



NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
555 LIBERTY ST. SE RM. 305 SALEM OR 97301 • 503-588-6207 • WWW.CITYOFSALEM.NET/NEIGHBOR

Meeting Minutes May 11, 2023
SOUTH GATEWAY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SGNA met via Zoom due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Board Members

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Dynee Medlock Chair	
Jackie Leung Vice chair	
Dave McKenna Secretary	
Treasurer	Jerry Sachtjen
Mike Hughes	
John Ledger	
Kathleen Lempka	
Glenn Baly	

Community members:

John Miller
Becky
Charey Cook
Maria Moakri
Courtney Sanders
Lori Pearson
KD (Kim Davis)
Sara Wilkes
Marissa Theve
Irma Coleman
Julie's iPad
AJ iPhone (Sargent Burke)

Guests

Deanna Gwyn, City Councilor, Ward 4
Chris Hoy, Salem Mayor
Sargent A.J. Burke, Salem Police

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dynee Medlock. Attendance taken, quorum declared present. Approved minutes with corrections for April meeting.

2. Mayor Chris Hoy

Mayor Chris Hoy gave an introduction and update on what's going on at the city council meetings. They are having sessions on the City budget which have been contentious.

He grew up on the coast and now lives in east Salem. Has been living in Salem over nineteen years. Attended Willamette University.

Navigation Center for homeless will be opening shortly. The homeless camp south of Terrace Lake Park has been moved out. Neighbor wanted to know how can they keep them out and get it cleaned up. Report to "Have a Problem" on City of Salem web-site to keep on-going diligence of cleaning up the site and moving out people who come back. Councilor Gwyn went with Officer Bennett and the Homelessness Services Team when they were clearing out the site. There were still five people remaining out of the 30+ homeless people occupying the site. Said that the members of the team have a lot of heart in the way that they handle these situations.

A recommended budget has been forwarded from the Citizen's committee and a payroll tax is being proposed to meet the shortfall. The budget Committee has approved the proposed budget. People who live and work in Salem would be paying the tax. The payroll tax option will be going to the voters for approval.

City is looking at putting charging stations in at affordable housing locations and Mahonia Crossing is one site they are considering.

3. Payback Chair for Zoom Expense for Year

A motion was made and passed by the SGNA board to have the City payback the chair for the expense of getting one year of service from Zoom for holding the meetings on-line. It was approved to cover up to \$120.

4. City Councilor Report

Deanna gave report. Budget talks are proceeding and they are controversial.

Have extended hours at the library. The Navigation Center will be opening. Equipment for the Fire Department has been purchased. Registration for summer sports has opened up.

Did walk in Battle Creek Park with Dynee and John Sheppard reviewing the areas that flooding occurs.

Gave her email and phone number for citizen contact; dgwyn@cityofsalem.net ; 971-374-3659.

5. Police Officer Report

Sargent Burke gave report.

Church in the Park is opening their location on Turner Road.

Working on getting 30% of women on the force. Currently have 14% so are getting toward meeting that goal.

Having difficulties recruiting officers to meet personnel requirements.

Neighbor had question about police on bicycles downtown. They call this their Community Action Unit.

6. Dark Sky Initiative

Marissa Theve who is a member of Grant Neighborhood association gave a report on getting the City to adopt a Dark Sky Initiative. City lights interrupts views of night sky for seeing stars, planets and moon. It impacts migrating birds, animal mating habits, foraging, predator-prey behavior and blooming of plants. It impairs sleeping quantity and quality. Power used for lighting causes CO₂ pollution.

For more information go to International Dark Sky Association - Oregon Chapter.

Doing light shading of street lights so so that they direct light to the ground and not up to the sky helps to kept skies darker. Salem has 13,000 street lights.

Salem hot spots for lighting up the night sky are Lancaster, downtown and auto dealerships.

7. New Business

Mutt mitt dispenser won the vote of the SGNA board for the grant funding proposal to be submitted to the Salem Parks Foundation for Battle Creek Park.

8. Adjournment.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 8th at 6:45 PM.