



Minutes of the Meeting
Of
Thursday, March 21st, 2024, via Zoom only

Executive Board Members Present: Bayard Mentrum, Chair; Shirley Robertson, Treasurer; Kaethe Mentrum, Secretary/Park Chair.

General Board Members present: Michael Hoselton, Becca Strieper Joanne Barnhart, Randy Ray (by phone), Bill Berry. Absent with excuse: Don Jensen Land Use Chair; Jess Cruz, Community Liaison Chair Pedro Mayoral. Phyllis Abbott-Cavota, Vice Chair.

Police Officers: Sgt. Jacob Pratt.

Guest Speakers: a. Heather Wright, Neighbor to Neighbor; Michael Hoselton, our general board member running for City Councilor's position b. Delores Pigsley, Chair, Siletz Indian Tribe

Neighbors: Marlayne and Tom Madison, Melissa Moon, Mary Eushling

The meeting began about 6:05 p.m. by zoom. Bayard asked each to introduce themselves.

As Sgt. Pratt was late, Bayard asked Heather Wright to start. Heather stated she is from a non-profit group who act as mediators to anyone to handle disputes, whether they be neighborhood groups, neighbors. They do not charge for being mediators.

Update from Sgt. Jacob Pratt: He said the police were understaffed and they fired some and hired five more. When Bayard asked how many were administrative or patrol, he said all of them were patrol officers. He praised Chief Womack for focusing on getting patrol officers. He talked about the Bush Park incident. About all the gun violence. There are two team positions and four more opening in April. There have been over 18 recruitments in the last 12 months. He talked about the police academy. Melinda Moon asked him about people living in cars and if that is allowed and what they do about it. She said there is a big problem right now with them stealing mail, etc. He said those were handled by Codes and Compliance as that is being illegal. They are tagged after five days and then followed up after another five days. Marlayne asked a similar question about parking close to her house, telling her neighbors he is buying cars for \$1000. Sgt. Pratt said he will investigate it the next day. He talked about the difference on how they handled public and private spaces for the homeless. He said the public ones are easier and the private ones take longer as that depends on the owner. Bayard asked if on private property, if the owners aren't doing anything, can they be fined and bring revenue to the city? Sgt. Pratt responded it doesn't happen very often, but it can be done. He mentioned a police website where to go to make a report.

Michael Hoselton: He first talked about his background. He has experience as a treasurer and is working full time at the Dept. of Justice. He brought up the issue of the City being in deficit of over \$14 Million but it is not as bad as it sounds because there are ways to overcome that. The City income is good. Their income pays for what they spend but they keep wasting money for example, they are proposing branch library in the north, but they cannot afford to keep the main branch running or the west branch running. He complained about the payroll tax problem. They spent \$75,000 putting it on the ballot only to be shot down by the people's vote. They still don't have the new fire trucks. Bayard asked him about how is the fire dept. going to be able to handle the ambulance services when the fire dept. does not have enough staff to fight fire? Michael responded he was skeptical about that. He said there are ways for computer systems

to save time and money and do better accounting than what they have now. He said the City still thinks in the old way, relying on bonds to fund projects but the bond money is running out. He stated the casino will be good for the City as it brings new revenue and new development.

Delores Pigsley: She stated that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has taken a very long time, maybe over five years, to decide whether Salem can have its casino and she is waiting to find out from the state whether Gov. Kotek will approve it or not. She said it seems the governor is waiting for BIA to decide. She hopes it will be soon.

They are starting the housing project soon. About 39 units, two-, three- and four-bedroom units mainly for the staff. There will be over \$600 M yearly profits divided by state, county, city, and different tribes. She said the casino will bring about 2300 jobs, \$492 M in economic impact, \$141 M in others, \$54 M in indirect purchases. There will be bus services to the casino. Bayard asked her how they will be dealing with transportation issues around the casino. She said they did an expensive study on how to deal with the traffic. She said they are in touch with Dept. of Transportation. There are many ways. The Portland Road improvement, The Astoria Way, and Blossom Drive. They will be working with Dept. of Transportation and include Astoria Way. How is crime dealt? She said it goes down when they have security, police and more businesses coming in. They negotiated with the City to provide police. Bayard said it's a boost that this side of the city needs. Tom Madison asked whether all the air flights to Las Vegas is going to hurt their business and Delores responded it will not affect them. She said there is no good entertainment for nights in Salem and this will provide that. And this is a good place for conventions as Salem is not equipped with any good convention places in Salem at present. She said there will be Chick O 'Fillets, 711, a restaurant, a tire company as part of the new business to come. Marlayne Madison asked how long does she think it will take to get this done? Delores responded once BiA approves, which should be soon, and allows the governor to make the decision, it will start in the following couple of months after that.

Since it was after 7:30 p.m., Bayard called for a vote to adjourn the meeting, Kaethe made a motion to start the vote and was seconded by Michael and the rest said "aye."

The next board meeting will be April 18, 2024.

Note, on-line voting which always starts with Bayard calling for a vote and Kaethe makes a motion to start the vote. We have taken time off In December so any votes made in December will show in our January minutes.

- On March 5, 2024, NGNA approved the Minutes of the Meeting of February 15th, 2024. Those who participated in the voting were: Those who participated were: Seconded and voted yes by Shirley, followed by Michael, Jess, Bill, Randy and Kaethe.
- On March 11, 2024, NGNA approved sending/giving out Petition for homeless shelters to go to owner of the property and to City Councilors/Mayor. Those who voted were Randy who also seconded it, Michael, Jess, Shirley, Phyllis and Kaethe.
- On March 12, 2024, NGNA approved letter originated by Bayard Mentrum, Chair, to be sent to City Councilors. This was seconded and voted yes by Shirley. Yes votes came from Randy, Bill, Phyllis, Don, Jess, Michael and Kaethe.
- On March 13, 2024, NGNA approved letter to Gretchen Bennett with a copy to Scott Archer and Irma Coleman, which answers in red to show the difference. Seconded and voted yes by: Shirley, Randy, Becca. Then yes votes from Phyllis, Jess and Kaethe.