

**East Lancaster Neighborhood Association**  
 Minutes - February 6, 2020 - 7:00 pm  
 Swegle Elementary School, 1751 Aguilas 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	Nelson Morales, Code Compliance Officer, City of Salem
x	Mary Sarabia, Vice-Chair	x	Ian Davidson, Cherriots Board of Directors
x	Chesta Bauer, Secretary	x	Linda Bierly, Salem Parks Foundation
x	Dave Steiner, Member-at-large	x	John & Patty Davenport, Habitat & Hope
x	Patricia Mick, Member-at-large		
x	Clark Hazlett, Member-at-large		
	Fred Wright, Member-at-large		

**Neighbors Present:** Chuck Westbrook

**Introductions/Approval of Minutes:** The meeting was opened by Co-chair Sue Fowler at 7:00 pm. The minutes of the December 2019 meeting were approved.

**Police Officer Report:** The police officer was unable to attend the meeting; however, the officer e-mailed Sue Fowler and asked that she forward any concerns to them.

**Compliance Officer - Nelson Morales:** Nelson started with handing out flyers from the City of Salem regarding (1) Walk/Run events that will be conducted by the Salem Parks & Recreation Department (see [egov.cityofsalem.net/ParksRec](http://egov.cityofsalem.net/ParksRec) for information on dates and locations); and, (2) Our Salem public workshops being held in March (see [www.cityofsalem.net/our-salem](http://www.cityofsalem.net/our-salem) for information on dates and locations.)

Nelson said that more complaints were coming in via the website and he was pleased with this because it saves time for the office staff. There was discussion about RVs and trucks parking on Clay Street that appeared to have people living in them. Nelson said that an abandoned RV was towed from this location. He also said that if a vehicle has been cited for parking too long in a location and has not been moved, it will be cited again, and then if not moved, it will be booted and then towed. If an RV or vehicle moves from place to place, it can't be cited. RVs over 22 feet and tractor/trailers cannot be parked on the street overnight. There was mention by Chris Hoy of a 40' motor home parked near the corner of Future Drive and Mary Sarabia mentioned a black truck that parks on Market Street in front of Blanchet High School. Nelson said that these should be reported through the complaint system.

Productivity and local issues: There were 92 cases worked on by his staff with 75 hours of working on these cases. Most cases involved solid waste and junk and some complaints about motor home habitation, transients and homeless camping, etc. Five vehicles were towed out of area but there were no stolen vehicles found in this area. Chuck Westbrook mentioned an incident in Weathers Park when he and his wife were walking their dogs. A woman came into the park from the ToysRUs property and she was yelling and seemed to be having mental issues. Nelson said that it was best to call 911 to report a situation like this - it could be considered disorderly conduct. Susann mentioned that the suspicious activity around 4540 Swallow Court seemed to be increasing lately. There has been a lot of foot traffic to the home where people come in and leave about 10 minutes later. There are also about seven or eight cars associated with the house parked in the driveway and on the street. Neighborhood cars have been broken into. Susann said that her renters on this street are getting cameras so they can document

activities around them. The motor home parked in the driveway was discussed. Nelson said that when he inspected it there was no one living there. He can't make them move it but people can't live in it. He also said that if the cars do not have the proper tags or licenses, a complaint should be filed. Susann said she will call the POP team about the situation. Mary brought up the motor home parked in front of a house on Market Street west of Blanchet. Nelson said that the motor home was legally parked - the deed on the house made an exception on the motor home parking restriction because the lot was subdivided. He also said when he checked it, there did not seem to be anybody living there. Mary said that she thinks somebody may be living in it because she sees electrical lines going to the motor home and lights on. Nelson said he would recheck it. Clark wondered why the compliance officers didn't issue citations for any violation they happen to see when driving around the city. Nelson said that there is not enough personnel to do this and that if they did issue citations like that, they wouldn't have any time to investigate the complaints that come into the office. He said that if he sees something that is a potential violation being done, such as building a fence that is too tall, he will stop and advise the responsible people of this but he won't stop if he sees trash or something like that. Susann asked what to do if a complaint case is closed but it looks like it hasn't been addressed properly. Nelson said to file another complaint.

