



Minutes of the Meeting
Of
Thursday, June 20th, 2024, in person
At Northgate Wesleyan Church North Annex
2405 Carleton Way NE, Salem, OR 97301

Executive Board Members Present: Bayard Mentrum, Chair; Jess Cruz, Community Liaison Chair; Kaethe Mentrum, Secretary/Park Chair.

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

Absent with excuse: Don Jensen Land Use Chair; Bill Berry, Pedro Mayoral, Police Officer Sgt. Jacob Pratt.

Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong, Mayor and City Manager's Office

Neighbors: Pennie Morley, Terry and Diane Crawford, Kai Aguilar

The meeting began about 6:10 p.m. in person. Bayard asked each to introduce themselves as we sat at a square table in an informal setting.

Our special guest speaker has a degree in Marine Science and worked in environmental education for several years. She also worked as an advocate for several non-profit organizations where she saw the connection between people engaging with their elected officials and the opportunity for communities to participate in decisions that impact their lives. who started to work with City of Salem in February 2024 as a Chief Communications Officer at the Mayor's and City Manager's office, informed us about her outstanding background from working at a non-profit organization to becoming an executive director at a Neighborhood Coalition, that included 20 neighborhood associations and represented more than 100,000 residents. She also worked for Mayor Potter as a Senior Policy Advisor for Infrastructure and Children and Youth and then worked for the Parks Bureau to develop an Engagement Program. She also did similar work at the Port of Portland working to build communications with both the community and with the Tribes in the Region.

Various board members and neighbor gave input for Elizabeth to take back to the City regarding additional possibilities of City's income and unwise spending. One was from Joanne, our board member. She said how the city could tell us one day how broke they were and the next day announce some big new project. It needs to be made much clearer in any press release where the money is coming from for a particular project and why that money can only be used for that project. The same thing for projects that cannot be funded. Tell why there isn't any money to fund that project.

She thinks if the city pushes forward with the income tax (which is likely) they should consider some kind of a tax break in another area. For example, if they have a lot of money for projects in one area and not enough in another, they are collecting too much in tax for the first area and not enough for the second. If they want us to approve of them taking more money out of our wallets then they need to work with us and identify a place where they can stop taking money for 1-2 years (just like they do for all these developers). Give us a break in some way.

Elizabeth jotted down the ones she deemed to have outstanding remarks as people spoke.

The chair spoke about the planned improvements to be made at Fisher Road Park and informed everyone about the reception given by the City Park Planners, Raymond Joseph and Rob Romanek as well as the team from Greenworks who helped to design. They wanted feedback from the neighbors on the design. Top priorities were skate spot and playground equipment.

Kaethe brought the plaque that lists names of those involved in the painting and installation of art mural on 30 panels at Northgate Park, to show and pass around the table. This will be installed on one of the art mural panels.

Kaethe mentioned the small to medium paint brushes were already frayed and fuzzy at the tips due to rough surface of the plywood. She took advantage of the 40% art supplies at Hobby Lobby and bought close to \$40 of inexpensive but strong tips. Therefore, Bayard called out for a vote and Kaethe made a motion to vote, seconded by Becca and Michael, and everyone said aye for this amount to be taken out of the engagement fund to reimburse Kaethe.

She also brought the tablecloth with NGNA's logo Irma had ordered which will be used at Fun Friday of July 12th or other events.

Both Jess and Michael wanted an NGNA banner, cost of \$100 to be deducted from the engagement fund which expires June 30, 2024. Michael said he cannot order and get a receipt for this by June 21st, 2024, but assured he will get it to Kaethe to be passed onto Irma before June 30 which is the actual deadline of the engagement fund.

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."

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

- On May 3rd, 2024, the April 18, 2024 monthly meeting minutes was voted in. It was seconded and voted yes by both Shirley and Randy. Yes votes came from Phyllis, Joanne, Michael and Kaethe.
- On May 30, 2024, The board just voted to spend \$400. It was seconded by Shirley who also said yes. Yes votes followed by Randy, Bill, Phyllis, Joanne, Don, Becca and Kaethe. The votes were for \$400 to be used from the **Engagement Fund** for the following:

a.	Paint brushes/paint colors hard to mix to make for Art Mural.	\$ 70.
b.	Pizza, sushi for June 20 meeting:	\$200.
c.	Water bottles:	\$ 50.
d.	Organic, no sugar fruit juices in glass bottles:	<u>\$ 80</u>
	Total:	\$400.
- On June 3, 2024, we got a second and yes vote from Becca, Shirley, Joanne and Bill. A yes vote from Don and Kaethe. Bayard and Kaethe went to Hobby Lobby and the paint and brushes (present ones already frayed at tips due to painting on rough wood panel surfaces) Kaethe needed to continue work on the art mural were not available. Will have to go back again two weeks from now to see if they have more in stock at 40% discount. In addition, the budget of \$70 was not enough even with the 40% off. At the counter, Kaethe had to readjust and return some needed supplies. So requested for a vote to add another \$100 to be sure from the **Engagement Fund**. Art supplies are very expensive.

The below are votes of June 20th in person meeting. These are already mentioned in the above minutes, however, since it is easier to identify the votes this way, they are being repeated.

- At the NGNA meeting of June 20, 2024, another \$40 for medium size paint brushes as they get worn out quickly due to rough plywood surfaces. Since they were on sale for 40% this week. This to be taken out of the **Engagement Fund**. Bayard called for a vote and Kaethe made a motion to vote. Randy and Becca seconded it and all said aye.
- Another \$100 from the **Engagement Fund** for an NGNA banner to be used for special events to advertise NGNA. Bayard called for a vote, Kaethe made a motion to start the vote, seconded by Michael and Becca.

- On June 21st, 2024, NGNA board consisting of Michael who seconded it and voted yes. Yes votes came from Randy, Bill, Shirley, Becca, Don, and Kaethe. On June 22nd, Joanne, Jess, Phyllis also voted yes. They voted for: a. Extra \$100 for stand or necessary item to keep the banner up. And a slogan WE STRIVE TO HELP OUR NEIGHBORS onto the banner. This to come out of the **Engagement Fund**.
- On June 30, 2024, a letter by NGNA to the Mayor, City Manager, Deputy City Manager, City Councilors, with copy each to Irma Coleman and Gretchen Bennett, has been seconded and voted yes by both Shirley and Randy, and yes votes followed by Jess, Bill, Michael, Phyllis and Kaethe. This letter suggests to the City properties in South and West Salem that they should consider for designated homeless areas which the Supreme Court has made it legal for the Cities to select. It informs the City of Salem that Northgate has reached its capacity to take in more homeless shelters.