

Highland Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Geoff Darling with a quorum of Board of Directors present. Introductions were made by all and we had 15 neighbors in attendance.

Meeting Minutes from February 8, 2018 – No additions, corrections or deletions to the minutes and they were approved by acclimation.

Police Officer Report – No officer was available due to emergency in Salem.

Church Street Manor – Benjamin Clapa – Mr. Clapa gave an accounting of what was currently taking place with the Church Street Manor renovation. The facility will house a memory care unit with 40 beds and will be well maintained and regulated. After removal of hazardous materials, renovation of the inside has begun. It has been difficult finding contractors as they are all busy at this time of the year and it is estimated that within six months the remodeling will be complete (somewhere around September to October of 2018).

There is a private driveway that has entrances from the alley behind the manor and one from Church Street and there has been an ongoing problem of vehicles parking in the driveway with drug deals being made, people sleeping in their cars and vandalism. To combat the problem, there will be barriers at each end of the driveway with No Parking and No Trespassing Signs attached to it.

Yes, for Salem-Keizer Schools – Due to a scheduling conflict a representative was unable to attend and have stated they will attend the April 12th meeting.

Salem Municipal Court – Melissa Parker - Melissa Parker was unable to attend due to an earlier meeting running later than expected.

City Councilor Comments – Councilors Cara Kaser and Matt Ausec– Councilor Kaser stated that the Downtown Homelessness Solutions Task Force had their second meeting. She stated there are 17 people on the task force and somewhere between 80 to 90 people in attendance. At this meeting, the task force focused on the problems of homelessness and the next meeting will be focused on the solutions which could also lead in to a fourth meeting if necessary.

Councilor Kaser also gave an update on what is happening with the new police facility. Demolition has been taking place and both the Police Department and Fire Department were able to use some of the buildings prior to demolition for practice and training so this was an area that was put to good use for all concerned.

Neighbor Concerns and Announcements – Issues not on agenda or previously discussed – One neighbor in attendance mentioned that he was pursuing doing a proposal to the Salem Parks Foundation for either a skate park or a rock climbing boulder for Highland Park and he will keep us posted.

Other Business/Announcements -

We had the following guest speakers at the meeting:

Representative Teresa Alonso Leon – made an appeal to voters to re-elect.

Municipal Judge Jane Aiken – seeking re-election.

Upcoming Events for March 2018

March 21, 2018 - Town Hall Meeting Broadway Commons - 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to share common ideas for the new police facility site.

March 22, 2018 – Open House – River Front Park Master Plan – Pringle Park Community Center at 6:00 p.m.

March 23, 2018 - The Downtown Congestion Relief Task Force will be meeting at 7:00 a.m. and they will be focusing on short term solutions to help with traffic congestion.

March 27, 2018 - Land-use application hearing - UGM Gospel Mission – City Council Chambers - Public Hearing - Purpose is to build a new 300-bed shelter. It was originally approved by the Planning Commission but was subsequently appealed by a concerned citizen and now it has been put up for the City Council to discuss.

Upcoming Events for April 2018

April 9, 2018 – Maple/Winter Bikeway – City Council Chambers – 6:00 p.m. – This was approved by the Planning Committee and is now being scheduled for the City Council to vote on.

April 18, 2018 – Downtown Streetscaping Planning – Courthouse Square at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. with minutes were recorded by Mary Harp.

Next Neighborhood Association Meeting: May 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.