

East Lancaster Neighborhood Association

Minutes - September 2, 2021 - 7:00 pm - Combination In-person & Zoom Meeting - **Revised***

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

Board Chairs/Members Present		Board Chairs/Members Present (Cont'd)	
x	Susann Kaltwasser, Chair - Zoom	x	Lynette Horton, Member-at-large
x	Sue Fowler, Co-Chair	x	Patricia Mick, Member-at-large
x	Mary Sarabia, Vice Chair	x	Terry Motte, Member-at-large
x	Chesta Bauer, Secretary - Zoom	x	Mike Sim, Member-at-large
x	Vern Golden, Member-at-large		Beverly Quiring, Member-at-large - Absent
x	Clark Hazlett, Member-at-large		Broc Thorad, Member-at-large - Absent
			Chuck Westbrook, Member-at-large - Absent
	Presenters: (All on Zoom)		Neighbors Present:
x	Chris Russell, Salem Code Enforcement Officer	x	Carl Engstrom
x	Sgt. Mike Johnson, Salem Police Department		
x	Ian Davison, Cherriotts Board of Directors		
x	Chris Hoy, Ward 6 City Councilor		

Introductions: The meeting was opened by Co-chair Sue Fowler at 7:00 pm and Board members, presenters, and attendees were introduced.

Police Officer Report: Sgt. Johnson reported that he has been assigned to be the Salem police representative for ELNA. He said that he will attend ELNA meetings whenever he is available. He may be called out for an incident or investigation in which case he will assign another officer to attend the meeting. Sgt. Johnson gave a brief description of his Salem police history - he has been with them for 28-1/2 years and has served in several capacities such as the narcotics team, the strategic investigation task force, and training officers and other groups. He wants to be able to respond to questions or concerns from ELNA residents as soon as possible instead of waiting for the monthly meeting for the response. He will email Susann with his responses to issues brought up at the meeting as soon as he has an answer. He reminded us that school hours have changed and we need to be aware of when the 20 mph speed limit is in effect when driving by schools. The Salem/Keizer website has the revised starting and ending times on its website. He explained how the police department is using the Lexis Nexis database to analyze data on crimes and criminal activities in Salem in order to come up with long term solutions and to more effectively direct resources to problem areas. This is in line with the new Police Chief's goals for the department. He mentioned that the Citizen's Police Academy is being revived and encouraged anyone interested to register for it. Officer Johnson is a trainer for this activity. Contact Jennifer Hingston at jenniferhingston@cityofsalem.net for registration. Her phone number is (503) 388-6002. There have been a high number of mail thefts lately. The thieves are after information to steal IDs. Susann mentioned the speeding on 45th Avenue. He will find out what kind of surveillance has occurred to monitor this and the speeding on Market Street. He mentioned that Salem has the highest property crime rate per capita in the state and that pulls off a lot of officers for investigating these crimes. The traffic patrol team has only seven officers and they are spread very thin because of lack of personnel. He mentioned that the installation of red light cameras has helped to slow down traffic in places where they are installed but this is an expensive solution. Chris Hoy mentioned that the city of Milwaukie has a speed camera on a van that can move around the city to target problem areas and it has been very effective in reducing speeding. People who exceed the speed limit on the street where the van is parked will get a ticket in the mail. The van isn't manned during the day but someone has to drive it to the location. This also can be expensive for Salem to start up. Carl Engstrom asked about having speed boards that show the speed of cars as they approach it, such as the one on Hawthorne Avenue between State Street and Center Street. Sgt. Johnson will check into the process for getting a speed board.

