



Minutes of the Meeting
Of
Thursday, April 18th, 2024, via Zoom only

Executive Board Members Present: Bayard Mentrum, Chair; Phyllis Abbott-Cavota, Co-Chair; Jess Cruz, Community Liaison; Shirley Robertson, Treasurer; Kaethe Mentrum, Secretary/Park Chair.

General Board Members present: Randy Ray, Michael Hoselton, Becca Strieper, Joanne Barnhart, Pedro Mayoral.

Absent with excuse: Don Jensen Land Use Chair.

Police Officers: Sgt. Jacob Pratt.

Guest Speakers: a. Robert Romanek, Rep. Ed Diehl.

Guest Speaker Jimmy Jones had personal reason and could not make it to the meeting.

Neighbors: Marlayne and Tom Madison.

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

Police Officer Sgt. Pratt:

Sgt. Pratt was the first to speak. He updated us on shootings happening in several places in the city and he said they are now joining forces with County Sheriff's department as there are not enough police in Salem to handle all the crime. Bayard asked him what are we supposed to do to help? He said to alert him if there is any suspicious activity. He caught two guys relative to all mail theft. Bayard asked him since it is a Federal crime, is it out of your hands and he said we provide the Feds with a lot of information and people who will testify against the ID thieves.

Rob Romanek:

Rob Romanek touched briefly on the entry sign. He said there has been a delay in working on it due to work at Bush Park. But he intends to get it out to Stu Luxembourg this summer and the money will not be used for any other purposes than for this. And will notify us as soon as he knows more.

As for Fisher Road Park, he showed us displays on the screen. He showed various designs for activities for the park. He explained this is still in the researching stage and nothing will happen until 2025. Only a small portion of the project will progress due to budget issues. Bayard asked if it will be playground first and he said probably. Bayard said the playground should be moved from the west side to the corner of NE side so the adults can watch the children play. Kaethe told him if at the west side like the city is proposing, what if a ball bounces out towards the busy Fisher Road and the child is endangered running after the ball? Or if a child goes unsupervised to the playground and is alone and gets kidnapped as child traffic could happen? They'd be safer at the NE end, away from Fisher Road.

Bayard said clearly highly recommends against shelters due to homeless, drug, gang issues.

Bayard asked about the access to the park from the east end. If there will be an ADA ramp and/or steps and he said the Iberis St is owned by the county and they have to work with county as it has a one ft. strip owned by the county so they cannot work on the public sidewalk until they get a commitment from the county. Bayard told him that rule is for busy intersections and not for a dead-end street.

Bayard told him about the BBQ grill and ash receptacle and asked if they are going to plant shade trees and Rob answered affirmatively. As for lighting, they wrote in Exhibit B that they are going to rely on lighting on Fisher Road and Bayard said that's not going to work. Rob replied they are not going to have any lighting at this park. Bayard asked what about the wintertime when it gets dark very early? Rob did not respond. Where are all the parking going since they are all blocked now by boulders. Rob said they are going to have parking strips on the shoulder of Fisher Road.

Representative Edwin Diehl:

He first introduced himself. He said he used to be a mechanical engineer. He first talked about the boundary of his jurisdiction in Salem and parts of Northgate. The boundary lines are all over the place and he finds this confusing. He mentioned he has jurisdiction from East of 45th, Happy Drive to Hood view Park to Hazel green.

He said the most impactful issue for Salem right now is Measure 110 which criminalizes drugs again, making it a misdemeanor to have possession. It makes it easier to arrest drug dealers.

