

# Minutes of GRANT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting December 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	A	LOLA HACKETT	P	SUSAN NAPACK	P
JEANNE BOATWRIGHT	P	TINA HANSEN	P	SAM SKILLERN	P
MARK DECOURSEY	E	LAURA HERRMANN	A	AARON TERPENING	P
TIM FRANCE	P	TERESA JOSLIN	P	MARISSA THEVE	P
CHRISTOPHER HACKETT	P	NICK MASELLI	P		

Others present, or on Zoom: Kathleen Keys, Lindy Beaver, Justin Brunson, Christina Korkow, Charlotte Scott, Dan Sisken, Krista Hoffman, Carolin VanOrdin, Courtney Knox Busch, Robert Dowd, and Jose Gonzalez.

Christopher moved that *“We approve the November minutes with the corrections listed below.”* Tim seconded the motion. Vote was 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Corrections:

#9 GNA Bylaws Review- Article IV Membership

- CORRECT: **“Melissa** reviewed with us . . .”
- TO READ: **“Marissa** reviewed with us . . .”

#10 Board Member Reports

Communications/Outreach

- CORRECT: “Susan attended a **Highland NA board meeting** where they brainstormed ideas . . .”
- TO READ: “Susan attended an **informal meeting with several Highland NA board members** where they brainstormed ideas . . .”

Land Use Updates

- CORRECT: **“Melissa** reported that there are changes . . .”
- TO READ: **“Marissa** reported that there are changes . . .”

### #2 Great Story from Grant Neighborhood

- Susan spoke about the Highland Neighborhood Association event called Decorate & Donate that will be held December 16<sup>th</sup>. Folks are welcome to come and decorate cookies and donate a gift item. They are also working until the end of December with NW Hub to get bikes donated for the Jane Goodall Middle School.
- Charlotte reported that the graffiti painters were out this week and painted over three blocks of alley fences.
- Tina said that she had attended the Grant School Christmas concert which included choirs from Schirle and Fay Wright schools in the program.

### #3 Neighbor Concerns

- Sam brought updates on the activities at the Seed of Faith campus. They are approved to host a warming center and it was open on some earlier cold nights. It is only open on nights with qualifying cold temperatures. Neighbors asked about any concerns for kids at pickup and drop-off times. Officer Dowd said that no concerns have been expressed yet. Other neighbors said that there are individuals who sometimes sleep in the door alcoves. They are not necessarily concerned about that, per se, but asked if interactions with school kids are staffed well? Officer said that it seems to be managed well. Sam will check back in and report his discussions.
- Teresa mentioned that there are individuals who spend the night at the recessed area of the Farm Credit Building.

#### #4 **Officer Report**

Police Officer, Robert Dowd was in attendance. Susan asked about the police presence on Summer Street, between E and Belmont streets, yesterday. He did not have any detailed information that he could share. It was a Homeland Security action. Salem Police Department was not involved other than to keep folks at a distance. The person had been a problem for a while.

Officer Dowd said to call during the day if any issues arise with the homeless population.

#### #5 **Councilor Report**

Virginia was absent, but Jose Gonzalez, councilor for Ward 5 attended to update us on City activities.

- The Salem Police Chief issued a crime report that indicates crime is up amongst 16 to 20-year-olds. This seems to be part of the Covid Affect – where youth feel left behind. The homeless are not committing crimes but they are having crimes committed against them. The mayor is convening a group to track crime in Salem and will look for ideas, help, and ways to learn what needs to be done.
- On Monday they will vote to set up a Revenue Task Force and develop a template for those who will serve on it – how many will be needed and how do they recruit and select. It will look at revenue versus budget and how to set the city up for success. There is a spectrum of wants, and needs. Support, both for and against, can be based on different reasons. One path is to seek legislative relief for untaxed land in Salem that doesn't generate tax revenue for City provided services, particularly state-owned property. The Salem delegation to the legislature is supporting the bill. It will not apply only to Salem, but will help any city that has state offices.

