

**Highland Neighborhood Association**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 11, 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 18 neighbors in attendance.

**Meeting Minutes from September 13, 2018** – There were no corrections to the September 13, 2018 minutes and the board approved the minutes by acclamation.

**Police Officer Report** – Officer Davidson stated that prior to coming to the meeting she had talked with the Crime Analysis Unit and they had stated that crime across the city such as burglaries and car break ins had decreased. She also stated now that we are heading in to the holidays theft crime will increase as usual and this can range from package theft to theft of Christmas yard ornaments and neighbors should either anchor them down or else move them inside.

There has been an increase in mail and package theft over by Donna and Columbia. Neighbors are taking pictures of the suspects and keeping documentation to present to police when they are called. Tips suggested were to have packages delivered somewhere else or to let your neighbor know that you are expecting a package so that if you are not at home then they can retrieve it for you.

Officer Davidson was asked if the city has been actively trying to move homeless people and people that are loitering or sleeping downtown or sleeping on the sidewalk. She stated that the city has taken the position that if there are people sleeping on the sidewalk (especially if the business owner does not want to pursue charges) that they will leave them alone, however, the sidewalks are considered public access and if someone is blocking the sidewalk, the city can take action and cite them for disorderly conduct. Because the businesses are not pursuing the matter and if there are not enough citizens going to the City Council meetings to voice their opinion then most likely nothing will be done. It is highly recommended that citizens get involved and speak up.

The City of Salem Ordinance is very specific and states that if you are blocking the sidewalk as in having a tent up or lying horizontally across the sidewalk or you block traffic that you could be cited or arrested but this is not currently being enforced.

**Code Enforcement – Stephanie Wyle/Officer Wolfe** - Officer Wyle will now be handling multi-family inspections and the new Code Enforcement Officer for our area is Officer Wolfe. There have been 142 new cases in our neighborhood since June of 2018. There are 39 that are currently still open. There is one dangerous building listed at 1945 4<sup>th</sup> Street, one derelict building at 1922 Commercial Street and one public nuisance property at 2219 Broadway Street.

Abandoned vehicles: a neighbor asked if there was a way to track some of the people that are creating this problem, and there is not. It was clarified that cars can sit and be parked for 5 days in a row without being driven somewhere. Unattached trailers can be tagged and cited for being unattached and on the third day they can be removed.

**Parole and Probation** – There are different units within the department such as the sex offender unit, mental health, drug endangered children, limited supervision, as well as the special services unit. If a neighbor has a concern they can call (503) 588-8492.

**City Councilor Comments – Councilors Cara Kaser and Matt Ausec**– Councilor Kaser was in attendance and Councilor Ausec was unable to attend. Councilor Kaser stated that on Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a City Council hearing on single use plastic bags. Our Salem will also be having a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, October 24 at Broadway Commons from 6 to 8 p.m. and they will be seeking input on the priorities for the community.

Funds were allocated for the opening of a Sobering Center at the Arches building on Commercial. Regarding the new police facility, over 5000 artifacts were found on the site and those items will be taken to the University of Oregon's Museum where some will be put on display within schools in the Salem/Keizer school district.

There will also be a public hearing on November 13 to discuss Solid Waste collection service rates and the Revenue Task Force will be meeting on October 15 on how to raise revenue for the city and the committee is made up of community members.

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 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. It has been asked that Brady Rogers be notified of this and asked what can be done to stop this activity.

If the Neighborhood Association is interested, they can contact Andi Tobin at the 9-1-1 dispatch center and she would come and do a neighborhood presentation on how the 9-1-1 system works etc.

**Neighbor Concerns and Announcements – Issues not on agenda or previously discussed** – There are concerns that Open Streets has caused a lot of inconveniences for many neighbors and it was stated that they did not feel that Open Streets was very community friendly. The goal of Open Streets is to find a balance between inconveniencing people in the residential neighborhoods and high traffic areas. It was suggested that the neighbor find out when the next planning sessions are for the Open Streets event and to consider attending and expressing their concerns.

**Other Business/Announcements** - The Highland Neighborhood Association has been informed they are in compliance with the city codes for a Neighborhood Association and can continue for another year.

Highland Neighborhood board members are working on an outreach program to help draw more attention to our meetings and to get more neighbors involved. This outreach involves doing a beta testing of sending of post cards out to neighbors within the boundaries and to see what type of response is received.

Mary Harp announced that she would like to nominate Rick Kokel for one of the open board member positions and he has accepted. The board took a vote and voted unanimously to approve. There is still one board open that needs to be filled.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. and minutes were recorded by Mary Harp.**

**Next Neighborhood Association Meeting: November 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**