Minutes of **GRANT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

Board Meeting September 7, 2023 6:15 pm Broadway Commons and online via: Zoom video conference

AGENDA ITEM

#1 Introductions

BOARD MEMBERS: PRESENT – P ABSENT – A EXCUSED – E					
ELISA ANGUIANO	P	LOLA HACKETT	P	SUSAN NAPACK	P
JEANNE BOATWRIGHT	P	TINA HANSEN	P	SAM SKILLERN	P
MARK DECOURSEY	P	Laura Herrmann	P	AARON TERPENING	E
TIM FRANCE	P	TERESA JOSLIN	P	Marissa Theve	P
CHRISTOPHER HACKETT	P	NICK MASELLI	E	PAUL TIGAN	E

Others present, or on Zoom: Matthew Groat, Virginia Stapleton, Cheryl Funderburk, Sadie K. Carney, Diane Bourdeau, Tommy VanCleave, Cynthia Kavanagh, Carol DeCoursey, Scott Mumford and Corlin VanOrdin.

Christopher moved that "We approve the August minutes as submitted." Teresa seconded the motion. Vote was 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

#2 Great Story from Grant Neighborhood

- Lola reported that a neighbor, who owns Community Cider and has a market by the name of Heartland Cider in Rickreall, is collecting donations of apples to process into cider. The proceeds from the sale of those cider batches produced from the donated apples will be donated to the Boys & Girls Club.
- Sam, and neighbors in his block, hosted their yearly Back to School Alley Party for Teachers and staff at Grant Community School. They make, or renew, connections between the school and the neighborhood to offer support and share information.
- Saturday, the 9th, is band day, so be on the lookout for North Salem High School students who will be collecting monetary donations and/or recyclable cans and bottles. This year it is not just the band students, but will include orchestra and choir members.
- Neighbors were appreciative of the donated State Fair tickets that we received at last month's meeting.
- Mark reported that 2 more houses on his block were being renovated, including a "drug" house.

#3 Neighbor Concerns

- Tim told us about the Oregon White Oak behind the Sparrow Furniture building on Broadway losing one of its limbs. It dropped onto a food truck after the lunch hour. Two people suffered broken bones. One person outside of the truck had a broken back and multiple injuries and is still in critical condition at OHSU.
- 1290 Capitol is strung with yellow "caution" tape and is unsafe to occupy. The city is set to reinspect the property on September 26th.
- Cheryl brought several issues: a) The amount of parent parking around the school and neighborhood during student drop-off and pick-up times is disruptive. Could the Seed of Faith Church allow the parents to use their lot at those times? b) The activity and, apparent, lack of supervision at the Seed of Faith halfway house adjacent to the church's parking lot on Gaines Street needs to be addressed; and, c) Can we start a Neighborhood Watch Program? Sam replied that he would talk to Pastor Wade about the church issues and ideas, particularly the structure and management of the home. He will also check with Angie Hedrick and Irma Coleman, at the City of Salem, to determine what the status of the Neighborhood Watch Program is. It used to be widespread, but does not seem to exist anymore.
- Nick reported (through Sam) that three of his neighbors had to get their roofing replaced or face losing their home insurance. One even had his cancelled for not responding quickly enough.

#4 Officer Report

Officer Groat said that he would also follow up on the question about Neighborhood Watch. The traffic Control Team is out, now that school is back in session. The SPD sponsored Halloween Dress Rehearsal at the SPD building will be held again this year in late October, but the date has not been set yet. This started several years ago as a result of a death at Halloween and teaches kids about how to stay safe while out trick-or-treating.

#5 Councilor Report

Virginia reported:

- The City Council is working on a lot of committee work.
- The dams at Geren Island, the city's water diversion and treatment plant, are in need of repair. The city is working with our federal representatives to find funds to do the work.
- The YMCA veterans' housing, across Cottage Street from the YMCA building, is opening.
- The Turner Road micro-shelter facility will open with 80 beds on the 11th. The Catholic Community Services site on Portland Road has added 30 beds.
- The development parameters for the downtown UGM block on Commercial Street are being explored.
- City staff is working on fleshing out the proposal to reinstate downtown paid parking.
- She has contacted public works about the pedestrian safety sings on Market at Grant Community School.
- The budget work session on September 18th will look at a supplemental budget plan. If the vote to overturn the employee tax succeeds on November 7th, they are looking \$10 million of cuts for Sept 1 through June 30. Supporters of the tax have set up a committee to provide background and education on the tax. Visit SaveSalem.org.
- The Grant Park Bike Festival will be held September 9th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. It is sponsored by Salem Bike Vision and Safe Routes to School.
- Regarding the sidewalk issue on E Street that was brought up last month, she contacted Brian Martin, PE, Director of Public Works. They are checking for any information on the incident and will try to get it on the docket to get it repaired.
- Regarding the emergency preparedness requirements at apartments topic, that we have discussed over the past year, she thinks that, at this time, with the housing shortage trying to be addressed, adding another layer of costs will probably not be adopted. It's a good idea; just a bad time to push it.

#6 GNA Bylaws Review – Article III

Marissa had an onscreen copy of this section and the sub-committee's proposed edits. Suggested edits (in strikeout and bold here) from those in attendance included: "... maintain a **safe** welcoming environment, and celebrate the unique character of **GNA Grant Neighborhood**." Next moth we will address the membership Article.

#7 Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

Marissa said that this was being explored as a possible addition to our bylaws. She has contacted city staff, Gretchen Bennett and staff at Chemeketa Community College. It would be a way to acknowledge that Grant Neighborhood was originally Calapooya land. The acknowledgement would involve discussions with the tribe. She was asked if it would involve a land return movement. She said that the Federal government does some of that, State governments can, but at the city level she didn't know. Several organizations keep it low key; acknowledging history with our dealing with any land back issues. The concept of "ownership" is very different for indigenous vs colonials. A suggestion was made to contact David Lewis, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde's Historian. We need to be careful that any actions are substantive, not performative. Elisa said she supports it but wants it to be vocal and not just a statement on the internet. Salme is working with the tribes to replace the sign on Mill Creek near Boon's Treasury. Springfield has a program that is installing "talking stones" with Calapooya words and the English translation. Jeanne suggested working with other neighborhood associations to enable a more effective citywide involvement by the NA's. Could we explore/support, with those other NA's that border the river,

a teaching installation addressing the joint connection to the Willamette River? Christopher also suggested working with the Willamette Heritage Center and its resources and connections. Virginia will contact Kimberli Fitzgerald and Irma Coleman for city guidance.

#8 Board Member Reports

- CERT Lola reported that the city's new Emergency Manager is Joe Hutchinson. The next CERT training session will start Thursday, October 5th, at Fire Station #6 at the airport. It will run through November 9th. The final exercise will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church on November 18th. September is National Preparedness Month. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management has information on preparing a preparedness kit and also information on how to be ready for a Level 1, 2, or 3 evacuations. Go to Oregon.gov/oem.
- Communications/Outreach Susan said that we need to consider if we will be participating in the annual Drive-thru Trick-or-Treat at the Willamette Heritage Center.
 She is willing to host a Grant Neighborhood booth at the bike fair, but would like some help. Elisa, Laura and Christopher all said they could help.
 Rachel Alexander, at the Salem Reporter, is going to be including regular reports each month on the activities of the city' neighborhood associations. Susan will be providing her with information and articles.
 SCAN just completed their street painting at Leffelle and Church streets at the south edge of Bush's Pasture Park.
- Land Use Updates No report.
- **North Neighborhoods CPT** Sam reminded all that they meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month. That will be on the 13th at 11:30 for lunch. They will have a presentation on Emergency Preparedness from the United Way and will be at their offices at 455 Bliler Avenue NE.

#7 Other Business

- Lola said that the Willamette Heritage Center will be holding their annual drive-thru Trick-or-Treat event on Sunday, October 29th. She reminded Officer Groat that the Police Department is invited to participate.
- Sadie Carney said she was glad to be back at a GNA board meeting and see some familiar faces. Cherriots is providing free bus passes for veterans at the Salem YMCA Veteran's Housing (see #5, above). They are sponsoring Punk in the Park on Sept 16th at Marion Square Park. Free rides will be given to that event. Cherriots has reinstituted its free ride program for riders under age 18. They are setting up a UMO system to allow electronic payment of fares with a card or a phone app. They will be at the Mobility Fair on September 26th at the Center 50+.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright