



WSNA Meeting Minutes

Sep,2023

Call Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order by chair at 6:12 PM

Reading of Equity Statement > Sara

AGENDA

- Any additions to agenda from the body
 - No additions
 - Motion to approve was made by E.M second by Maureen motion passed.

Minutes Approval

- No additions, deletions, or changes to the minutes
- Motion to approve minutes made by E.M second by Aron motion passed.

New Business

- **Salem PD**
 - Salem PD is holding a Halloween dress rehearsal where any child can attend and learn about safety on Halloween night. It will be held at the police station.
 - Reminded everyone that school is in session and to be careful driving around the schools.
 - There were 114 block parties registered and they are able to visit 80 of them.
 - West Salem is now district 1 for the Salem police department
- **Councilor**
 - Councilor Varney was in attendance Councilor Stapelton was absent.
 - Councilor Varney gave updates on the following:
 - On her visit to the recycling plan, she suggested that we have someone come and speak about the plant and provide education to the group.

- She discussed her input to the council on her findings with the Titan development and she fought a good battle but lost.
- She did say that she wants to stay in touch with the planning department on all the exceptions.

- **Meeting Schedule**

- No new ideas were suggested.
- It was mentioned that if we do have our meetings in other locations we should try to make sure that there is public transportation available

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- **Nominations**

- There were no additional nominations made and nominations were closed
 - Current Nominations:
 - Chair
 - Mike Freitas
 - Vice Chair
 - Sara Campos
 - Robert Garcia
 - Secretary
 - Drew Strayer
 - Treasurer
 - Beverly Freitas

- **Committee Chair Update**

- **Houseless Update**
 - As of 9.7.23
 - The City of Salem is beginning on Monday an audit of the work the city has been doing in the homelessness space. Consultants are gathering information to study the work and we would have a report in Spring after the 6-7 months process.
 - At this time, we are concerned about budget for several areas – the upcoming warming activation is not funded at the level it has been (the city retained the same funding level, but state funding has shifted and at this time funding is still being sought to augment the warming work this winter), and the two currently operating micro-shelters and the safe park program don't have city grant funding identified beginning July 1. City staff are at work to identify alternative funding sources. The city is going to be encouraging volunteerism in the warming network; if the

funding levels remain low, increased volunteers could very tangibly increase shelter beds to needed numbers.

- Polk County is at work to hire 'qualified mental health professionals' to help expand their behavioral outreach mobile crisis services in Polk County – they would be a non-law enforcement team that would respond wherever a person is experiencing behavioral health crisis.
 - The City of Salem continues spending a lot of time working with people at Wallace Marine Park, providing outreach and information and removing garbage. There is a lot here to do and we are working on different ideas or approaches that can help. We are working strategically to help people access different options and work to reduce the number of those living at the park.
 - Renovations are underway at Safe Sleep United, a low-barrier, non-denominational overnight shelter for women, which is in its third year of operation. The expansion will allow them to shelter 50 women, up from the current 19.
 - Data shows that over the past year, the shelters sent 82% of families and 56% of adults to better destinations, which could include permanent housing, transitional housing, inpatient treatment, detox, or other care facilities.
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- **Titan Hill Development Appeal**
 - Discussion took place on our appeal and how it was denied and what our next steps are going forward. The group had a very long discussion and at the end we voted not to move forward on this issue any longer.
 - **Next scheduled meeting is Oct. 5 starting at 6:30PM**
 - **Special note we have moved our starting time by a half hour to attempt to have more people in attendance.**
 - Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM