

East Lancaster Neighborhood Association

Minutes - April 1, 2021 - 7:00 pm - Combination Zoom & In-person Meeting

First Free Will Baptist Church, 1390 45th Avenue NE, Salem OR

	Board Chairs/Members Present		Others Present
x	Susann Kaltwasser, Chair - Zoom	x	Chris Hoy, Ward 6 City Councilor
x	Sue Fowler, Co-Chair	x	Lt. Jason Van Meter, City of Salem Police
x	Chesta Bauer, Secretary	x	Rhonda Wolf, CEO, United Way
x	Terry Motte, Member-at-large	x	Brent Nielson - United Way
x	Lynette Horton - Member-at-large		
x	Mike Sim, Member-at-large		
	Mary Sarabia, Vice-Chair - absent		
	Patricia Mick, Member-at-large - absent		
	Clark Hazlett, Member-at-large - absent		
	Chuck Westbrook, Member-at-large - absent		
	Vern Golden - Member-at-large - absent		

Neighbors Present:

Introductions/Approval of Minutes: The meeting was opened by Co-chair Sue Fowler at 7:19 pm. A motion was made by Mike Sim and seconded by Terry Motte to approve the March 4, 2021, meeting minutes. The motion was approved.

Police Report: Lt. Van Meter reported on the train/truck accident. The driver survived. The Salem Police management team has been working on how to collect, analyze, and report on data on crimes and other incidents involving the police within the city. This data will be used to improve services and to spot places where there is a high incident of criminal activity in order to efficiently and effectively utilize resources. It will also give a picture of what is going on in our community. The City contributes data to the National Incident-Based Reporting System; the additional data collected will help to identify locations in the city where crime activity is high and to identify people who are involved in a high volume of criminal activity. There was discussion about current on-line reporting systems on local crimes. Lt. Van Meter said that there are various state and national reporting data bases, such as Cityprotects.com. Susann mentioned that she would like to see a map that had more information on crimes in the city such as addresses, dates, and types of crimes. She also mentioned that the parole and probation information is often not accurate and does not always identify sex offenders in the neighborhoods. Lt. Van Meter encouraged the public to provide suggestions of what types of data are important to them to collect.

City Councilor's Report:

- The speed limit for 45th Avenue from Sunnyview Road to Center Street has been reduced to 30 mph from the current 35 mph. Chris said that this was the best that we can get but the decision can be appealed. Susann mentioned that 45th is basically a residential street and that neighborhood associations have been asking for lower limits. Chris said that lower speed limits make streets safer, more walk-able and bike-able and that even a five mph reduction increases the likelihood of surviving an accident. He also the city-wide policy on street speed limits can be looked at again. Terry Motte asked if street racing had been addressed in the decision. Chris said that is a law enforcement issue not a speed limit issue so should be directed to the City police if there is a problem.
- ODOT has put up signage on the I-5/Market Street exits to warn drivers of high pedestrian activity. There have been six accidents at these locations and 2 fatalities.
- The City website is being worked on to improve its usability. Some examples of the type of website that is being installed are websites for the cities of Hillsboro, Redmond, and Bend.

