks, signalized intersections and stormwater drainage. The city has applied for the grant for several years but have yet to be successful.

Residents will receive information regarding drinking water in their water bill.

There have been citizen complaints regarding homeless people sleeping and living out of their cars and camping in the landscape strips on the 400 block of Division Street. Code enforcement officer, Megan Gorham, spent time in the area providing the homeless with resource guides and information to help them get back on their feet. The area has been cleared of people living out of their cars and she hopes to carry this over to other areas of the city.

The city is currently advertising for contractor bids to remove the industrial structures in Pringle Creek between the railroad trestle and Commercial Street, The project will restore riparian vegetation and facilitate natural fish passage. The creek bed will be regraded to more closely resemble a natural creek. Construction is expected to begin in July and be completed by December 2019 pending state permits.

The Salem Housing Authority is continuing to work with the YMCA of Marion and Polk Counties and Senator Courtney's office to include housing in their upcoming construction project. Veterans housing vouchers are a possibility for the YMCA.

The city has issued almost 100 land use decisions and approved approximately 200 building/dwelling/sign permits. They have also taken more than 60 land use applications in the last 30 days.

The city is working on reducing costs in the building of the new Police Station that will not impact the working of the facility.

The city budget committee has passed the budget on to the city council. New revenue is needed. The city council can approve revenue increases.

The caretaker of Belcrest Cemetery property on Browning welcomes walkers. There is a lot of history in the cemetery. Sally hopes to organize a history walk through the cemetery and she hopes to work with Just Walk Salem or South Salem connects to organize a walk from the Sunnyslope Garden to Sunnyslope Park. The walk would be about 2 miles.

Alan reported that Public Works will be slurry sealing this summer and impacted property owner will receive a map and letter about the program.

Rob Romanek - City of Salem Parks Department

He talked about the process designing and implementing improvements to Secor Park. He went over the final design concept with paved trails, 2 entrances, picnic areas, a picnic shelter, a pollinator garden, a community garden based on community interest and leadership and a playground geared to school age children. The playground is expected to cost \$100,000 with the curbing and fall material expected to cost another \$100,000. There will be 2 lights in the park, one at each entry point. Trails will not connect with school property. The public is not to be on school property during school hours. The Salem Parks Advisory Board will determine what will be in the first phase of construction and construction could begin as soon as 2020.

Alan mentioned concerns over the safety of the creek area. Rob indicated Public Works will be responsible for restoration of Waln Creek.

Bill Kelly moved that the Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association endorse the draft concept for Secor Park as presented at the May 15th parks meeting at Crossler Middle School. Bruce Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Land Use - Alan Alexander

Alan reported that the Planning Commission approved the zone change to RM 2 for the property at 5871 Liberty Road.

Bill Kelly moved that the Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association ask our city councilors Sally Cook and Jackie Leung, to call up the planning commission decision for the property at 5871 Liberty Road. Bruce Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried

Alan will notify our councilors about the request and provide them with the same letter the neighborhood association sent to the planning commission.

Alan reported that the Quail Run subdivision has been approved.

Alan reported that there will be a summer program at Sunnyslope Park. It is a day camp and runs Monday - Thursday from 1PM - 4PM More information can be found on the city parks website.

Sunnyslope Park - Bill Kelly

Thank you to Eagle Scout Isaac Matthews Troop 7087 from Keizer and his crew for rehabbing the horseshoe pits at Sunnyslope Park. Linda Miller put a thank you on NextDoor and on a Facebook group Salem/Keizer news.

May 23rd is a workshop for neighborhood associations. The topic is the building permit process. Evan White will attend representing Sunnyslope.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Miller

Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association Secretary

Those in attendance:

Alan & Judith Alexander

Bill Kelly

Bruce & Linda Miller

Sally Cook

Jackie Leung

Rob Romanek

Deb Romano

Officer Menges