



## NESCA MEETING MINUTES

June 18, 2024

**1. Welcome, Introductions:** NESCA Chair Stacey Vieyra-Braendle opened the meeting at The Jory at 7PM. Everyone in attendance, in person and via ZOOM, introduced themselves.

### 2. Approval of Consent Agenda and Minutes

- Motion and seconded made to approve the Consent Agenda and the May minutes. Motion carried.

### 3. Salem Police Officer Report: Sgt. Hernandez

- National Night Out is Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. For those interested in having block party visits by Salem PD can sign up on the SPD web page.
  - <https://egov.cityofsalem.net/nno/>
- The Media Violence Response team is a new program which provides increased patrols to help with the spike in crime during summer months. Additional information on the team is available on the website.
- Salem PD does vacation home checks and no cost to homeowners. Volunteers are trained to do rounds to check those homes that are registered with the city.
- SPD participated at Sprague High School with other local law enforcement agencies, along with the FBI and Life Flight, in an active shooter training scenario. The training lasted about five hours, learning their strengths and weaknesses, and was very successful. There are plans to hold another training session next year.

#### Questions/Comments:

- Apparently there has been a rumor circulating that Chief Womack is resigning, however that is not true.
- There is concern about the west end of the parking lot at the D Street park (between the park and Yaquina Hall) having quite a lot of activity, with vehicles staying for extended periods of time. Residents are urged to call the Salem PD non-emergency number to report illegal activities such as extended camping, trash, drugs, etc.
  - Clarification of who is responsible for the parking lot – city or state? As it is the Yaquina Hall parking lot, owned by Salem Housing Authority, Sgt. Hernandez believes it to be city. Yaquina Hall does have a security office who patrols the area, but SPD will try to increase their patrols in that area.

### 4. City Councilors' Report: Linda Nishioka

- 105-unit apartment complex at High and Chemeketa required tax abatement along with urban renewal. Council put it on hold due to subcontracting issues. Once that was cleared up, the Council voted to approve the abatement. The complex will have 15% affordable housing units.
- Salem Fire Department is working towards returning ambulance service to the city through their department, beginning in July 2025.
  - The SFD Chief will be resigning in September but will continue with this project until such time as a new chief is appointed. Several excellent candidates have applied.

- Budget Committee:
  - If additional revenue is not found, those items previously saved will be cut.
- Cease Fire in Gaza:
  - The Council has received twenty-five emails, all with the same script, and protestors have attended council meetings wanting a resolution for an immediate Gaza Cease Fire.
  - Mayor Hoy had asked the Human Rights Commission to work on a resolution, but it was very divisive and biased. Linda said she was unable to vote for that resolution. She and Councilor Stapleton worked on something that would not be so divisive and it passed 5-4.
    - Members of Salem’s Jewish community were upset, but she met with them on Sunday. She was heckled by a protestor at a NA meeting because the word “genocide” was not in the resolution. HRC was NOT kind to the Jewish community when they were at the meetings. The whole situation was/is very “messy” as emotions are very high on both sides of the issue.
- Opioid Settlement. Salem will be getting funds from the State from the Opioid settlement. This will allow the City to keep the Youth Services Coordinator position that had previously been cut. The Homeless Services team has also been saved until 2030.
- Summary Budget
- Salem Airport name change:
  - The name has been changed from Salem Air Municipal Airport to Salem-Willamette Valley Airport. It doesn’t have the word “regional” in it so changes won’t have to be made again should air service to Mexico and/or Canada begin.
  - New signage will be coming soon.
- Reaffirmed the Planning Commission’s decision for the rezoning of a property off at 650 15<sup>th</sup> Ave SE from residential back to general industrial. During the “Our Salem” process the property zoning had been changed to residential. Unfortunately, due to some of the industrial businesses that had previously been at that location, it was not possible to change the property to residential.
- Community Violence Reduction Committee initiative. There will be three more meetings. Anyone who is interested can attend.
- Paws on Patrol.
  - If you have a dog and you walk a lot, you can sign up through Salem PD for video training for the program which is somewhat like a neighborhood watch, keeping an eye on the neighborhood.
- Vacation Watch
  - Training is also available through the Salem PD for citizens who will monitor your house when you’re on vacation.
- United Way Cottage Cluster
  - There are ten 399 sq. feet tiny homes for low-income seniors at the end of Market Street near Swegle Elementary School. They will rent for \$500/mo. (30% of average Social Security benefits). The residents will only have to pay their rent and electricity. All other utilities will be paid for by United Way. Support services are also available.
  - UW stopped taking applications at 150 and all units have now been filled. They have plans for two more phases. Linda will be making a motion at the next meeting for the city to use bond funds to jumpstart the next phase.
- Storm water:
  - Linda is on the Storm Water Advisory Board and developers will be required to install more rain gardens and more ways to manage rain runoff.
- Baseball field/Willamette University.
  - This is controversial and going to be a bit of a problem, mostly from Ward 2. Unfortunately, there was a lot of disinformation going out that upset a lot of people. Salem Parks & Recreation Advisory Board approved the new plan. About 120 Ward 2 residents have sent in official letters in opposition. There will be more at the next Council meeting.

