

**East Lancaster Neighborhood Association Minutes - May 2, 2019, 7:00 pm**  
 Swegle Elementary School, 1751 Aquilas Ct NE, Salem

	<b>Board Chairs/Members Present</b>		<b>Others Present</b>
x	Susann Kaltwasser, Chair	x	Chris Hoy, Ward 6 City Councilor
x	Sue Fowler, Co-Chair	x	Officer Slivkoff, Salem Police Department
x	Mary Sarabia, Vice-Chair	x	Nelson Morales, Compliance Officer, City of Salem
x	Chesta Bauer, Secretary	x	Zyanya Aguilar-Nelson, Salem Leadership Foundation
x	Dave Steiner, Member-at-large		
x	Clark Hazlett, Member-at-large		
	Mike Sim, Member-at-large		
	<b>Neighbors Present</b>		

**Introductions/Approval of Minutes:** The meeting was opened by Co-chair Sue Fowler at 7:00 pm. The minutes of the April 4, 2019, meeting were approved with the following correction, "Sunnyside Road" should be "Sunnyview Road". Susann Kaltwasser moved and Mary Sarabia & Dave Steiner seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Police Officer Report:** Officer Slivkoff reported that there was not much activity in our area the past month. She mentioned that now that it is light longer and more people are out and about, it's a good idea to keep garage doors closed and anything that can be stolen be placed out of sight or locked up. If people are spotted walking around testing doors or acting suspiciously, this should be reported to the police. She also said that car break-ins have been frequent so it's important that nothing valuable be left in sight in the car; these items should be put in the trunk of the car or not left in the car. There have been lots of complaints about problem houses. She said the police department POP team respond to these complaints and tries to resolve the situations. The Salem Police Department Registration and Mapping (SCRAM) program was discussed and it was emphasized that this is a completely voluntary program to assist the police department to identify crime situations and individuals involved in them. (More information on SCRAM can be found at: : <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/salem-police-launches-security-camera-registration-program.aspx>.) The amount of abandoned shopping carts and the theft of shopping carts by homeless people were discussed. These carts can't just be taken from a person by the police; the store from which they have stolen has to report the carts as stolen and press charges before any action can be taken. Stores have an agreement with a company who are supposed to pick up abandoned carts that have been reported to them but sometimes this doesn't happen. A situation in which a woman was assaulted near a bank ATM near Auburn Road and Commercial Street was discussed.

**Code Officer Report:** Susann asked Nelson about the property next to Weathers Park that needs to be cleaned out and have the weeds and blackberry bushes removed. Nelson said he would look into that. Nelson said that the owners of the Toys-R-Us property have been very responsive to cleaning up the area and responding to complaints about graffiti and debris. An issue of homeless people camping on somebody's front yard was discussed. Nelson said that was trespassing if the person was not authorized by the homeowner and should be reported to the police, however, without the specific circumstances of why the person was camping there, he couldn't comment. The issue of abandoned shopping carts was discussed again. Nelson said that the company that supposed to pick up the carts is not very diligent about doing this and that if there is anything in the cart, they won't pick it up anyway. Susann once again mentioned the advertising signs that have been cluttering the sidewalks on Wallace Road around Walgreen's and Taggart Road that are blocking the sidewalk and obstructing the view while driving on Wallace Road. She wanted to know if it was true that the city is not enforcing the sign laws that would not allow this situation. Nelson said that this was true because of staff shortages. If the signs are not a vision hazard they won't be cleared out; the situation will go to the bottom of the priority list. Nelson said he would look into the situation. Chris mentioned that this policy has not been reported to the City Council yet. Mary mentioned a couple of issues: there were three bags of garbage on the sidewalk on Market Street in front of Blanchet High School; and, the bamboo stand in front of the house on Market Street is beginning to grow over the sidewalk and although not blocking access to the sidewalk yet, that will happen soon if not trimmed back. Nelson said these situations should be reported. Clark mentioned the blackberries growing on a nearby property. Nelson said that people can grow any berries on their property as long as their vines don't encroach on a neighbor's property. If this happens, it should be reported to the City Compliance Services office at 503-588-6421 to create a case file, or, preferably, on the website at <https://egov.cityofsalem.net/ArsWebForms/ARSPage/FileAComplaint>. The property in question is site of the Honey Bee company on 45th Street. Susann said she would contact the owner of the property about the issue. Nelson mentioned that the Compliance Services caseload was particularly heavy at this time and they are not enforcing all complaints. Dave mentioned a house on Fultz Avenue that is vacant and the yard is not being maintained. Nelson responded that there are thousands of vacant houses and it is the owner's responsibility to properly maintain their property. The house that Dave mentioned should be called in to Compliance Services and it will be put on a list. Nelson's report on the ELNA area: 57 hours were spent on issues in the area; there were 67 new cases of reported

junk and solid waste; towed six vehicles, none stolen; 40 calls from citizens; 14 cases reported through the Compliance Services website; and, eight parking issues. Nelson mentioned that his office is shorthanded right now and there have been several staff who are new and still learning the ropes of the job so it makes the process go much faster if complaints are reported through the website noted above or, for parking complaints/questions, through the website at: <https://egov.cityofsalem.net/ParkingServicesPublic>. Sue mentioned that there are people living in motor homes that are parking and moving from street to street in her neighborhood. Nelson said that this situation should be reported to Compliance Services to check out, however, if there seems to be problems/issues with the situation this should be reported to the police non-emergency number. Compliance Services staff do not knock on the motor home doors without police back-up. Nelson went over some of the rules regarding parking of motor homes or RVs. Some of them are: these types of vehicles must be parked in a driveway or in an area on the property that is surrounded by a six foot fence. Motor homes over 20 feet long can't be parked on the street overnight. If the situation is that the motor home is there overnight in order to load it up for a trip, they don't enforce the code.

#### **City Councilor Report:**

- A City Council work session was held on April 22 to discuss funding for homelessness and changing the continuum of care model in order to increase the amount of federal funds that can be accessed to provide some of the funding that can be used for this issue.
- At the April 22nd council meeting there was agreement on continuing to pause the weeding of books from the Salem Library while the council is gathering more information. This will be reviewed again in May. Chris is on the Library Oversight Committee. They are looking at several different sites for temporarily locating the library while the renovation is going on, such as the old Department of Education building, a place in Liberty Square that would include the 1st floor and the basement, and the vacant Toys-R-Us building. Some of the location criteria are cost & bus access. Another suggestion is temporary structures located in City Center Peace Plaza. The final decision will be made at the May 9th meeting.
- The City is keeping the public updated on the water situation through its water advisory website at: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/water-advisory>. They are predicting that there will be no drinking water crisis this year.
- Chris discussed the art that will be placed at the new police facility currently being constructed. This art is financed with funds that equal .05% of the total construction costs as required by a city code on funding of public art. The art was selected by a committee that included representatives of several organizations including the police department, the Salem Public Art Commission, and others. The installation will be large and will include a lighted structure with words contained within it which represent the city of Salem and which have been submitted by Salem citizens. Susann mentioned that neighborhood associations should have been included on the committee and Chris said that some neighborhood association chairs were also included.
- On Wednesday, May 8, from 6 to 8 pm, a workshop will be held at the Court Street Christian Church to discuss the Our Salem: Planning for the Future project. He encouraged people to attend since this is a very important process that will affect the future of Salem.
- The City Budget Committee will also meet on May 8. There could be significant budget cuts including layoffs and reductions of funding for social programs. Susann mentioned that there should be some way for NAs to be involved in the budget discussions. He mentioned that Ward 6 was represented by William Anderson who is an instructor at Western Oregon University and Chemeketa Community College.
- ARCHES is looking for a place in East Salem to locate a mobile shower facility for homeless people to use. The location such as a church should have access to water, sewer and electricity.
- Chris was asked about the trees on D Street. Would they be removed for the construction that will be going on there? The Planning Commission is looking at that issue. Some of the trees may be removed.

**Carousel Presentation:** No presentation was made.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- **Land Use:** Pictsweet (East Park Estates) application: nothing has happened yet. Susann talked to Aaron Panko and he said that this project is being developed under the Planned Unit Development (PUD) process (developing a property with greater latitude in site development standards, common areas, and open space than is allowed through traditional zoning) and this is a new process for him. There may be a joint meeting of ELNA and ESSNA sometime in May to continue discussion of the issues around this development. Marion County is responsible for the roads bordering the Pictsweet property. As a result of this development, these roads, Cordon Road, State Street and Auburn Road, will have to have major changes made to them. It is predicted that there may be 10,000 more car trips on these roads which will require widening all of these roads. There will be no access to the development from Cordon Road, only from State Street or Auburn Road.  
There is a request to annex property on the southwest corner of the Cordon Road/Center Street intersection. The property is zoned as agricultural/residential. The annexation is probably being requested in order to access city water. The City is requesting public comments by the end of June on updating the multi-family zone codes for developments that contain three or more units. The information on these updates is at: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/Updating-multifamily-housing-design-requirements.aspx>. The purpose of these updates/changes to the multi-family zone codes is to encourage more small developments in residential areas.

- **Transportation:** The Salem/Keizer Area Transportation System (SKATS) Regional Transportation System Plan was discussed. The information on this plan can be found at: <http://www.mwvcog.org/programs/transportation-planning/skats/planning-programs/regional-transportation-system-plan-rtsp/>. This plan outlines the long-range transportation project plans in the Salem-Keizer area. Comments from the public are encouraged and must be made by the end of May.
- **Traffic:** No report.
- **Parks:** The deadline for applying for the Salem Parks Foundation grant was not met due to lack of information on costs of the project that ELNA was considering (new bench and pad for Royal Oaks Park) and information on how to leverage the matching funds. Susann did get some information on costs later and these are: approximately \$5,000 for a new bench and pad or \$1,500 for a replacement bench only. We can submit an application for this project next year.

**Annual Meeting Refreshments:** A motion was made by Mary and seconded by Dave to set aside up to \$50 from our funds for purchasing refreshments for the annual meeting. The motion was passed unanimously. It was decided to ask Greg Walsh to make a 30-minute presentation on emergency preparedness. Irma will bring the new brochures to the meeting.

**Neighborhood Concerns:** Susann discussed the Utility Rate Relief Program recently revised by the city to assist eligible recipients with discounts on their utility bills if they meet the eligibility criteria. The city will provide up to \$250,000 in funding annually for this program. The program will apply a fixed monthly discount to the City of Salem utility bill for eligible recipients. The eligibility requirements for this program can be found at: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/apply-for-wastewater-rate-assistance.aspx>, however, note that the income requirements have been changed to **60%** of the Salem-area median income, based on family size, established by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, rather than 30%.

There was also discussion about the Salem Emergency Utility Assistance Program which provides payment assistance to low income customers for their utility bills. This program is funded through customer and community donations and up to \$10,000 annually of matching funds from the City of Salem. It provides emergency assistance to the utility account of an eligible recipient for the amount of the delinquent bill or balance up to a maximum of \$150 per fiscal year. More information on eligibility and the application process is at: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/apply-for-low-income-utility-assistance.aspx>. Applications for this funding is through local social service agencies.

Zyanya Aguilar-Nelson talked about her recent employment with the Salem Leadership Foundation. She is working with the McKay High School feeder area. She will be working on youth development through connecting community resources. Her email address is [Zyanya@salemif.org](mailto:Zyanya@salemif.org).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.