### **City Councilor Report - Chris Hoy:**

- Update on changing speed limits: The State through ODOT controls the speed limits on all City streets. Chris has recently asked for a review of the speed limits on 45th from Center Street to Sunnyview Road and on 17th Street from Mission Street to Silverton Road. Susann mentioned that we've tried to get speed limit changes and nothing has happened.
- The City Council policy priorities for 2020 will be discussed at the February 10th City Council work session. These priorities will affect the 2020 budget. Susann asked if public comments will be allowed and Chris said yes. There are some interesting things on the list that people will want to have input on such as the homeless issue and the solid waste fee.
- The main Salem library closed on February 3rd and will remain closed for at least a year while it is being retrofitted for seismic upgrades. The temporary library on Broadway NE and Hood Street will be open on February 18. West Salem library is also open. There will be an open house/welcome ceremony at the library on March 14. The Friends bookstore has relocated a few blocks south of the main library on Broadway. A question was asked about having a permanent library branch in the NE area. Chris said they are looking into that.
- There will be a hearing on the multi-family housing parking and balcony requirements at the February 10 City Council meeting. Susann mentioned that it was hard to follow the process for how the decisions are being made on revising the multi-family ordinances. There was discussion on the number of parking spaces required for developments near bus lines, for low income units, in the downtown core, etc. Susann wondered if there was a reality check on what the consequences will be if the required parking spaces are reduced for multi-family units.
- Two people will be appointed to serve on the Planning Commission at the February 18th City Council meeting.
- The City has determined that the average tree canopy for Salem is at 24%. The NE area is lagging in their tree canopy as ELNA's percentage is 17%, the other NE NAs are at 15% and 16%. Susann mentioned that ELNA has a lot of old trees. Chris said that the City has a list of trees good for streets if these older trees need to be replaced.
- Homeless: The City has authorized some overnight parking locations for people living in their cars such as churches not in residential areas. Parking is limited to 3 cars and there must be restrooms available and trash receptacles. Susann said that the city was doing a good job of finding places for overnight accommodations but there isn't very good communication to the public about this. There was discussion about the people on the sidewalks by Nordstrom and Rite Aid. Chris said that they are trying to get people into services but the situation is difficult. People trying to give food or other things to the homeless should not be handing things out to individuals; they should give their donations to the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency which operates youth shelters, ARCHES and warming centers.

- Patricia Mick expressed a concern about pressure washing the streets because the water used could go into the storm drains. Susann said that the water used to wash the streets is sucked up by the machine & is taken to an area near the airport where the contaminants are filtered out before it goes into the storm water system.
- Clark Hazlett expressed his concerns about the walkway between 45th Street and Weathers Street. He has made many complaints about this walkway and wants to have it blocked off because of the crime and drug activity it attracts. There have been houses broken into and cars damaged on Weathers Street. Apparently the City has determined that there needs to be a shortcut for the residents on 45th and beyond in order to walk to the businesses along Lancaster and, therefore, they have not approved the closing of this corridor. Susann said that we have requested lights and cameras for the walkway in order to discourage illegal activities but nothing has been done. Chris said he will take the light issue to the City again. Susann asked Chris to get the police reports in the radius of area of the walkway. This particular walkway has a curve in it which restricts vision because it was constructed before the rule that walkways must be straight.

**Salem Parks Foundation Grant:** Linda Bierly discussed the grants available through the Foundation for improving city parks. She discussed the standardization that the City requires for park fixtures such as benches, waste receptacles, bike racks, etc. They want uniform furniture for all parks. Susann estimated that a park bench would cost about \$2,000 and wondered how much the grant would be for a bench. Linda said a bench would probably be about \$2,300 to \$2,500 and they have \$15,000 in grant money for the whole city. Linda said we could apply for a Salem Park Improvement (SIP) grant. This grant requires a match which could be the funds from a Foundation grant. April 30 is the deadline for submitting a grant. It was mentioned that we could also do a fund drive by collecting bottles and cans.

