

August 18, 2020
Hoover Park

7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Mike Beringer, NESCA Chair.

1. Welcome, Introductions, Announcements, Approval of Minutes: Mike Beringer

Mike welcomed all in attendance. A motion to approve the July 21 meeting minutes was made and seconded. Motion carried.

2. Police Officer Report: Lt Jason Van Meter

As this was his first time at a NESCA meeting, Lt Van Meter introduced himself as the Night Shift Commander. He came to our meeting mostly to learn neighborhood concerns. He mentioned there has been some gang activity in addition to a couple of shootings and car thefts. Currently, due to COVID restrictions, officers are unable to complete a lot of needed arrests and/or hospitalizations and so many offenders are only receiving tickets, not jail pending trial. He asks that the neighborhood keep watch and, when needed, call with the most specific information they can provide. As so many concerns relate to traffic issues, he is hoping to get the traffic team more involved.

Lt Van Meter provided his cell phone number and his email address and encouraged anyone with concerns to contact him directly:

- Phone: 503-932-1474
- Email: jvanmeter@cityofsalem.net
- Regarding protests in Salem: Most are quiet and under control. Problems seems to be leveling out and Eugene/Portland people seem to be staying away. There have been a couple minor problems on the steps at the Capitol and SPD has received some complaints for not doing anything to re-establish order. What many people do not understand is that SPD cannot interfere as OSP is in charge of controlling State property. If groups were protesting and creating issues at city parks, SPD would then step in.
- Market Street speeding: NEN has voiced great concern for all the speeding on Market Street and are hoping to have photo speed/red light cameras installed. Lt Van Meter said traffic officers will make this a priority area for speeding the next couple of weeks. They would like to help more but other priorities interfere. A letter support NEN will be sent from NESCA on this topic.
- Shootings: These have been generally north of State Street and are usually drug related. The gang enforcement team has been disbanded and the city is now using the new "Problem Oriented Policing," which involves SPD working with community providers who are trained to work with homeless, those with addiction and mental health issues. Hopefully this will free up time for the police department to work with police issues rather than social issues.
- Park Avenue between Recovery Dr (south of OSH) and Geer: A NESCA neighbor had asked for a clarification as to which law enforcement agency has jurisdiction for this area. She had called the city with safety concerns as there is no painted center line, no bike lane, no pedestrian paths, and a lot of speeding. The city said they could not do anything and when she called the State Hospital, she was told it is not their jurisdiction. Lt Van Meter said he is not sure who is responsible for this road but will ask SPD to watch it for a while. This does need to be resolved so neighbors will know who to contact with problems.

- Other: A new protocol for kids' safety is needed now that schools are not in session. Lt Van Meter said SPD needs community involvement to help with tending to the needs and safety of "our" children.

3. City Councilors' Report: (No report)

Councilor Chris Hoy had a conflicting commitment and could not attend this evening.

4. Guest speakers/Neighbor discussions: Bridget West, Hoover School Principal

Bridget spoke at length about the COVID issues that surround schools and if, when, and how they are to be reopened. Options currently include fully on-line learning or a hybrid model of some on-line and some classroom. Parent surveys show a lot of fear of COVID and many are struggling to make the decision as to which model will work best for their child(ren). Following the Governor's order, all children will be required to wear masks when attending in-classroom school.

Hoover staff are currently being housed at Chavez Elementary School but are hoping to be back in their own building on the 25th. Part of the remodel will include redoing the main entry, providing a level of security for students and staff that previously was not there.

Bridget said that to date there are only eight enrollments for kindergarten. The library is working to get a plan together that they hope will help get books returned. One thing that was stressed is her need to be kept in the loop of events in the community by SPD and community members. This is especially important for any negative events (shootings, etc.) as parents of her students look to her to provide information of these events.

5. Committee Reports:

- a. Land Use Ian Johnson
 - DAS is trying to get all the required paperwork for the transfer of properties at the North Campus (Yaquina Hall, D Street Park). Because of all the delays resulting in additional costs, there is a push by City for the State to gift the property.
 - The City was already in the process of doing some budget cuts pre-COVID so current cutback due to the COVID crisis have not been quite as painful.
 - The City is still committed to doing the D Street Park.
 - Marilyn Moritz, Vice Chair, will send information to Ian regarding the Salem Health property on Medical Center Drive. He will check on this to see if there is any news as to what may be planned for that property.
 - Former Toys R Us building has been painted and some renovations have been taking place. The zoning has been changed to education.
 - Park Avenue Property/Camry Court: Zackary Zeek property. There does not appear to be anything currently happening on either of these properties.
- b. Transportation Julie Redden not in attendance
 - No report.
- c. Parks Eli Brody not in attendance
 - No report.
- d. Hoover School Liaison Teri Lupoli
 - School Supplies Drive: While children may or may not be physically back at Hoover School, they will be having studies and, as such, will still need school supplies. Anyone wishing to help with supplies can drop them off at the home of Teri Lupoli (882 Park Avenue NE). They can be left inside the gate or on the front porch by the door. Basic supplies are requested, but rather than backpacks, Bridget West (Hoover School Principal) would like to be able to provide tote bags and Command hooks strong enough to hold the supplies and electronics being used by the students.

- e. Watershed Gary Pullman
 - NEN did a purge of invasive species and planted new plants along the eastern edge of Englewood Park.
 - Mill Creek clean up. This is an on-going project and volunteers are always needed.
 - Bush Park has new wood chips around all the oak trees.
 - Geer Park – nothing to report.
- f. Oregon State Hospital North Campus Ian Johnson
 - Due to the disruption of business from the COVID19 crisis, it appears Mountain West will probably miss their construction window, originally scheduled to begin in August. It is possible construction will not be able to begin until Spring 2021.

6. Other Business

- **Sock Drive:** NESCA will again be doing a sock drive to benefit HOME Youth & Resource Center (625 Union St. NE). Please bring new or clean, gently used socks to the September NESCA meeting. Socks can also be dropped off at the home of Teri Lupoli, NESCA Secretary. Teri and Marilyn Moritz, NESCA Vice Chair, will plan to distribute the socks around the first of October.
- **Meeting Locations:** The usual location for NESCA meetings (Fresh Start Market Annex on Center Street) has not yet been reopened. As such, we do not have a space identified for our September meeting. Several suggestions were made and will be followed up on. Information about a meeting location will be provided as soon as it is available. Arrangements have been made for NESCA to meet at the Salem First Church of the Nazarene (1550 Market St. NE) for our October meeting. Location for November and December meetings is still pending.

As there was no additional business brought forward, Mike thanked everyone for attending this evening and closed the meeting at 8:30 PM. **Our next scheduled meeting will be September 15. LOCATION PENDING.**

Submitted by: Teri Lupoli
Secretary/Treasurer
NESCA

Attending:

Mike Beringer* Teri Lupoli*, Marilyn Moritz*, Gary Pullman*, Dianne Wilke, Ian Johnson, Lynn Cardiff, Jim Lupoli, Lucy Beringer, Clifford Eiffler-Rodriguez, Bridget West Principal Hoover School, Jason Van Meter Salem PD

*NESCA Board Member