

# Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association

## Minutes

**February 20, 2020**

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

Neighbors and guests introduced themselves.

Sargent Stephen Smith -

There has been an arrest of an individual that has been connected to 43 business burglaries in the south Salem area. The police are hoping to connect this career criminal to other unsolved business burglaries.

The police are starting to use a new system, so he was not able to pull statistics for the area, but he did report that the biggest problem is car clouts. It is both theft from unlocked cars and smash and grabs. There is usually several in an area. He urges residents to not leave anything in their cars or leave anything that looks like it could be valuable (for example an empty tote bag). Take your garage door openers with you! He also urged neighbors to light up their property either with motion lights or lights that stay on. Thieves tend to avoid lighted areas.

He reported that the speeding issues mentioned at the last meeting were forwarded to the traffic division. He was not sure where the concerns are in the system. A mobile speed trailer sometimes helps.

The new police station is due to be finished in September with open houses in October. There will be historical displays as part of the tour. They will begin moving in in November and will be operational in January. He was not sure what will happen to the property on Liberty Road that currently houses the bomb squad equipment.

The minutes from the January meeting were approved as circulated.

Pedestrian Crossing at Liberty Elementary School -Steven Tjoelker, City of Salem engineering

He brought a diagram of the project and explained the details of the project. Construction will begin this summer with work occurring during daylight hours. It will be finished by the time school starts. There maybe some delays for drivers during construction. The project includes a school zone flashing light. He also went over five other pedestrian crossing safety improvements that will be under construction this summer including one at Leslie Middle School and one at Judson Middle School.

Chairman Alexander expressed appreciation for all those who have worked on this project from getting a grant from the state, to the design and finally to those who will work to complete the project.

Chairman Alexander expressed concerns about pedestrian safety around Crossler Middle School and that the neighborhood association will continue to advocate for.

Councilor Nordyke

She reported that Councilor Leung is working so is unable to attend.

She will be making a motion during a March city council meeting to study a pedestrian pathway through Pioneer Cemetery (a city owned cemetery) from Rural to Hoyt. At one time the cemetery was ungated, but gates were installed and are locked at night. She has met with those that are in favor of the project and those that oppose. The concerns of those that oppose she believes, are resolvable. Evan White mentioned that the neighborhood association had advocated for the path 7 years ago. Councilor Nordyke will keep the neighborhood association informed about the proposal.

She addressed the concerns about the map showing areas outside the downtown core that camping by the homeless could potentially be allowed. She explained that the council asked the staff to come up with recommendations. The map is what the staff came back with. She adamantly opposed it along with other councilors. The proposal is off the table.

She mentioned some of the places she has visited that are serving the homeless and the efforts of some organizations to increase their capacity to serve the homeless population. Staff reported that 4 shelters are full on a nightly basis.

She has reported that the city has not been successful in finding a property owner that is willing to lease to them for a low barrier shelter. They are willing to sell, but not lease.

She is seeking funding from the state for a sobering center, navigation center and an emergency response team.

There is a lack of affordable housing in Salem. The city is making changes to the process of building multifamily housing so it will be easier to build affordable housing. She reported that the Redwood Crossing, an affordable housing project, is under construction. Work is being done with the YMCA to provide housing for homeless veterans.

She reminded us that seniors are the fastest growing population of homeless.

### **Secor Park Phase 1 update - Andrea Mather city of Salem**

She is the project manager for the project which will begin mid-June with the plan to be completed by Fall. During construction, access to the park will be limited and neighbors are urged to enter the park from the Crossler Middle School property. Phase 1 will include the installation of playground equipment, an information kiosk, bike racks, lighting at the south plaza, benches, picnic tables, a drinking fountain and a path between the Stockton and Rock Creek entrances. There will be no grade over 5% so it will be wheelchair accessible. She handed out a flyer on the project and let neighbors know that they can view the master plan on the city website.

It was reported that the city has gotten money to put in bathrooms at the north end of Riverfront Park.

Chairman Alexander reported that there is a proposal for 28 individual homes on Davis Road south of the large apartment complex going in. As soon as more information is available, he will bring it to the neighborhood association.

### **Costco Relocation Update - Chairman Alexander**

He reminded neighbors of what has happened so far. The planning commission approved an application by the developer for the property at I -5 and Kuebler Blvd to relocate Costco to the property. The planning commission approved the permit with stipulations. The city council turned down the permit. The developer appealed to LUBA (the state land use board) and the Land Use Board referred it back to the city council indicating they did not have grounds to deny the permit. In the meantime, a private individual appealed the LUBA decision to the courts. Chairman Alexander reported that he spoke with the city attorney last week and learned that the appeal by the property owner has been denied. As soon as the city receives the paperwork from LUBA, the city will have 120 days to deal with the permit. The developer has sued the city for 3 million dollars to recoup the money they spent on infra structure improvements required by the planning commission.

### **Sunnyslope Park - Bill Kelly & Alan Alexander**

Bill Kelly submitted a SPIF grant for the resurfacing of the sports court at Sunnyslope Park. The grant was approved. The cost of the project is \$3,550. The Salem Parks foundation has \$600.00 in escrow for Sunnyslope Park. Normally the grants only pay for a percentage of the project, but since this is a maintenance issue the city will not require the Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association to seek additional funds other than the \$600 available from the Parks Foundation.

Judith Alexander moved and Bill Kelly seconded a motion to request the \$600 held in escrow by the Salem Parks Foundation be applied to the sports court resurfacing at Sunnyslope Park. Motion carried

### **Salem Parks Foundation - Alan Alexander, vice chairman**

He handed out the Fall/ Winter newsletter and talked about the parks foundation and the impact it is having on our parks including the new playground at McKay Park. The newsletter lists many ways to donate to the foundation including mailing a check to PO Box 5764 Salem, Or 97304, on line at [www.salemparksfoundation.org](http://www.salemparksfoundation.org), Amazon Smile program, purchase an owl sign, linking

your Fred Meyers rewards card for donations to the program and finally the Bottle Drop/Give program with [info@slaemparksfoundation.org](mailto:info@slaemparksfoundation.org). You can donate to the general fund or specify a park.

The next date to request a grant from the foundation is April 30<sup>th</sup>.

It was mentioned that during phase 2 of work on Secor Park the neighborhood association should ask for path lighting since it connects 2 neighborhoods.

With Schirle Elementary not available and both Alan and Bill out of town, Bill Kelly moved, and Bruce Miller seconded a motion that our March meeting be cancelled.  
Motion carried

Chairman Alexander indicated that several candidates for various offices have asked to be on our April agenda. They will have 10 minutes to share information about themselves and then attendees will be able to ask questions. There will also be someone from the city attending who will present information on the payroll tax that will appear on the May ballot.

Chairman Alexander mentioned that the Temple Beth Sholom is selling their Hamantastaschen cookies as a fundraiser. To order go to [tbsholom.org](http://tbsholom.org) There is information on the website about other events. The temple is looking forward to being more active in the community

A neighbor brought up concerns about the missing sidewalks on Cunningham Lane. Chairman Alexander mentioned that a priority is sidewalks on Browning. He also mentioned that the only way those will happen is if the city passes a bond measure to fund sidewalks. They are hesitant to do this with the bonds taxpayers are currently funding.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Miller

Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association Secretary

Those in attendance:

Sgt Stephen Smith

Bruce & Linda Miller

Wanda Davis

Henry Fuqua

Jack & Kathy Dalton

Andrea Mather

Steven Tjoelker

Will Kuenz

Alan & Judith Alexander

Gary Knighton

Evan White

Jason DiSenso

Karen Delsman

Bill Kelly

Vanessa Nordyke