

SESNA Minutes, July 26, 2022 at Lee Park

Attendance: Board Members - Shannon Priem, Bill Smaldone, Dave Tompkins, Seleste Liyanage. Neighbors -- Robert Olguin, Ben Martinez. Guests --Troy Thompson, City of Salem

7:00 - Introductions, Approval of Minutes, Additions to Agenda. Minutes were approved.

7:10 Guests and Special Topics: Police: Sgt. Galvin (Had a conflict.)

Troy Thompson, City of Salem: Shelton Ditch restoration/enhancement

There has been a lot of erosion along the banks of various parts of the Ditch. The Ditch was dug for flood control and is so old (built in the 1850s) that it is now officially a stream. As part of the work an archeologist will do “shovel testing” looking for historical artifacts. The timeline for the restoration work is fluid due to the permitting process. To stabilize the banks a variety of methods are used including tree planting, rip-wrap, etc. The project is paid for by City funds (Public Works).

Tom Andersen’s report:

We have a new city manager, Keith Staley. Comes from Olympia where he was Deputy City Manager. Has responsible there for dealing with climate action and homelessness among other things.

Maintenance Bond Measure: Coming in November. The tax rate will not go up because other, current bonds, are being retired. All kinds of city maintenance projects are included, e.g., bridge repair, protected bike lanes, new branch library in NE Salem (combined with affordable housing).

Homeless Policy: we have received 8.15 million dollars to address homelessness in the city. The new tiny house project on Center Street is going forward. A low barrier navigation center is being purchased and renovated on 22nd Street. Gretchen Bennett is the point person at the City

Former Capitol Chevrolet Property on Mission Street: The land was sold to Gerry’s Home Improvement Center (based in Eugene).

7:50 - **Neighborhood Concerns:** We brought up the derelict auto-glass store on the corner of State & 21st NE. Shannon also reported on recent changes to police responses to minor crimes and new approaches by Chief Womack to curb gang activity.

8:15 - Old and New Business: Annual Meeting Date and Place

Future city presentations: Salem Hospital Changes, City Forester (Milan), Stream Cleaning.

Annual Meeting: Shannon and Seleste will talk about the Beautification Awards
Date: Mid-November, at the Wesleyan Church.

8:30 - Adjourn, Next meeting August 23, Richmond School Park.