## 5. Guest Speaker: No guest speaker(s) at this meeting

## 6. Other Business:

- Old Business:
- New Business:
  - Stacey requested reimbursement for expenditures totaling \$152.62 for the recent Open House. A motion was made and seconded. Motion carried. The Reimbursement Request and supporting receipts are attached with these minutes.
  - Marilyn asked that the minutes reflect thanks from NESCA to Councilors Linda Nishioka (Ward 2) and Virginia Stapleton (Ward 1) for attending nearly all our meetings and providing such comprehensive reports in order to keep us informed. They are greatly appreciated since the current Ward 6 councilor has not often been present. With the Ward 6 councilor being elected as the new mayor, NESCA will be without representation until the election in May and then seated with the council in June of 2025.
  - Review of NESCA Goals – to determine if there are updates, action needed, etc.
    - Parks improvement and SPF grant (which we received)
    - Safer streets and crosswalks; pedestrian friendly sidewalks
      - Mai has been working on a lot of communication with the city with specific issues
      - Working on a “master plan” from NESCA with our preferences and goals for transportation in the area.
    - Outreach to add NESCA membership
    - Charitable drives
      - Sock drive
      - Donation drive
      - Need ideas for other
    - Litter Patrol
      - Litter Patrol Coordinator needed.
        - Responsibilities of a coordinator are relatively simple: notify the city of the date of the planned litter patrol, the number of people you expect, and then pick up the supplies. The city will gather required supplies (pickers, bags, gloves, safety vests, and street signs) and mark them for NESCA then put them in the storage area (at the City Yard on 22<sup>nd</sup>) for pick up. The coordinator will need to set up the street signs and then disperse supplies to all volunteers, returning the unused items to the city when through. A report of the activity is prepared which lists the names of all who participated and the number of hours each person works and is then sent to Irma Coleman. NESCA receives payment for our communication funds based on the number of man-hours reported.
          - Filled trash bags are stacked at a designated area for the city to collect.
          - James and Christine Hughes volunteered to take on the responsibility for the NESCA litter patrol. As they live near Ian, he let them know he will help with any questions. Thank you, James and Christine!
        - We will need to determine a new place to meet as the Park and Ride is now closed. It was suggested that the hotel directly across the street from the Park and Ride (north of the seafood restaurant) could be contacted to see if we can meet at their location. Workdays are generally scheduled for the Saturday following a monthly meeting, so it was suggested to set a schedule for July 20.
- Parks
  - Mike Beringer and Marilyn Moritz met with Jennifer Keller to discuss the “dos and don’ts” at the D Street Park. They asked what we might be able to do with the walnut wood we have at the Alternative Programs. She recommends not making any signage made from the wood as we have discussed as it could easily be destroyed. The city wants to maintain uniformity at the parks to make it easier to replace

items that are damaged or destroyed. She recommended not doing tables for the same reason. We could use our available walnut wood for a bench or two, however.

