

September 15, 2020

ZOOM Meeting

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

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

Mike welcomed everyone to NESCA's first ZOOM meeting. A motion to approve the August 18 meeting minutes was made and seconded. Motion carried.

- Treasurer's Report: Teri Lupoli
 - 7/1/2020 Beginning Balance \$1,617.50
 - 9/4/2020 Land Use Comments + 25.00
 - 9/11/2020 Purchase Zoom License - 74.99
 - New Balance \$1,567.51
- Communications: Teri Lupoli
 - A nice email greeting was received from former neighbors Loren & Cindy Depping that was read to the attendees.

2. Police Officer Report: Lt Jason Van Meter

Salem PD has been extremely busy helping Oregon State Police (OSP) and Marion County Sheriff's office with wildfire response and helping with evacuees at the Oregon State Fairgrounds. Much has been needed to assist with lifesaving events during this difficult time.

Lt Van Meter provided his cell phone number and his email address and encouraged anyone with concerns to contact him directly. Lt Van Meter reminded everyone that he does work at night and requests that people not call in the daytime.

- Phone: 503-932-1474
- Email: jvanmeter@cityofsalem.net

Neighborhood Concerns:

- Holiday Lodge: Problems continue (drugs, prostitution, etc.) and officers are watching the location nightly in an attempt to curb the activity. Due to the activity level at the motel, the property has been designated as a "nuisance property."
- Mall Burglary: Eric Wormell has been arrested and is now in custody for burglarizing at the mall. He is also a person of interest in several other burglaries.
- Stolen Cars: There seems to be an uptick in the number of reported car thefts. The greatest area of this activity in the NESCA neighborhood is mostly at the Willamette Town Center (WTC) and the area bordered by Lancaster Drive/Hawthorne/Center Street/Silverton Road. Problems will usually also filter outward somewhat from those boundaries which has an affect on residential neighborhoods as well.
- Market Street Speeding/Red Lights: Lt. Van Meter did begin additional patrols on Market Street, and more drivers are being stopped. The problem is still basically unchanged, however. Main areas of enforcement have been at the intersections of Lancaster and Market Streets and Market and Hawthorne.
- Park Avenue between Recovery Dr (south of OSH) and Geer: Jurisdiction for properties regarding homeless camps is divided, with Salem PD responsible for Geer Park property on the east of the Park Avenue extension and OSP is responsible for property on the west side. Issues of speeding, etc. on the Park Avenue extension is within the jurisdiction of OSP.

3. City Councilors' Report: Councilor Chris Hoy

Chris opened his remarks this evening by acknowledging what a difficult time it is right now for so many people and that everyone is impacted in one way or another. Those of us who are lucky enough to live within Salem have only smoke and ash to contend with as we try to go about our daily lives. Others are not so fortunate.

Wildfires:

- The City is working to get masks for people currently in shelters.
- 200 City employees have been directly impacted by the fires and they have been given the time needed to care for the needs of their families. This has caused some readjustments in work assignments and a slow-down in some services.
- The City of Salem provided 18 firefighters and equipment to help in the canyon fires while still providing a level of safety to the city.
- Law enforcement has been patrolling the canyon for looters.
- Emergency Management and Public Works have been helping evacuees.
- All functions at Geren Island are in good shape. The water reservoir is covered so ash is not an issue for water quality.
- Disaster Preparedness: Chris mentioned that it was just last month that Mike Beringer did a presentation on disaster preparedness which is usually geared towards major earthquake events. However, these wildfire events all over the state have certainly brought that need home to everyone.

Other City Business:

- Commercial Development.
 - 50 building permits were issued in July, the highest number since 2011.
- State Street.
 - State Street from High to Liberty is scheduled for improvements to begin soon. The plan is to have everything completed by the end of October and will be the beginning of returning State Street to 2-way traffic.
- Our Salem Project:
 - “Current Visions” is on the City web site. Now is the time to provide input before the workshops begin. Chris encouraged everyone to get involved.
- Salem PD:
 - Chief Moore retired but is working until November while applications are being received and reviewed.
 - The new police facility is on schedule and on budget. An October 10 ribbon cutting is planned.
 - Protests were planned at the Capitol, but a car caravan of anti-protestors came from out of town to specifically cause problems. And they did, assaulting some of those who were legitimately protesting. SPD did intervene in a couple of the assaults but has been criticized for their seeming lack of concern. Those arrested were released soon which increased some of the criticism.
- Council Work Session:
 - Monday, September 21. Council will be discussing non-criminal police department issues such as mental health, homelessness, etc.

