



Minutes of the Zoom Meeting #5

Of

Northgate Neighborhood Association (NGNA)

on

Thursday, March 18, 2021

NGNA Executive Board Attendees: Bayard Mentrum (Chair), Flora Morales (Community Liaison Chair), Kaethe Mentrum (Secretary/Park Chair).

General Board Member Attendees: Pennie Morley, Tony Zitzelberger and Wendy Zitzelberger, Louise Whitehead,

Also attended: Our Councilor Jose Gonzalez, LT. Jason VanMeter, Police Officer

Absentees: Don Jensen (Land Use Chair) with excuse email; (Marlayne Madison, Thomas Madison both with excuse email, Rebecca Strieper, Nelson Morales, Code Compliance Officer, Delores Pigsley with excuse email and Irma Dowd, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, City of Salem .

Guest Attendee: Carol Snyder

Bayard waited until around 6:15 p.m. to start the meeting as many people came in late. He welcomed everyone present.

1. Since Ross Black of Simple Box had already joined us earlier and offered an update on his Portland Road property, Bayard prompted him to go ahead. Ross said he has been having trouble with storm water which is his biggest hurdle. Other than that, his property is coming along.

2. Police Officer Jason VanMeter joined us. He expressed the importance of noting the serial number of items that thieves might take as they will help the police in locating them.

Bayard asked him a number of questions, as the following:

- a. Do the police have to see the actual crimes in action themselves or can they use store cameras, body cams, or smart phones? Jason responded people and stores can use their cameras for the police to go after someone. However, theft is not considered important.

- b. About the woman from the pavilion who ran over the pedestrian, Jason said they let her out of jail already and it is very frustrating to the police too.
- c. Why is there a problem for people to apply to become police officers? To that Jason replied they can get better jobs and pays elsewhere. It's frustrating, dangerous and they must meet certain standards or they don't get selected.

Kaethe asked Jason if he would have some of his police "visit" Walgreens from time to time which was being robbed quite often recently. He complied to that request.

3. Board Member and Committee Reports:

Bayard took the place of Don, who was absent (notified excuse beforehand) and discussed Capitol City Business Center located at 4600 25th Ave NE having issues with people living in RVs and vehicles dumping garbage on their property. They requested a sign to change from no restrictions to a 2 hour maximum. **Pennie moved the motion to vote, seconded by Flora. The vote was passed.**

b) Community Outreach Flora Morales:

Flora said there was not much to report. She is having difficulty getting people and businesses to join the association. However, she is trying. Kaethe asked Pedro who has experience in being a liaison to help her. Both Pennie and Louise offered help in getting more businesses interested in joining this association.

c) Park Chair, Kaethe Mentrum, reported as follows:

aa. Kaethe briefed everyone about the bouncy tots (2) to be acquired by City Parks paying for it in full.

bb. She wanted Salem Parks Foundation to grant some money to purchase a picnic table with benches and a bench for families watching their children at the playground at Northgate Park. Just as she was starting to talk about it, Carol Snyder, President of Salem Parks Foundation appeared on zoom and she was able to talk about it. The timing was incredulous. **Pennie moved it to motion seconded by Flora and the request of an approximate amount of \$7,000 was approved by the board.** Although the director of City Parks had not yet provided the exact amount including installation and concrete, this amount should be able to cover for the two items.

cc. Kaethe explained the perimeters of the tennis court has been painted recently. Louise Whitehead, our general board member, asked if the tennis court is mixed with the basket ball court. In other words, it has common or shared lines in the middle so only one basketball board can be used if people are playing tennis. She thought there were more basket ball players than tennis players, however, the tennis court has not been open for years due to neglect. Only recently have they cleaned up the ground and repainted the lines on it. It seems City Parks will provide the tennis net in the late spring or summer. Kaethe said it is on a first come first served basis.

dd. When Kaethe reported the downed trees were cleaned up, Linda objected saying it is almost cleaned but not quite.

ee. Kaethe reported the City's Permit and Insurance Dept. (Becky George) has kindly allowed us to use Northgate Park for Hallman Elementary School children to be able to have their tree themed art exhibition along with music on April 3rd due to its short duration and expected small gathering.

ff. Flora Morales asked about soccer or other games in Northgate Park. Kaethe explained it is made only for practice and not made for other teams and families other than the surrounding neighbors to be able to practice. That was why there is no toilet or a large parking area.

4. Instead of Chair Report and Neighborhood Concerns, Bayard took the time for discussion on the houseless people especially at the pavilion. Pennie said it is frustrating how the city is not responding well to community needs.

Instead of Chair Report and Neighborhood Concerns, Bayard took the time for discussion on the houseless people especially at the pavilion. Pennie mentioned it is frustrating how the city is not responding well to community needs. Bayard indicated NGNA needs to write a letter to the City. Louise said the letter needs to show some solutions too. Bayard read the following points could be included. Other possible solutions are mentioned below.

- a. Neighborhood Associations will be notified of shelter locations and be given the opportunity for input.
- b. Organizations managing shelters will attempt to prioritize those at the greatest risk of dying and as well as other vulnerable populations including families with minor children, the handicapped, the elderly, and particularly vulnerable single women. The people in these groups especially need protection from the weather and from threats to their security. Arches has an active team who daily moves among the homeless camps that could potentially be quite helpful in locating the most vulnerable.
- c. When hiring people to work at warming shelters, please include screening for drug use and require criminal background checks as well as administering ongoing random alcohol and drug screenings during employment.
- d. Bayard mentioned about a solution re trash being picked up by the houseless people and being paid.
- e. Bayard also mentioned he saw a video of a young African girl who won a world prize for recycling melted plastic mixed with sand into molds to make pavers. It looked like an easy process. That could be done here too.
- f. Kaethe mentioned the tiny houses that the city owns which could be constructed in a matter of 2 hours. Linda said they need a place to put them. Kaethe then said there are plenty of city-owned spaces in the south side.
- g. Kaethe also said there is a link she will share with everyone which includes small houses.

Pennie asked Jose what he thought about a letter like that to the City. Jose said it might be more useful for us to send letters directly to the state representatives and senators and said he will provide information as to their contact.

It was decided and voted in, that a letter from the association be composed by Pennie, Kaethe and Linda to address all above concerns and if more.

5. Just before the end, Kaethe Mentrum asked Joanne (not yet received her email address), Ross Black and Pedro Mayoral if they would like to become NGNA board members and they accepted. After that, they were voted in as our new general board members.

Pennie called the meeting to adjourn, seconded by Flora and all voted it to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned just before 7:30 p.m.