- The possibility of planting camas in the NW corner of the park (near the utilities boxes) was also mentioned to Jennifer. She will talk with the horticulturist to see if this is a possibility.
- Trash cans.
  - Hoover park, which is considerably smaller than the D Street Park, has two cans whereas D Street only has one. Marilyn asked if one of the cans from Hoover might be moved to the bigger D Street park. Jennifer seemed willing to consider that possibility. Her main concern in the past about adding another receptacle was due to the extra staff time to empty it. Mike suggested it might be helpful if we were to submit a formal request for what we want. A motion was made to write a letter requesting the 2<sup>nd</sup> trash can at the D Street Park. The motion was seconded. Motion carried. Teri will prepare the letter on NESCA letterhead for signatures from Board members.
- Salem Parks Foundation Grant
  - NESCA was awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,275.00 for three plexiglass covers for the kiosks at Thorpe, Hoover, and D Street parks. The covers will be placed on the front of each kiosk and will have combination locks to allow NESCA to remove them to add information. The backs will remain open for neighbors wishing to post signs for garage sales, lost pets, etc. The plexiglass is specially treated to resist (and make it easier to clean) graffiti. We did not request covers for Geer Park as the damaged kiosk in the main parking lot has not yet been replaced. When it is, we will request funding for both kiosks in that park.
  - We will discuss the possibility of requesting a bench along 23<sup>rd</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> for next year's grant. It will have to be in the parking strip as it is unknown what the master plan is for the park.
    - Councilor Nishioka suggested talking with the Salem Arts Commission for ideas regarding usage of the walnut wood from our trees, possibly a fun sculpture or other creative ideas.
  - Also suggested was a sign that provides the historical background of the park and the surrounding property.

## 7. Discussion/Questions/Comments/Announcements

- Sequoia Crossing is having a Juneteenth Walk for anyone interested. Juneteenth is now a recognized Federal holiday. As such, there will be no mail service, banks will be closed as well as all City, State, and Federal office.
- Chair Stacey asked anyone who has a speaker in mind for the next meeting to contact her.

There being no further business and no announcements, Stacey thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30. The **next scheduled NESCA meeting will be a hybrid meeting, in-person at The Jory Community Center and via ZOOM, on July 16th at 7 PM. The ZOOM meeting link will be provided to those on the NESCA email distribution list prior to the meeting.** The ZOOM link is also available on the City website: [association/north-east-salem-community-association-nesca](https://www.cityofsalem.net/association/north-east-salem-community-association-nesca)

### Attending:

Stacey Vieyra-Braendle\*, Marilyn Moritz\*, Teri Lupoli\*, Lynn Cardiff\*, Mai Vang\*, Gary Pullman\*, Mike Beringer\*, Ian Johnson, Jim Lupoli, James Hughes, Christine Hughes, Bill (last name n/a), and Kim (last name n/a) on ZOOM, Sgt. Erick Hernandez Salem Police Department, Linda Nishioka Salem City Councilor.

\*NESCA Board Members

- **Other Website Information:**

- To report homeless camping: <https://form.cityofsalem.net/s3/homeless-camping-complaint>
- To Contact the SOS Team: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Home/Components/News/News/399/>

- To report homeless concerns: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/shaping-salem-s-future/housing-shelter/help-with-problem-properties/report/concerns-about-homelessness>
- To sign up for weekly updates regarding homeless: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/tracking-progress-on-homelessness-efforts.aspx>
- To report graffiti: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-graffiti.aspx>
  - [503-371-4262](tel:503-371-4262) Graffiti Response team
- The link for the crime statistics: [www.cityofsalem.net/crime-stats](http://www.cityofsalem.net/crime-stats)