

Highland Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2018

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

Meeting Minutes from May 10, 2018 –One correction to the June 18, 2018 minutes should have stated “Executive Board Member Elections”. The board otherwise approved the minutes with the change by acclimation.

Police Officer Report – Officer Jason VanMeter gave an update on the new police facility site and at this time they have been involved in doing archaeological digging for artifacts. There have been some items found but he did not state what at this time. There are still a few more drenches to dig and then the Tribal Committee will hand any findings back over to the City of Salem. A lot of work is also being done underground that might not be noticeable to most people.

M. Harp asked for a clarification of the “No Trespassing Ordinance” as she has been receiving conflicting information and would like to know a little more about the process. Office VanMeter stated if someone is on your property and it is clearly marked with No Trespassing Signs with the City Ordinance of SRC 95-550 on the sign and they have been asked to leave the property and do not, the police will come out and do either a citation or they will be arrested depending on the situation. The one thing he did emphasize is that the verbiage for the city ordinance does state: “remaining unlawfully on the premise” and this will carry a lot of weight when it is taken to court. He also clarified that a Trespass Letter of Consent (TLC) only relates to vacant properties.

Michael Gay – Salem Health – Mr. Gay stated that Salem Health’s mission is “to improve the health and well-being of the community both now and in the future”. He also stated that through a survey that was done at PSU, it showed that the mid-valley’s aging population will grow rapidly over the next 20 years which will mean an increase in demand for services. Their goal is to keep the community informed of what’s happening and what plans are in the process both now and in the future.

Salem Health is looking at expanding its facilities and one area that he mentioned was the area of Building A where the Emergency Room is located, and several neighbors mentioned that it sounded like they would be eliminating some parking spaces which would not be a good idea. It was also suggested that Salem Health please keep the “Good Neighbor Policy” in mind when doing any expansion and to please keep in mind that building more trust with their neighbors is vital.

Another neighbor concern was whether Salem Health will be working toward a better relationship with the Veterans Administration in Portland. She felt the need was there to build a better communication since there are many veterans that receive services at both Salem Health facilities as well as the Veterans Facilities in Portland.

City Councilor Comments – Councilors Cara Kaser and Matt Ausec– Councilor Kaser was not in attendance. Councilor Matt Ausec was present and provided updates from City Council as well as other information. Councilor Ausec stated that at the last City Council meeting discussed the plastic bag ban and that a decision or vote has been delayed due to many unanswered questions.

There has been some noticeable activity at the new police facility such as archaeological digging. He stated that the City has hired contractors and most have been from the Portland and California area. There were no restrictions as to locations that bids would be received from and sadly there was only one contractor that submitted a bid from the Salem area. The city has also hired an owner's representative as well as a prime general contractor.

A question was asked about whether there was an update on the new Union Gospel Mission facility and at this time they are in the process of raising the needed funding for construction. The city did give an endorsement for the go ahead of the facility with some stipulations (which were not discussed).

M. Harp asked about the company CARTS and whether there was an agreement with the City as she has noticed on several occasions that they come by to pick up grocery carts and if there is garbage in the carts the drivers will dump the garbage out on the ground. She did confront a driver and asked why he did not have a garbage can on the trailer to put the garbage in instead of dumping it on the ground. The driver's response was they were told by the employer they were not to pick up any garbage and then then stated it was not his problem. The question was whether the City could require them to carry garbage cans on their trailer at all times and what can be done about the unlawful dumping. Councilor Ausec will check for further information on this issue and get back to the Neighborhood Association on it.

Neighbor Concerns and Announcements – Issues not on agenda or previously discussed – It was announced that Gary Obery and his family have purchased a new home in another neighborhood and that sadly he would no longer be able to be a board member. This now leaves at least one board member position and possibly a second position. Neighbors are encouraged to consider becoming a board member.

L. Taylor is applying for the Boundary Review Task Force with the Salem/Keizer School District. The Task Force is looking for volunteers from community organizations to fill openings and Ms. Taylor was asking for permission to represent the Highland Neighborhood Association. Board members agreed that she could state that she is a member of the Highland Neighborhood Association and it was approved by the quorum of board members present. The board also encouraged her to consider becoming a board member.

Other Business/Announcements - Irma Dowd with Neighborhood Services wanted to remind people of the advantages of signing up for the City of Salem Emergency Alert System and encouraged them to go to the city website and sign up.

Highland Neighborhood Association received a flyer from Neighborhood Services congratulating them on their 44th Birthday and all the staff had signed it. Mary Harp wanted to say thank you for the flyer and the recognition.

Upcoming Events for September 2018 –

Sept 18 – The Riverfront Park Master Plan Update – Tuesday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Pringle Hall located at 606 Church St. S.E.

Sept 22 – Open Streets Salem Celebration – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Neighborhood Services will also have a booth.

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

Next Neighborhood Association Meeting: October 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