As for treatment centers, Rep. Diehl heard that the one controlling money for treatment centers did not spend on treatment facilities but used the money on house down payments, buying cars, etc. Bayard asked if that fraud is being investigated and he said it is. He talked about the lack of treatment facilities and Bayard asked about staffing issues and he agreed. He praised Tim Murphy of Bridgeway but it's only a one-day or no overnight and it takes longer for an addict to be treated properly. Needs at least one month for recovery time. He talked about a guy who had an axe at a school and beat up a teacher and another guy. They finally arrested him and took him to a mental treatment hospital, but he had to be released after 90 days so they had no place to put him, so he is now in prison. Then Marlayne talked about her neighbor who is mentally ill too and dangerous. He was threatening everyone, fought with the police and the guy said he killed his brother, but they saved him. What do you do with people like that? Ed said there is a need for more mental health facilities. He had asked for 100 beds for a psychiatric facility. The state denied this and gave only 40.

Bayard brought the matter of Hill Crest and he said he was going to that property with Rep. Mannix to look it over more closely. Bayard said it seems the state not approving because it's not seismic seems absurd especially when it stood for over 100 years with no issues when there are more people dying in the streets in the wintertime. Ed agreed.

Ed mentioned Soaring Heights Recovery, a couple bought small homes to make board house development charging \$400-500/month. Mostly students, no drugs, behave, chores. You can find out more on orlegislature.gov.

Marlayne asked re low-cost affordable homes as there are homeless people with no social security, no pension, working 40 hours a week. Is the legislature doing something about that? He said he realized the cost of living is very high and hard on people. The controlling party wants to keep spending money they don't have. But the state is trying to create more low incoming housing. Bayard said there is a way to save money by using used RVs.

Ed mentioned briefly about youth violence and said that was another big problem.

Michael asked him about the Payment in Lieu of Taxes and if phrasing the money that way, reimbursing Salem for lost property taxes on government buildings, had killed it in the legislature out of fear that other cities would then be entitled. Diehl explained how the bill had come together and that they used the PILT model because it allowed them to easily calculate a fair amount that should be paid to Salem.

Randy asked why judges and politicians are worrying more about homeless individuals and not much about the people? People need safety and protection. Ed agreed with Randy and said we need to help the people, the tax paying citizens.

He talked about syringe needles after Bayard brought it up. He said Rep. Mannix is considering the greenway of no tenting by city rivers.

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 Randy and the rest said "aye."

The next meeting will be May 16th, 2024 for CPR Class. People who want to enter this class, kindly inform Kaethe asap as we must reserve this date for at least 26 people to have this class.

Note, on-line voting which always starts with Bayard calling for a vote and Kaethe makes a motion to start the vote.

- Voted on April 4, 2024 by Shirley and Michael who both seconded it and said yes. The rest of the yes votes came from Phyllis, Don, Bill and Kaethe.
for NGNA to spend money from Engagement Fund which will expire 6/30/24 if not used:
 - a. \$450 to be paid to Salem Seekers to secure Hood View Park as the event location and have them order the 30 birds from Glass Art Oregon to be ready for the June event.
 - b. To use \$50 for flyers to gather people living around Fisher Road Park to update them about the improvements to be made to this park by the City of Salem.
 - c. To use \$100 for the water bottles to be used for b. and for May CPR class. Maybe the balance of \$50 to be used on snacks too.
- Voted on April 8th, 2024, approving the Minutes of March 21, 2024, with both Randy and Shirley seconding it and voting yes. The other board members who voted were Bill, Phyllis, Michael, Becca, Randy and Kaethe.
- Voted on April 9th, 2024, with Joanne Barnhart seconding and voting yes, followed by yes votes by Shirley, Michael, Bill, Phyllis, Randy and Kaethe, approving using Engagement Fund for a. buying paint brushes/material for art mural for NG Park while on discount sale and b. to install on fence a purchase of plaque and inscription of names of all those who volunteered to paint, install, deliver, etc. to memorialize those who volunteered to get this done.
- Voted on April 18, 2024. With Randy seconding and voting yes. Followed with yes votes from Phyllis, Shirley, Becca, Michael and Kaethe. This concerned using the balance of \$158.20 from the Engagement Fund which expires on 6/30/24. To be used on more water bottles and snacks for upcoming events like in July and in September when we meet in person.