

Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association
Minutes
October 21, 2021
Held Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chairman, Alan Alexander.

Neighbors and guests were welcomed!

The minutes were approved as circulated.

Police Officer - Josh Edmiston

He shared that the police department is looking for community input as they develop a strategic plan. He encouraged neighbors to give input by going to the city website, public safety and then click on the police

He reminded neighbors of tips to stay safe on Halloween including staying in groups, using sidewalks and wearing bright colored clothing.

A neighbor asked about the mailbox thefts that are happening in the neighborhood. He said they are looking for identification and bank information. He suggested doing as much as you can online and to sign up for USPS informed delivery. Informed Delivery will let you know what has been delivered, you will know if anything has been stolen.

.A neighbor, with property backing up to Secor Park, asked about the shooting incident that occurred at the park. He said they were not Crossler students. Someone had gotten a hold of a gun and a person was shot. He indicated there were other things involved in the incident that he was not at liberty to discuss. He urged neighbors to call in any suspicious activity and that neighbors who have property joining the park to install lights facing the park. He also said cleaning out the brush in the park would help as people hide in the brush doing things they should not. Chairman Alexander reminded neighbors that when the master plan for the park was updated part of the neighbors wanted the park to remain a natural area with trails and others wanted the park developed. The parks department attempted to satisfy both visions for the park.

Officer Edmiston recommends gun safety programs, but implementing them are a challenge.

Councilor Nordyke

She shared a powerpoint that included the following; She attended the annual Hispanic Heritage Month breakfast at the convention center and the Indigenous Peoples Day celebration at the Amphitheater. The council approved a managed micro shelter site in West Salem for homeless who are 55 years and older. Public Works won an award for restoration of wetlands in Mill Creek. The Salem Police Department is seeking public input as they develop a strategic plan. The council is having work sessions on the Our Salem Comprehensive Plan. No decisions are made during work sessions. The city has received a 3.7 million dollar grant to help address youth homelessness. The Climate Action committee has a draft of its plan on the

city website and wants input from the community. Salem is growing and how we grow matters. The city is working on incentives for developers to build affordable housing units. The old JCPenney building has been purchased and the plan is to divide it into smaller retail spaces. The old Union Gospel Mission building will be demolished. She shared the city's efforts regarding the unsheltered including projects that are making a difference including a navigation center. She has been working on establishing a mobile crisis unit in Salem that would be staffed by a mental health professional and a medic similar to the Cahoots program in Eugene. The state legislature established grant funding for such units statewide, however only counties can apply for the grants. Counties deal with behavioral health. Marion County chooses to put efforts into police crisis units rather than civilian units. The county spends 466 million on mental health and homelessness while they spend 1.7 million on dog control. Lane County spends 419 million on the homeless. Neighbors are urged to sign up for emergency alerts on the city website You can watch the city emergency preparedness seminars on youtube.

State Senator Deb Patterson

She reported that the only time legislators were in the capitol building during the session was to hold votes. Everything else was done virtually. They look forward to returning to the building for the February 2022 session. She shared the committees she served on and some of the accomplishments of the legislative session. She shared concerns about making health care costs affordable and addressing the homeless and their mental health needs. The State Mental Health Facility in Junction City will fully open. She urged neighbors to sign up for the Postal Service informed delivery. She thanked her chief of staff, Emily Mooney for joining the meeting this evening.

Heidi Miller Center 50+

She shared the work of the center during the pandemic including the Friendship Brigade, the Outreach Friendly Caller Program and the canine corp that made outdoor visits to seniors. They will be having Halloween Parades for several assisted living centers. They have 2 Wellness vans. The center is currently operating at 30% capacity and everything is by appointment and registration. The South Salem Senior Center is open. Both centers are hoping to have more in person activities beginning in February and March. They are currently looking for volunteers to help seniors with leaf clean up prior to the city leaf haul. She reported that Marion Polk Food Share runs the Meals on Wheels program.

Land Use

Kyle Kearns & Olivia Dias - city of Salem Zone change on property at 1976 Davis Road

This is a 3.75 acre site that the owners are submitting a request to rezone from RM1 single family to RM 2 multi family The RM 2 designation allows for 28 dwellings per acre. This is just a request for a rezone but the proposal suggests building 80 units. The city's comprehensive plan designates this area for multi-family. The application has not been deemed complete so no hearing has been set There is no information about where access points to this development would be. Because of the proposed number of units, no traffic impact study is required. The hearings officer can approve the rezone request since it is an area that the city has designated for multi-family and if approved, the neighborhood association can request it be

pulled for discussion by the city council. Olivia indicated that there is a separate land use application where the developer will be required to improve the frontage along Davis Road to mitigate traffic. The neighborhood association is urged to submit testimony to the hearings officer within the guidelines of the request. Discussion of neighbors centered around the fact that Davis Road is not built to handle the additional traffic this development would add. Chairman Alexander indicated that the neighborhood association has been advocating for traffic mitigation for 9 years and nothing has been done. It was pointed out that with the lack of sidewalks and bike lanes in sections and with ditches on some sides of the road, a pedestrian cannot walk down Davis from Skyline to Liberty where Crossler Middle School is located. The only way to safely navigate Davis Road is by car and at times the road becomes one way. There are still no traffic signals on Liberty Road at Davis and Liberty Road at Mildred where there was a fatality in the past (since our meeting there was an accident at Mildred and Liberty with a car going into a backyard with the car catching fire) Olivia suggested contacting public works over the safety issues.

Evan White indicated he will be representing the neighborhood association at the hearing for the wireless tower proposed for the Sunnyslope Shopping Center that would block the Roth's sign. Roth's is also opposing the location of the tower.

Henry Neugass reported that in conversations with the owner of the property at Kurth and Warren that they have given up on dividing the property because the site development fees are too high even though the city backed off on some of the requirements.

Chairman Alexander encouraged neighbors to give input on the Police Strategic plan which can be found on the city website.

Chairman Alexander also reported that the city is coming close to the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan and the Climate Action Plan.

Our annual meeting will be on November 18th and he is not sure if it will be held via zoom or in person. This is the meeting that board members are elected for the coming year. Please let him know of your interest at awa8025@aol.com

The proposal to reduce the speed limit in neighborhood streets to 20 MPH "Twenty is plenty" will be on the November agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02PM

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Miller
Secretary

Those in attendance:
Alan & Judith Alexander

Bruce & Linda Miller

Evan White

Henry Neugass

Sally Cook

Gary Knighten

Councilor Vanessa Nordyke

Officer Edmiston

Heidi Miller - Center 50+

State Senator Deb Patterson

Emily Mooney - Chief of Staff for Deb Patterson

Elena Guevara

Amelia Knight

Victoria & Jeff

Bill Kelly

Olivia Dias city of Salem

Kyle Kearns city of Salem

Cathy