



Minutes of the Meeting

Of

September 16, 2021 at Northgate Park, Salem, OR

Present: Chuck Bennett, Mayor, Irma Dowd, City of Salem Coordinator; Bayard Mentrum, Chair; Don Jensen, Land Use Chair, Flora Morales, Community Outreach; Kaethe Mentrum, Secretary/Park Chair; Pennie Morley; Becca Strieper; Elizabeth Fonseca; Timothy Beck; Jennifer Nugent; Bill Berry; Jess Cruz; Katherine Sears
Guest Speakers: Police Chief Trevor Womack; Police Sgt. Pratt
Absent with excuse: Ross Black
Absent without excuse: Joann Barnhart; Pedro Morales

1. Bayard started the meeting and welcomed Police Chief Womack and Police Sgt. Pratt who spoke first. Introductions were made after that.
2. Pennie moved to approve the minutes/or amendments of May 20th, 2021. It was seconded by Flora Morales. Everyone was in favor and the minutes/amendments were voted in.
3.
 - a. Chief Womack said there were not enough policemen in the Salem Unit and wants to add more. He is trying to generate interest for men and women to join the unit. He is also trying to improve police performance.
 - b. Police Officer Sgt. Pratt described in detail about what the police are intending to do at 4885 Portland Road, a private property, one of the two owners being Larry Lassen. When asked about how it takes for the police to pass it along to "Nuisance Enforcement" for garbage and littering pickup and fining the owners of the premise, he said it takes a long time as it must go through City Council first to pass it along and it can take a while. He also talked about gun violence and crime going up in general. But the police are doing the best they can. He said it is frustrating because even if they catch the criminals, they are set free in a day or two due to covid.
 - c. Mayor Chuck Bennett made a special appearance and talked about aa. needing more police force bb. we don't have a 24/7 operational treatment center for the mentally ill and the addicted so we don't have anything like Cahoots, a mobile mental healthcare operation in Eugene, OR. He stayed on for quite a while and people seemed pleased to have him there.
4. Executive Board Member Reports:
 - a. Don Jensen, Land Use Chair expressed it would be nice to see police hubs again at different locations or corners of streets throughout the city like they used to have before. This idea was received well by the others.

b. Flora Morales, Community Outreach, said she did not have much to say except she was very pleased with how Northgate Park looks now. She said there is definitely a before and after at this park. In particular, she likes the soccer goals being placed and other improvements made.

c. Kaethe Mentrum, Park Chair, said she and former park chair went to visit City Parks Dept. and had a meeting with the director. After that, we did a survey. She continued to be persistent and that must have paid off to be able to make so many improvements to Northgate Park. She said there is still the lighting issue by the path that needs fixing which is in the hands of Salem Electric.

5. Bayard, Chair, reported about reviewing various zoning requests made by businesses and organizations via the City which helped the community and also helped to put money into NGNA's account, he talked about the unmanaged homeless close to the KROC Center, handing out flyers to promote NGNA, zoom meeting with other N/A Chairs, etc.

6. The ballots were counted by Pennie Morley and Becca Strieper. The above executive team was re-elected to serve Northgate Neighborhood Association until September, 2022.

7. Neighborhood Concerns: Elizabeth Fonseca informed she saw a private car coming into NG Park and how surprised she was.

People were asked to take a prize back home with them.

The meeting adjourned around 7:45 p.m.