

Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association
July 15, 2021 Minutes
Held via zoom

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

Sally Cook moved and Bruce Miller seconded a motion to accept the minutes as circulated, Motion carried

Officer Knust

He mentioned, in general, crime is up including speeding.

He reported that two police officers are assigned to the district because of its size.

There was a discussion of areas in the neighborhood where speeding is an issue including Skyline Blvd and the Davis and Liberty Road area.

He asked that neighbors look for areas that could use enhanced crosswalks. They can be reported by going to the city of Salem website, community resources, transportation & getting around, report a concern, Safer Pedestrian Crossings program. Police officers can monitor the areas and compile statistics regarding the area.

A neighbor asked about unmarked crosswalks when a street T's into a main street. Is that considered a crosswalk? It is considered to be an unmarked crosswalk. To be safe, the officer indicated that it is always safer to walk further to a marked crosswalk. The neighbor was specific about Liberty Circle and Skyline Blvd that connects to an alleyway between a dental office and Liberty Christian Church which connects to 7 Eleven located on Liberty Road. It was suggested that the neighbor report it and that the police could monitor the area when school starts during dismissal times.

Officer Jantz

He mentioned that National Night Out returns on Tuesday August 3rd. You can register your party on the city website and request a police officer attend your

event. Go to the city website, community resources, my neighborhood, safer neighborhoods

The city has a new crime statistics page. <https://www.cityofsalem.net/crime-stats>

He mentioned that sex offenders will eventually appear on the page. Fraud shows the address of the victim, not necessarily where the fraud occurs.

Councilor Nordyke

She shared a powerpoint that included:

Her visit to Cascades Gateway Park. The city is slowly trying to transition the unsheltered out of the park as well as Wallace Marine Park. It is a slow process. The Union Gospel Mission will open their new, expanded shelter soon. Two hotels have been purchased. Two and soon three managed shelters will open. She reported that campers like managed campgrounds. She also said that some of the unsheltered want to work, but they face obstacles. There will be a managed campground on city owned property across from city hall. There is a pallet shelter on Portland Road and Catholic Community Services offers shelter opportunities. A Navigation Center will open later this year.

The city received a national award for the restoration of Pringle Creek.

During the heatwave agencies handed out lots of water to the unsheltered. There was also a shuttle to transport them to cooling centers.

The Salem Housing authority, which manages low income senior housing, worked to keep air conditioning working and distributing fans during the heatwave.

The city council will have a work session regarding fireworks especially during heat waves and drought conditions.

The old Nordstrom building will be demolished and rebuilt to include retail space on the ground floor and 160 apartments that will rent for \$1,000 to \$1,300 per month.

In person city meetings will begin!

A Hilton Hotel will be built downtown near the convention center. Rooms will rent for about \$185 per night,

A neighbor asked about proposed zoning changes that would allow food trucks in parks. Councilor Nordyke indicated she had not heard about any such proposal. Chairman Alexander, who serves on the parks advisory board, said that food trucks are allowed in parks when large groups host events. The Salem Parks and Recreation Board meets the second Thursday of the month at 5 PM Neighbors can sign up to give testimony.

Patricia Farrell City of Salem Manager Parks & Natural Resources/ Climate Action Plan Manager

She shared a powerpoint about the city's goal to reduce carbon emissions and to become carbon neutral by 2035. She shared the steps taken to set the goals. On September 20th the city council will have a work session on the plan and in December the final plan will go to the city council for approval. Some of the goals of the plan are to reduce driving and increase the use of public transportation, establish neighborhood hubs where neighbors can walk to services, increase the use of solar power and reduce waste.

She shared the drought conditions map as of July 15th and some effects of global warming.

She also shared a map of urban heat islands where increased heat is found in cities without a lot of trees. She shared ways to prepare for the impact of climate change including expanding the urban tree canopy the setting up a network of indoor gathering places and adding electric vehicle charging stations

She reported that PGE is transitioning to green energy and has closed the coal fired electric generating plant in Boardman, Oregon. Neighbors let her know that Temple Beth Shalom will be installing solar panels and electric vehicle charging stations.

For more information and to give input go to cityofsalem.net/pages/climate-action-plan

Land Use Henry Neugass

Henry reported that Bill Davis was out of town and could not attend the meeting.

He reported he is trying to be proactive on requests for building permits/ requests for zone changers rather than reactive. He questioned how we could get neighbors from the Crossler area involved instead of just reacting to land use situation,

He reported that the West Salem Neighborhood Association has an active Land Use committee which is a result of a proposed 3rd bridge which is off the table.

There was discussion, but the areas discussed were dealing with safety of school bus stops etc rather than land use issues.

Chairman Alexander reported that the neighborhood association chairs are trying to organize a meeting to discuss proposed zoning changes and shelters and camping for the unsheltered. So far no one has stepped up to organized the meeting

Chairman Alexander expressed his appreciation for the Land use committee

Back to School Nights - Chairman Alexander

Pre-pandemic, the neighborhood association had tables at Back to School Nights at Liberty Elementary, Schirle Elementary and Crossler Middle. The city provided handouts and we were able to connect with neighbors. He reported that at this time the district is not willing to commit to allowing us to be there.

Parks Chairman Alexander

The volleyball net at Sunnyslope Park was fully funded by the parks grant and is being used by volleyball camps and neighbors

Secor Park

Chairman Alexander reported that he serves on the parks recreation advisory board. The board was approached by a lady who said, while at Secor Park, she, her partner and child experienced teens making homophobic remarks directed at them.. She reported it to the police, but because no threats were made the police could do nothing. Another neighbor talked to a neighbor who takes her 2 year old granddaughter to the park on a regular basis and one time was harassed by a teen.

Kevin Willingham reported that Salem is working on how to implement house Bill 2001 and are looking at how other communities are implementing the bill

Chairman Alexander reported that we will not have a formal August meeting, but will stay in touch dealing with issues if needed.

He asked that neighbors look for a place to hold in person meetings preferably within the neighborhood. He will check with the city to see if they are still willing to pay for us to use an elementary school.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14PM

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Miller
Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association Secretary

Those in attendance:

Alan & Judith Alexander
Bruce & Linda Miller
Even White
Councilor Nordyke
Officer Jantz
Officer Knus
Patricia Farrell city of Salem
Steve Vaught
Jeff Graham
Victoria Clark
Gary Knighten
Sally Cook
Kevin Willingham
Henry Neugass
Irma Dowd city of Salem