**Habitat for Hope - update:** Patty & John Davenport reported on their latest proposal for housing homeless women. They are proposing to build a structure that would provide temporary housing for five homeless women who are in particular risk for violence. They would be given services to help them get back into independent living. The structure will have five bedrooms of about 83 square feet each. The site is across the street from the Unitarian Universalist Church on Cordon Road and Center Street and is leased from the church. The main hurdle to construction is the sewage and drainage issues. If these can't be resolved they won't be able to build there. They are also trying to address the transportation problem because it is about 1/2 mile to the nearest bus stop and the sidewalk is not continuous to it. Habitat for Hope will be applying for grants to help fund the project. There will not be an onsite manager at the facility. The women who will be housed there are expected to be on the low end of the scale for the need for services and they will be more likely to go through the system to independent living fairly quickly. A lot of these women have some kind of income and are employable. ARCHES will select the people who are eligible for the project. They will provide the case management and getting data on outcomes. Susann said why not buy a house? Patty said that would be too expensive but if the proposed project doesn't happen, then they may consider this. Susann asked if they wanted a letter of support for the project. A motion was made to write a letter of support for the Habitat for Hope to build a facility to house homeless women at the Cordon Road and Center Street site.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Land Use:**
  - Multi-family housing public hearing on February 10: Susann said that she doesn't have any materials on what the staff recommendations are so she can't tell the Board if we need to modify our position on these issues.
  - 4560 Center Street: The comment period on this project ended before our meeting. Susann commented on this project which will construct two houses on an area that is considered wetlands and has had water problems before. The decision on this project will be made by City staff and it will not go to the Planning Commission. If it is approved we can file an appeal and then the issue will go to the City Council. The project may have to go to the State Division of Lands and if they say no, then it won't be built.

- Willamette Town Center: There is a proposal to build a new 12,000 square foot building in the parking lot in front of the old Sears store. There may be restaurant because there is a drive-through lane in the plan. Susann will ask the Willamette Town Center manager to come to the ELNA meeting in March.
- Blanchet fence: Blanchet was approved to build a six foot instead of a four foot chain link fence along the Market Street side of their property. We were not notified of the approval of this exception to City ordinances so that we could comment on it. It could be appealed. Apparently seven people commented on the fence but they weren't included in the approval. Also, when the fence was discussed at the November ELNA meeting, Bob Weber said that there will be slats put in the fence in order to block the view into the football field and track. A motion was made by Mart and seconded by Sue to have Susann continue to look into the issue. The motion was unanimously passed.
- **Traffic:**
  - Parking on Swegle: A Salem police officer contacted the principal about the issue. He also spoke to his supervisor about policing the area at the school opening and closing hours. He was told that they did not have enough personnel to police the area and that it would be up to the principal to monitor the situation. Sue said that people were parking in the bike lanes and Mary said that people were parking in front of mailboxes so the mail can't be delivered.
- **Parks:**
  - Susann will move forward with the grant for the bench in Royal Oaks park.
- **Transportation:** Ian Davidson said that Doug Rodgers is resigning from the Board of Directors but he will stay on board until a new person is appointed by the Governor to fill the position. The Board is looking for a person who is passionate about their community and having affordable, equitable, and reliable transportation. He talked about how Cherriots has been providing services in the community for 40 years and has recently made many improvements in their service: we now have Saturday service, weekday night service until 11:00 pm, and wi-fi on the bus. Sunday and holiday service will be starting in May. In addition, many of the buses are now using compressed natural gas which is a renewable resource and carbon negative. Susann mentioned an issue that has not been resolved yet: there is no bus pad for people to stand on at the Future and Walker bus stop. There is also an unsafe bus stop at 45th & Sunnyview east of 45th on the south side of Sunnyview. Ian said he will find out more and get back to us. Mary mentioned the covered bus stops at Market & Tierra, behind Les Schwab, and on Lancaster have not been replaced.

### **Neighborhood Concerns/Other Issues:**

- Next agenda:
  - The new crosswalk at Scotsman and Sunnyview.
  - Willamette Town Center staff representative to discuss the new building.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.