Code Enforcement Report: Chris Russell introduced himself and explained his background. He is an Army vet and he has been with the City for six years starting with parking enforcement. He is now the Code Compliance Officer for District 6. He said his biggest problem in this area is vehicle complaints. Since April 1 he has had 70 abandoned vehicles that were parked for five or more days and were towed or moved. He is also addressing about 21 vegetation complaints and there are five ongoing cases regarding garbage and trash on properties and two cases of public nuisances. The City has a new reporting system that tracks cases from complaint to site inspection to case closure. The Honey Stick property on 45th Avenue with the downed trees was mentioned. These trees could cause termite infestations. There are also overgrown blackberry bushes. The Honey Stick owner has said that his property is a wetland area and he can't remove vegetation or trees. A while back when the owner came to ELNA to seek its approval for a code variance for his property, he pledged to keep the property cleaned up. Chris mentioned that berry bushes have to be encroaching on neighboring properties before Code Enforcement can require removal. Also downed trees are not considered a danger to the property or neighboring properties. Chris said anybody that is adjacent to the Honey Stick property can observe if there are any violations occurring and he also said he will look into this case and get back to us. Clark Hazlett said that he will check with the neighbors about access to seeing what's going on. Clark also mentioned that there was a car parked on Weathers Street that has been there for a long time. Chris will also look into this. The nuisance house at 4545 Swallow Street was brought up. Chris said this case was closed but it can be reopened if new information is available on problems that are occurring. Susann said she will check with her renter to see if anything is going on. She called during the meeting and the renter said the biggest problems were the amount of traffic to the house and cars parked on the sidewalk. Also the front yard of 4535 Swallow needs attention. Chris said he will drive by 4545 Swallow and check out the situation and the car. Mary Sarabia talked about the bushes growing over the sidewalks on Market Street and 45th Avenue which make it difficult for her to get by in her electric cart. Also there is a house on Swegle Road where the cars park over the sidewalk which makes her have to go into the street to get by. Chris said he will drive by these areas to check on her complaints. Chris can be reached through the Compliance office at 503-588-6421 or at crussell@cityofsalem.net

City Councilor Report: Chris Hoy reported on the following:

- Homelessness: Cascade Gateway Park has been cleaned up. There were 20 cubic yards of garbage removed, 5 cubic yards of metal recycled, and 20 shopping carts returned to Walmart. The area around Rite Aid has been cleared. Safe parking sites have been increased. Church at the Park monitors the sites at managed locations with sanitary facilities. An intern from Willamette University will put up a dashboard that will follow what is happening with the homeless.
- The City Library and Center 50+ have delayed their openings due to increased COVID cases.
- City Council meetings will be on Zoom - no hybrid meetings - also due to COVID increases.
- Chris discussed the problems with shutting down protests especially those around the Planned Parenthood facility. The City sent out 18 officers to talk with the residents of Lancaster Commons across the street from Planned Parenthood. Chris said there are a lot of out-of-town people that come to protest and they bring bear spray and guns and wear masks and flak jackets but unless they are blocking the public right-of-way, the protest can't be shut down. Chris said he has full confidence in how the new chief of police is handling these situations. Susann said there is a lot of frustration about these protests and thanked Chris for taking the lead in finding out what can be done. She would like to see the Police Chief be more vocal about what's going on.

Cherriots Representative: Ian Davidson is President of the Cherriots Board of Directors and he will be the Cherriots representative for ELNA. He reported on the start of Sunday service - the first time in 42 years. In celebration of this, all rides on Sunday will be free during the month of September. The routes and frequencies of stops will be different and can be accessed on the Cherriots website. He also said that weekday service is being provided by only 80% of normal staffing due to retirements

and the difficulty of hiring new drivers. Although temporary, this situation has been very challenging and has resulted in some changes to routes and frequency of stops. Looking at the broader picture, Cherriots has received several grants. These grants will provide 10 new clean and quiet electric battery powered buses. The buses will be used on Route 11, Lancaster Drive. A new Cherriot app for cell phones is being developed which will provide real time information on bus locations. Riders will be able to see where the bus they are waiting for is and how long it will be for it to reach their stop. This app should be done sometime this year. Ian can be contacted at iandavidson@cherriots.org or on Twitter.

Committee Reports:

- **Land Use:** There was discussion around Susann giving testimony to the Planning Commission about the residential zoning changes recommended in the Our Salem planning document. A motion was made by Mary Sarabia and seconded by Vern Golden to authorize Susann to give information to the Planning Commission about the neighborhood concerns with these zoning changes. The motion was passed.
- **Traffic:** The City won't put up no parking signs along Market Street across the street from Swegle Elementary where cars are parking to wait for children to get out of school. We were directed to work with the school to try to alleviate this problem.
- **Parks:** The bench in Royal Oaks Park has been installed. Mike Sim will check it out.

Election of Officers: All current officers except for the Secretary agreed to continue in their offices. There were no volunteers for the office of Secretary among the members present at the meeting. A motion was made by Mike Sim and seconded by Vern Golden to elect the current slate of officers except for the Secretary for the 2021/2022 year. The motion was passed. These officers are Susann Kaltwasser, Chair; Sue Fowler, Co-Chair, Mary Sarabia, Vice Chair. It was decided that a volunteer would be requested to take minutes at each meeting and the notes would be given to Susann or Sue to prepare for the next meeting.

Zoom Account: The Zoom account costs \$14.99/month or \$180/year. It was decided to move the discussion about the Zoom account to the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

- United Way tiny houses project on Market Street
- Zoom account/subscription.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

*Revision: Terry Motte's name was added to the list of attendees.