

SESNA DRAFT MINUTES

Aug. 23, 2022, Richmond Park – From Shannon Priem, Chair

Attendance: Neighbors David McGraw (guest of D. Tompkins), Dave MacMillan, Burt Eikleberry, Dan Jursnick, Kathryn Ponek, Anne and Steve Scheck, Alex Berlin. Board members Shannon Priem, Jeff Leach, David Tompkins; Guest Mark Wigg. Board members absent: Bill Smaldone, Seleste Liyanage, Arnaud Verstuylf.

Introductions were made and Marion County Commissioner candidate was introduced (not on the agenda, but we were happy to meet him).

Guest speaker: An introduction and Q and A with Mark Wigg, retired, active the past 30 years in Salem causes, and running as a Democrat for Marion County Commissioner. Priorities include making the county more proactive in addressing homeless/houseless challenges; economic growth. He'd like to see more permanent housing alternatives and employment for the houseless. Voting will be at the Nov. 8 General Election; you can visit his Facebook page.

There were no police or city council reports.

Neighborhood concerns: The effects of homelessness is still evident in some SESNA neighborhoods, although the Mill Race Park has seen major improvements, thanks to Burt Eikleberry working with the city, homeless and other advocacy groups in clean-up and reminders to "campers" they need to seek help elsewhere. The group asked more questions of Mark Wigg regarding homeless solutions; the discussion was productive, as Mark mentioned he gained a deeper insight from talking with neighbors. Also mentioned: We should promote our waterways; what's the status of K-Mart property; promote the SESNA walking tour by Virginia Green; PDF to use while walking available on our Website.

Chair's topics: Shannon gave an update on the new **Salem Hospital campus** and more convenience entrance and 100 more critical care beds in another tower; the \$13.2 million ODOT grant to improve **McGilchrist between 12th and 25th streets** scheduled for next summer. Improvements support "safer movement" for pedestrian, bicycle, train and vehicle traffic. Additions include more turn lanes, bike lanes, sidewalks and shared use paths, planting areas, stormwater/flood mitigation, traffic signals, streetlights and an improved rail crossing. Project should foster more jobs closer to residential areas while reducing flooding and improving water quality in Pringle Creek. This was the sixth grant attempt.

Annual Meeting: Group decided to pursue Nov. 15 for date of annual meeting; Jeff Leach agreed to look up any major city-related scheduling conflicts.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. next meeting Sept. 27, Capital Park Church.