- There were 62 building permits issued in February for single family homes, the highest month ever.
- A 72 bed rehabilitation facility will be built at Commercial and Front Streets near the new Riverfront Park pavilion.
- The City has paramedics working at the State Fairgrounds to help administer COVID vaccinations Tuesdays through Saturdays.
- Ten police officers were exposed to COVID due to an arrest situation and were quarantined.
- The City will not have a fireworks show this year at Riverfront Park.
- The City police station will be open to the public on April 3.
- The City website shows where homeless encampments are located. Currently there are about 110 at the Market Street/I-5 overpass and about 200 on Cordon Road.
- Clean-up activities from the ice storm are still occurring around the city and there are several parks that still need to be cleared of debris. Sidewalks affected by uprooted trees are being repaired in accordance with ADA requirements. The City continues to restock the sites where wood chips can be taken. Chris said that debris from the ice storm should not be put in the street. The City will not be picking up debris from private residences. All these materials need to be taken to the city debris site.
- The Chief of police is hiring new personnel. He encourages community input on the hiring process.
- Three sites will be getting red light cameras: Commercial & Madrona, Commercial & Kuebler, and Center and Hawthorne. NOLA has asked for a red light camera to be installed at Market & Lancaster but so far the crash data doesn't support having it at that location.
- There were complaints last year about the church activities at the Riverfront Park pavilion many nights during the summer. This limited the ability of the public to use the park and the church conducting the activities did not have to get a permit from the City to do this. Chris said that activity permits were not issued last year due to the pandemic. This church is planning to have the same activities happening this summer. Chris said the City Council will relook at this and could start reissuing permits for Riverfront park use by organized groups.
- The new Gerry Frank pavilion being built in Riverfront park is looking very nice and word of it has spread resulting in several musical groups wanting to come to Salem. The capacity of the new pavilion will be about 3500 people.

United Way Housing Project - 4432 Market Street NE: Rhonda Wolf and Brent Neilsen reported on the proposed affordable housing project to be located on a plot of land near Swegle Elementary School at 4432 Market Street NE. United Way is purchasing this property and will build tiny homes of about 396 square feet, 12' by 30', or 16' by 24.66'. Rents for these homes will be about \$350/month. There will be a maximum of seven units on the large piece of property. They are currently working with the builders and expect to have units available by this spring or early summer.

Committee Reports:

- **Land use:**
 - A permit request has been filed to divide a parcel of land on Hoffman Road into three parcels.
 - The Village of Hope is breaking ground this summer to build their proposed housing facility for homeless women who are transitioning to employment and permanent housing. The facility will be built on the Unitarian Universalist Church property at Cordon Road and Center Street.
- **Traffic:** Since Blanchet High School resumed sports, people have been parking on the south side of Market Street in the bike lanes so they can watch the game through the fence. Blanchet restricted use of the bleachers because of COVID, resulting in this parking situation. Apparently there used to be no parking signs along this stretch of Market Street but they were removed for

some reason. Police can issue citations for those who park along that section of Market Street but because the people who parked there were not adequately warned, a judge would probably throw out the tickets. The neighbors, including Kevin Hoffman, want those signs to be put up again to prevent parking. It was noted that Blanchet is now allowing people to enter the school grounds and use the bleachers so it should not be as much of a problem but the signs should still be put up. Susann asked the members present if there was support for putting up these signs and the response was yes, we did support this. A motion was made by Mike Sim and seconded by Lynette Horton to approach the city to ask for no parking signs to be installed on the south side of Market Street between Tierra Drive NE and 45th Avenue NE.

- **Parks:** Susann reported that our Salem Parks Foundation grant for a new bench to be placed in Royal Oaks Park has been approved. She mentioned that donations can be made to the Foundation for support Salem city parks. There will be a delay in getting the bench from the manufacturer because of some manufacturing difficulties.

Additional Items:

- Susann reported that the City of Salem will move the Neighborhood Associations Support Unit to the Mayor's office instead of being under the Community Development Department. The rationale is that there are so many citywide issues being considered that are not just neighborhood issues. There was discussion about the homeless issue that touches all neighborhoods. There has been dissatisfaction with the communication with neighborhood associations when decisions are being made about homeless issues. A question was raised about whether there should be a "homelessness department" at the City. The Chief of police wants to meet with neighborhood associations so he will be kept apprised of issues that are occurring in the areas represented by them.
- The public is being reminded to turn in unused medications. The Walgreens at the corner of Lancaster Drive and Sunnyview Road is a drop-off site.
- The City purchased two Chromebooks that neighborhood associations can checkout. Also the Salem Library has a hot spot that can be checked out so people can get on the internet. Sue Fowler will check with Irma Dowd on the availability of the Chromebooks.
- The Village of Hope organization will be asked to come to the next meeting to report on their homeless transitional facility to be constructed at the Universalist Unitarian site.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.