#### #6 **Salem for Refugees**

Krista Hoffman came and spoke to us about this non-profit. Refugees started arriving in Salem in the 1970s & 1980s with personal sponsorships. In 2015, Catholic Charities were getting refugees that initially arrived in Portland. She was part of a conversation amongst a group of Salem residents in 2016. Salem Leadership Foundation was involved in bringing information to the community and organizing support. There were families at Grant School and she started helping them. The movement received a huge response from religious organizations, students, retirees, businesses, who all came together. Initially, many of the people were from Syria. Now they come from all over the world. In 2021, Salem for Refugees (SFR) became an official non-profit that was affiliated with World Relief, out of Seattle. They received State Department approval to work with settling families directly. During 2022, 700 individuals arrived. The Capitol Press Building was purchased. The SFR staff there speak 12 different languages and about a third of them have their own immigrant story. Grant and Highland neighborhoods have 15-20 refugee households; our “new neighbors”. SFR has a full time “host house” to support new arrivals for 2-4 weeks when they first come to Salem. SFR gets a 2-week notice of their arrival date. Private homes have been purchased and are offered at low rent rates to help them get on their feet. Krista listed a lot of needs that SFR welcomes:

- Any leads for jobs. Many are ready and able, with speaking English being the biggest struggle;
  - Host homes;
  - Hotels – pay for 1-2 week stays;
  - B&Bs in neighborhoods;
  - “Restart Bins” – include bedding, kitchen needs, basic supplies. SFR has lists of “needs” for these donations;
  - Be a “Bus Buddy” and teach someone how to ride a Salem city bus and get where they need to go.
- SFR has monthly meetings. The January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at Broadway Commons, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, from 12-1pm.

#### #7 **Recovery Outreach Community Center**

Krista Korkow, Executive Director of Recovery Outreach Community Center (ROCC), was present to tell us about her organization which is opening a center on the southeast corner of Market and Broadway streets

- in the former Keg & Barrel establishment. ROCC is a non-profit that contracts with other agencies to provide a community center for recovery and wellness for those 18 and older (no children). All of the services are free and they seek to help those with addiction, trauma and developmental disabilities. All of the staff members have gone through recovery for health issues, addiction, etc. and are trained specialists. The space will be open by December 22<sup>nd</sup> and will have hours from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. There is a branch of the program in Mill City and also one in Dallas. Their former space in Salem was on Silverton Road. However, it was on two levels and presented problems for those with mobility issues. A neighbor asked about staff parking. Krista said that the on-site lot would provide for staff and most of those who attend arrive on public transit. Referrals to their services come by word-of-mouth, from community partners, and Facebook. Help will be provided with resource navigation. They do not provide services for those who have been court-mandated. Neighbors asked if there will be people hanging around outside of the building. She said no, other than that the occasional smoker might be in the back parking lot. They have a therapy dog - named Simone - who is a collie and works very well with those who visit. Krista brought the activity calendar for December, which is loaded with various opportunities, including: art; movies; karaoke; yoga; meditation, wellness; and games. She welcomed any neighbors who would like to drop in and participate.

#### #8 **GNA Bylaws Review – Article V Executive Board**

Marissa reviewed with us the existing language in this section and the proposed edits. The discussion started with Section 2 and the addition of language to strive for diversity on the board by having a representative from each of the 5 sub-sectors of the neighborhood. Section 3 brought up comments that, while necessary business may need to be conducted outside of regularly scheduled meetings, we should not make that a default unless we are pressed by City of Salem timelines, particularly in land use situations. It is important to keep our actions as open and transparent as possible to maintain the confidence of our neighbors. For Section 4, Marissa reviewed several parts of Robert’s Rules of Order; some of which we do not utilize and others that we intend to use but do not do it correctly. Discussion followed on the ability to abstain from a vote and do we want to allow them. Proxy voting was also discussed once again; this time just for board members at board meetings. Jeanne offered comments on the requirement for excused absences and how they are to be submitted. Over the years absences have been reported to her by email that she was not able to open until after the meeting. She considered those to be excused. She also has received late notices from board members who had a real family emergency, which she also considered excused as it is not realistic to expect someone to stop and make a call or send an email when they have to, say, rush their spouse or child to the emergency room.

At 8:25 p.m., Christopher moved that ***“We adjourn the meeting.”*** Tim seconded the motion. Vote was 10 in favor, 1 against, 0 abstentions.

#### #9 **Board Member Reports**

- **CERT** – Post-Meeting, Lola reported to the Board Secretary that the upcoming CERT training session will be scheduled for January and February. They have 20 new trainees from the Oct-Nov session.
- **Communications/Outreach** - Post-Meeting Susan reported to the Board Secretary that the Leaf Haul will take place on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. She is working on the GNA postcards that were approved last month.

#### #10 **Other Business**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright