

# **Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association**

**January 16, 2020**

## **Minutes**

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

Neighbors and guests introduced themselves.

The minutes were approved by consensus as circulated.

### **Officer Vanmetor**

He is a neighbor and a swing shift coordinator.

He reported that between 12AM and 3AM is when most thefts occur. He urged neighbors to lock their vehicles and leave nothing in them. He has officers out patrolling and they are making arrests. Neighbors are welcome to email him at [jvanmetor@cityofsalem.net](mailto:jvanmetor@cityofsalem.net) or call him at 503.932.1474 with concerns.

Neighbors are urged to stay with their cars when warming them up. Cars have been stolen when someone starts their car and then go inside.

Neighbors mentioned streets where speeding is an issue including Cunningham Lane, Davis Road and Rock Creek (during drop off and pick up times for Crossler Middle School) Motorcycle officers are often used for speed enforcement and the issuing of speeding tickets helps reduce speeding.

He mentioned that there will be an open house so the public will be able to tour the new police station before the police department officially moves in. He mentioned how grateful the department is that the tax payers approved the building of a new facility.

A neighbor mentioned the increase in the number of packages being stolen off porches.

Chairman Alexander urged neighbors to attend Breakfast with the Chief. It is being held at 7AM at the Salem Convention Center on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> and is put on by the Salem Police Foundation. This will be the last one for Chief Moore since he is retiring. Purchase tickets from the Salem Police Foundation.

### **Salem Comprehensive Plan – Eunice Kim & Austin Ross City of Salem**

They explained the Our Salem Project which is seeking input from the citizens of Salem of what they value as the city updates its comprehensive plan. How do we grow and develop? It includes housing, businesses, transportation, parks and zoning.

The next opportunity for the public input will be on March 16<sup>th</sup> 6 – 8PM at Court Street Christian Church, March 17<sup>th</sup> 11:30 – 1:30 Senator Hearing Room 555 Court St NE and 6:00 – 8PM McKay High School (for more information check the city calendar) The public will have the opportunity to view options and give input. There are plans for workshops in the fall. Once the plan is adopted, it will take a year to write policies etc.

A neighbor asked if there is enough land to accommodate growth. It was reported that studies show there is enough available land to support growth for the next 20 years.

### **Councilors Leung & Nordyke**

The budgeting process for 2021 has begun. Check the calendar on the city website for meetings. The budget must be adopted by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

On January 21<sup>st</sup> the council will meet to discuss policies. Homelessness (the fastest growing group of the homeless are seniors), a climate action plan, traffic and housing are policies Councilor Leung mentioned. Councilor Nordyke mentioned she is advocating for performance reviews of departments and programs.

At the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting the council is considering declaring a housing emergency which would open more shelter options. (Check the city website for more information about this declaration). The declaration would allow Pringle Hall to be used as a shelter, increase shelter beds at the United Way Safe Sleep shelter for women from 10 to 19 and allow car camping on private property with owner's permission. Councilor Nordyke supported a zone where those who choose to live outside could. The council did not support this idea.

The city supports a housing first model with wrap around services for those with addictions and mental health issues. Affordable housing is being built. (The city waives system development charges and are lowering barriers for affordable housing developments)

Councilor Nordyke also supports parks, walking paths and the development of a climate action plan.

Chairman Alexander suggested that the association could set aside a meeting to discuss the complicated issue of homelessness.

Councilor Leung mentioned that warming shelters need volunteers to operate. She encouraged neighbors to volunteer. She also mentioned the Safe Sleep Center for women that the United Way has opened.

It was reported that the Union Gospel Mission has broken ground on their new facility. It will expand their shelter beds to 300.

### **Parks – Bill Kelly & Alan Alexander**

Bill reported that a white oak tree in the southeast corner of the park fell damaging another tree. There was no damage to people or property. The park staff is still cleaning up the

tree. He said inmate crews are used to clean up the park. A neighbor asked about any plans to replant trees that have been taken down at the park. Chairman Alexander will check into that.

Bill reported that the Salem Parks Improvement Fund (SPIF) has approved our request to submit a grant request to resurface the sports court at Sunnyslope Park. He requested that the board approve the submission of the grant which must be submitted by February 14, 2020.

Sally Cook moved and Bruce Miller seconded a motion that the Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association submit a SPIF grant request to resurface the sports court at Sunnyslope Park. Motion carried. The grant committee will get an estimate for the cost of the project from the city. The neighborhood association will be responsible for raising 30% of the cost for the project. Other grants will be explored (Neighbors can make donations to the project through the Salem Parks Foundation)

Chairman Alexander mentioned that parks personnel will attend our March meeting and give an update on Secor Park. Also, he reported that the playground equipment for the park has been ordered.

### **Land Use**

Chairman Alexander reported that he found out from Code Compliance that the property at Kurth and Browning (a former nursing home) was sold in September. At this point, the developer plans to build single family homes. Chairman Alexander has asked that Code Compliance check the building to see if it meets the criteria for a derelict building. The house adjacent to the property was sold, remodeled and is now occupied.

Relocation of Costco - Chairman Alexander reported that the final decision about the relocation of Costco on property at Kuebler Blvd and I-5 is being held up in court with a private land owner suing the State Land Use board for referring the decision back to the city council and the developer is suing the city over the costs the incurred making the overall improvements required by the planning commission as a condition for the issuing of permits. The city plans to wait until the law suits are settled before making a final decision about the Costco relocation,

Evan White reported he has been advocating for the pedestrian pathway through the pioneer cemetery

Chairman Alexander reported that he has been approached by candidates running for positions on the city council, for mayor and the state legislature about making presentations at our meeting. By consensus, the candidates will be invited to attend and make presentations.

Chairman Alexander excused himself so he could travel to Portland to catch a flight.

Vice Chairman, Bill Kelly took over the meeting.

### **Old Business**

Sally Cook reported that there is a Croisan Trail that is on public land. The land owner has the right to fence off an access to the trail that went through their property. She indicated that the trail is not properly marked.

There was a discussion about the safety of pedestrians, even those using crosswalks, during night time hours. It was mentioned that drivers need to slow down and pedestrians need to make sure they are visible with reflective clothing and/or lights. Drivers should not put on their hazard lights if stopping for pedestrians crossing the street (especially if the pedestrian is not using a crosswalk) because other drivers would think the car broken down and go around the car potentially hitting a pedestrian.

A neighbor brought up the missing sidewalks on Cunningham Lane. It was commented that the neighborhood association has worked on the issue for years, including the lack of sidewalks on Browning Ave. Sally Cook indicated that the only way the missing sidewalks would be installed on Cunningham Lane, at this point, is if the neighbors came together and paid for them.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at Schirle Elementary.

The meeting was adjourned at 9PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Miller

Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association Secretary

Those in Attendance:

Alan Alexander

Bill Kelly

Evan White

Sally Cook

David Jackson

Sylvia Dawson

Julie Charron

Cathy Barney-Thomas

Henry Fuqua

Austin Ross

Eunice Kim

Gloria Koenig

Laura Hildebrant

Officer Vanmeter

Jackie Leung

K Patten (I apologize for incorrect spelling)

Jason DiSenso

Vanessa Nordyke

Bruce & Linda Miller