

Faye Wright Neighborhood Association
Monthly Meeting
Zoom
2/10/21

Attendees:

Sally Cook- Board Member
Bev Ecklund- Board Member, Secretary
Susan Hecox - Board Member, Land Use Chair
Blake Shelide- Board Member, Chair
Dr. Trevor Phillips- City Council
Sgt. Wiedmann- Salem Police Department

Board Members Absent:

Bryant Baird- Board Member
Shawn Range- Board Member, Vice-Chair
Mike Slater- Board Member

Call to Order

7:02 p.m.

Accept Agenda

Agenda Accepted & Approved

Roll Call/Introductions

Done

Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes approved

City and County Reports

1. Salem Police Report

SPD has a new transparency portal available on the SPD website. The Portal is a work in progress, and more information will be added. Portal can be located under the Tab on the PD webpage called Trust Building With Community.

New funding has provided money for police body cameras. The process has started and officers will test and evaluate different products. Additional personnel will be hired to handle the increased data that the body camera program will create.

Comments from Trevor Phillips- the portal is another step in Chief Womack's plan to move towards a community policing model.

Sally Cook- comment that some newer trees have been taken out by what she assumes are motorists or vehicle accidents near Liberty and Friendship SE. During the pandemic there have been more, and more severe, traffic collisions.

Sgt. Wiedmann commented that folks had gotten used to fewer officers patrolling and less traffic. People are still driving too fast.

Blake Shelide asked about speed cameras and statistics at intersections. There are only a few around town. Reported that recycling cans were taken recently from his residence. Trevor Phillips reported continued theft of mail in the Morningside area.

2. City Councilor Reports

Trevor Phillips reporting

City Council voted to adopt the tree ordinance regarding 'significant trees' with no official opposition from developers. There is some concern that this will lead to an increase in housing prices.

The locations for managed micro-shelters were voted on. Council approved three locations. The goal is that the first will be activated by mid-May. The Portland Road location will need to be shut down due to DEQ issues and the Center Street location is planned to be the first new site activated. There are still hopes for more of these managed micro-shelters. The shelters themselves are only part of the funding. The services and management of the shelters are much higher costs.

There is a big bond on the ballot in the November election this year that would fund repair and maintenance on city infrastructure and fund needed upgrades to City Hall, etc. This bond would not increase taxes.

The budget committee plans to advocate for at least 6 new police officers. A police team to help city staff go into sites with unsheltered people. Plans to shore up the fire department to bring down response times.

Mural issue- no fines have been issued. City is working to clarify policy language.

Sally Cook commented that we are applying for a SPIF (Salem Park Improvement Fund) grant to improve the path around Hillview Park. Trevor Phillips agreed to submit a letter of support. Sally suggested that he support the plan because the park provides a healthy outlet for neighbors and the path is not currently accessible because of tree roots growing into the path.

Pandemic update- the peak of Omicron seems to have passed. We will likely see less COVID infections. Trevor Phillips recommends wearing masks indoors and getting up-to-date on vaccines.

New Business

1. Park Walk Planning (annual goal to walk all the parks in our neighborhood)

Blake Shelide has planned out dates to visit each park in our neighborhood. He also found a park audit form that we can use. He will send out the proposed schedule for walking each park. Trevor Phillips could share that we are doing this in the next council meeting.

2. Neighborhood issues/concerns/questions

Neighborhood Association Updates:

FWNA is celebrating our 50th anniversary. Blake Shelide has been invited to say a few words at the next city council meeting.

Northgate is also 50 years old. Northgate is organizing a walk to promote local businesses and establish community connections. Walks will be held the 2nd Saturday of each month and will begin at the flea market on Portland Road. Starts Feb. 12th.

Morningside is getting a new park in the Fairview area. Volunteer opportunity on Feb. 19th at 9:00 to start developing a path/trail.

Susan Hecox met with a community member about the development near Pembroke. The resident was concerned about the scope of the construction happening. There will be standard set-backs and trees planted. Sally commented that in the past she has talked to other developers that chose not to build on that lot because they said it wouldn't be profitable. Her concern is that the development won't be successful.

Adjournment

Adjourned at 8:12 p.m.