4. Guest speakers/Neighbor discussions:

Rob Romanek, Park Planner, Salem Public Works

- Geer Park
 - Conversations on improvements resulted in 370 survey responses with various visions for the park.
 - **Geer Park IS LOVED.** Surveys indicated there does not seem to be as much interest in more sports fields, rather, respondents are more interested in seeing a
 - Skate Park,
 - Dog Park, and a

- Playground

Rob showed three drawings of current options being considered. **Beginning 9/19 and going through 10/3/2020 a new survey based on these options will be available to determine a preferred option.** It is hoped that the best of the three options will be combined to become the Master Plan for Geer Park.

Richard Berger, Neighborly Way (Mountain West)

Obviously, the North Campus project has not yet been started.

- The State needs to record a plat which is being held up by a PGE Easement on B Street which must be moved to improve the infrastructure. The State has agreed “in principle” to pay for this move, depending on the price. The fires and resulting powerline problems is causing further delays in getting this easement issue resolved.
- There is also a permit issue with the tribes on how they dig. Except for the Siletz Tribe, all others have signed off on it.

5. Committee Reports:

- a. Land Use Ian Johnson
 - ATM at Fred Meyer. Additional drawings are being required to show the landscaping and parking for this area.
 - Mike Gray, a representative of Salem Health, will attend the October meeting to discuss any known plans for the property west of the North Campus where buildings were demolished several years ago.
 - 2903 Center Street NE auto repair. An interested party wishes to purchase this property with the intent of opening a small restaurant with a drive-through and two walk-up windows. The auto repair shop owner is looking to move his business to State Street where he has more room. Ian stated it could be a difficult change due to the rezoning and multiple variances/code changes that would be required. With some reservations, the consensus is this would be a great improvement over the current business on that corner and a more welcoming entry to our neighborhood. The use does fit with what NESCA has agreed with in principle for other small business use on Center Street. A motion was made for NESCA to support this plan, but no second was received, and the motion died. It was felt more information is needed prior to making the commitment to support the effort. Ian will send an email to the party involved and invite them to attend our November meeting.
- b. Transportation Julie Redden not in attendance
 - No report.
- c. Parks Marilyn Moritz
 - It has been learned that NESCA would be responsible for 50% of the cost of the two benches through the SPIF Grant. As each bench costs nearly \$1300, the grant request will not be submitted. We will wait for a Salem Parks Foundation grant and then request one bench, not two.
 - Kiosk Delay. Information was received from Julio Gallardo, Marion County, that the kiosk scheduled for installation at Thorpe Park has been delayed due to wildfire events. They have been short staffed due to evacuations and could not paint the kiosk due to ash and smoke. The tentative plan is to install the week of the 28th.
- d. Hoover School Liaison Teri Lupoli
 - School Supplies Drive: School supplies are still being collected. Even though children are at home on-line learning, they will still need basic supplies such as pencils, pens, crayons, glue, and paper. Lists are available at stores such as Walmart and Fred Meyer showing needs for the different age levels. As the pandemic has caused a lot of unemployment, it is even more important that we who can help these families in this way. School supplies can be delivered to the home of Teri Lupoli at 882 Park Avenue NE.
- e. Watershed Gary Pullman not in attendance

- No report,
- f. Oregon State Hospital North Campus Ian Johnson
 - In addition to Richard Berger's report, Ian mentioned that "plans are destiny" and we are still looking forward to our D Street Park.

6. Other Business

- **Sock Drive:** Teri again mentioned the sock drive to benefit HOME Youth & Resource Center (625 Union St. NE). New or clean, gently used socks can 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.
- **Litter Patrol:** Eli Brody asked if NESCA is still interested in providing litter patrol for Hawthorne Avenue? As response was positive, Eli will contact the City about supplies. Once air quality has improved, a date for the clean-up will be scheduled and NESCA neighbors will be notified.

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 October 20.** Business at that meeting will include the election of the board for the 2020-21 year. Location for the meeting will either be at the Salem First Church of the Nazarene at 1550 Market Street NE **OR** via ZOOM. More information to follow on location.

Submitted by: Teri Lupoli
Secretary/Treasurer
NESCA

Attending:

Mike Beringer* Teri Lupoli*, Marilyn Moritz*, Lynn Cardiff*, Eli Brody*, Dianne Wilke, Ian Johnson, Jim Lupoli, Lucy Beringer, Mark Neumann, Ron Harboe, Chris Hunter, Lt Jason Van Meter Salem PD, Rob Romanek City of Salem, Chris Hoy City Councilor, Richard Berger Neighborly Way/Mountain West
*NESCA Board Members