



NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
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DRAFT Meeting Minutes April 11, 2024

SOUTH GATEWAY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SGNA met via Zoom due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Board Members

Present _____ Absent _____

Dynee Medlock Chair
Vice chair Jackie Leung
Dave McKenna Secretary
Kathleen Lempka Treasurer
Mike Hughes
John Ledger
Glenn Baly

Community members:

John Miller Wildwood(Mahonia)
Greg MacDonald
Charey Cooke
Luke Poling
Patrice and Michael Pollard
Paula Wilson

Guests

Jeffrey Johnson, Natural Resource Planner II, City of Salem
Deanna Gwen, City Councilor, Ward 4
Officer Ben Morgan, Salem Police Department
Pamela Garland, Salem Seekers
Julie Hoy, City Councilor running for Mayor

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dynee Medlock. A roll call of Board members was performed. A quorum was declared. Approved minutes from March meeting with some corrections.

2. Renaming of Treasurer

Kathleen Lempka was nominated and elected as the new treasurer.

3. Greg MacDonald elected to SGNA Board

Greg had shown an interest in joining the SGNA Board. He introduced himself and said that now that he was retired he wanted to get more involved with local politics. He showed an interest in greater community communication. He was nominated and elected to the SGNA Board.

4. Deanna Gwen Councilor Update

It is budget season and there is a Revenue Review Board that is having several downhill meetings trying to get people involved in solving the City's Revenue shortfall and places where there could be potential cuts in services. One of these town halls was at the Lutheran Community Hall. There were some signs left over in the hall from that meeting to keep the library funded. There will be a virtual downhill on April 16th that people can sign up for. There will be a townhall meeting at the 50+ Center in South Salem on April 23rd. And there will be a Revenue Task Force meeting on the 26th.

Discussion of "State Payment in Lieu of Taxes." It did not pass in the last state legislative session and it should be supported in the next legislative session to get the state to pay some share of its presence to Salem Community services.

5. Officer Ben Morgan with Salem Police Update

There was a major arrest for mail theft. They are contacting residents to get the mail bak to addressees.

There was another incident of gun violence in Bush Park. The City will be having discussion meetings with residents on how to address gun violence.

There are volunteer opportunities with the Salem Police Department. These include items such as surveillance and cleaning up graffiti.

There are only three to four officers patrolling south Salem at night.

Resident asked what is going on with Neighborhood Watch Program. Officer said to call the police department to report any unusual activity.

6. Engagement Funds

SGNA has \$1500 in funds to spend by the end of June or will lose it.

One suggestion is to spend it on the Salem Seekers. Pamela Garland of Salem Seekers was introduced and given the floor. For \$450 they will place glass birds in a park of our choice. Salem has 92 parks and this is a good way to get people engaged in using the local parks. The glass birds are made by Glass Art Oregon. They place 30 birds along paved paths in a park for a month period. They do this in the months of June through September. They advertise the event in local papers, on the news and on Facebook. Dynee would like to do in Bryan Johnston Park in July.

Another idea of spending the funds is to advertise SGNA on a message board on Commercial Street to get more people involved. The cost goes to a company called Lamar and the cost is \$375 for a week and \$1200 for a month. They will create the design.

The engagement fund is \$1500 and either we use it or lose it. It is separate from the communication fund

Someone mentioned that we could have a table at the Salem Seeker event to advertise SGNA and get more people involved.

A motion was made and passed to have the \$450 Salem Seeker event in Bryan Johnston Park.

7. Jeffrey Johnson, Natural Resource Planner II, City of Salem

The project that he is working on is to define the water corridors and to preserve the areas around the waterways. It will be for the city to decide how this information is used.

Resident said that City should be studying the impact of pollution from homeless camps along these waterways.

8. New Business

Dynee mentioned that the Creekside Restaurant is open to the public and has events such as dances and trivia nights. She would like to advertise local events.

Made motion and voted to run SGNA meetings from 6:30 pm to 8 pm.

Julie Hoy introduced herself as running for mayor.

9. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for May 9th at 6:30 PM at Baxter Hill Community Hall and will be a hybrid meeting with Zoom.