

Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association

January 21, 2021

7PM

Held via zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Chairman, Alan Alexander.

Neighbors and guests were greeted.

The minutes were accepted as circulated.

Police Report - Lt. VanMeter

In response to a question by a neighbor, he asked that neighbors call 911 if they observe someone checking their cars, neighbors cars or checking mail boxes. It is a crime in progress. They will respond unless other calls take priority.

He reported that today was a busy day with a small protest by Trump supporters at the capitol. Two protestors were arrested for prior crimes, one at the capitol building and one for an incident at a business in town.

The police department is busy investigating shootings in North Salem.

Rabbi Eli - Temple Beth Shalom on Cunningham Lane

Although there are no specific threats against the Temple, the far right has been targeting Jews. They are asking neighbors to call 911 if they notice anything suspicious at the Temple. They are increasing security.

If you have any questions about who is parking in their parking lot, please call 503.362.5004.

Neighbors are welcome to use their basketball hoops and playground.

- Chairman Alexander mentioned the wonderful pastries, hamen-tashen, that the Temple sells as a fundraiser. Neighbors are urged to support this fundraiser.

Sally Cook is considering creating a group "Communities of Peace", "Inoculation against Hate". If interested in getting involved in this group email Sally at sally.cook@gmail.com.

Councilor Nordyke

She reported that we have a known neo nazi living in Salem who is harassing an African American business owner.

Last night was the first city budget meeting. The city is in the black because vacancies have been held open, the Federal Cares Act has covered unexpected expenses from Covid 19 and staff has been responding and applying for grants. They have had to dip into the contingency fund. Salem is mainly funded by property taxes rather than tourism dollars and gas taxes which have declined. The next budget will be in April. She encouraged the neighborhood association to invite one of the budget staff to a future meeting. The police department audit will be completed by the April meeting.

They are working with the fairgrounds to shelter 100 unsheltered neighbors beginning February 1st and will be open as long as funding is available.. They will be separate from the vaccine and wildfire relief sites. They have met with Watershed Rainwear about building tiny homes for the unsheltered, but the city cannot afford as many as needed. They are asking the legislature for funds for a Navigation Center which would provide services for the unsheltered. Many private property owners are not willing to lease empty spaces to the city to provide supported shelter for the unsheltered. Downtown empty commercial spaces are being looked at for low income housing/retail space. (check the City of Salem facebook page for more information!)

She serves on the Climate Action Task force. They have not yet developed a plan. If interested in getting updates, contact her at vnordyke@cityofsalem.net.

Sally Cook, who works for Marion County, said Marion County has received FEMA funds for unexpected expenses due to wildfires and Covid. She encouraged Salem Fire to fill out forms if they were involved in fire fighting in the canyon.

Gretchen Bennett City of Salem Human Rights and Relations/Federal Compliance Manager

The city had the opportunity to apply for a FEMA grant to house the unsheltered/medically fragile and received the grant so they were able to use the money they spent for other services.

She reported that there are 1,500 unsheltered in our area with about 300 shelter beds and some car camping. That leaves about 1,000 who are unsheltered and lack supported services.

In July, Redwood Crossing opened for housing with supported services.

The city is investing in the housing first model.

February 1st they will be opening the fairgrounds to about 100 unsheltered indoors and for car camping. Securing operating funds will depend on how long the shelter will stay open.

The point in time count will be done the week of January 25th where a count of the homeless occurs.

Salem warming centers will open next week as temperatures drop.

Salem Safe Park - Salem Church at the Park is looking for safe places for those sheltering in cars to park.

Chairman Alexander reported that the unsheltered have caused lots of damage to the parks where they have been camping. Gretchen said they are looking for relief money for city staff in managing camping at city parks.

Gretchen reported that the city is making it a priority to find housing for the unsheltered other than in our parks and on city street. Chairman Alexander mentioned the damage the unsheltered are doing to our parks. The city is seeking money for city staff to help in maintaining camping in the parks.

Gretchen reported she has been talking to the state about the Mill Creek Correctional Facility when it becomes vacant and goes on the state surplus list about using it as a temporary shelter location. She is looking at the possibility of regionally affording to purchase the property to use for the unsheltered. She is questioning if they could afford it.

Land Use

Kevin Willingham moved and Henry Neugass seconded a motion to ratify an email motion supporting the city requiring half street improvements on the partition of the property at 4204 Kurth St that the owner is appealing with Bill Davis submitting testimony on behalf of the Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association. Motion carried

Following is the motion.

Motion and vote via email. This motion will be confirmed at our meeting on January 21, 2021

Bill Davis moved and Linda Miller seconded a motion that the neighborhood association support the city's requirement that street improvements be required to divide the property at 4204 Kurth Street and that Bill.Davis submit testimony on behalf of the Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association.nmn Motion carried via email vote

Chairman Alexander commended Bill Davis for his excellent work on his testimony on behalf of the neighborhood association.

4204 Kurth Appeal decision - Bill Davis

He reported that the city did not support the neighborhood stand on half street improvements. The city will require a 5 ft temporary paved path along the Warren St property line and as many street trees as possible on Kurth and Warren A sidewalk ramp improvement will be required at Kurth and Warren as well as the property owner will need to meet all stormwater standards

Chairman Alexander applauded the group working on land use issues.

Pedestrian daylight pathway through City View/Pioneer Cemetery - Evan White

He shared the testimony he gave at city council. He reported that there is a path being used since people have broken through the fence. The property owner does not want the city to use the easement through their property even though they are not paying taxes on the property. City View does not want to sell land for a pathway Evan suggested that a pathway could be constructed for \$5,000 with volunteers helping spread gravel. Councilors Nordyke and Anderson will be discussing the issue.

Development 5871 Liberty Road

Chairman Alexander thanked Henry Neugass and Kevin Willingham for crafting neighborhood association response to the proposed project

Brandi Dalton, Multi Tech engineering., representing the project developer reported the protected includes 45 lots with two larger lots that have the potential for apartments to be built on. There will not be a decision on the development until February. They have done what the city required regarding a traffic study and will be required to pay a proportional share for street improvements, There is no outlet for the development on Liberty Road.

Kevin Willingham shared the concerns of the neighborhood association regarding the proposed development including the width of the streets making access by emergency vehicles and service vehicles more difficult. Also there are concerns about safety around Crossler Middle School with the need of a light at Liberty Road and Davis Road as well as a protected crosswalk.

Olivia Dias, city of Salem reported that the street width is the same as any other city street, it is just the landscape strip that will be smaller.

Chairman Alexander reported that he has asked a representative of Public Works to our February meeting to address the safety concerns regarding David Road and Liberty Road as well as the light at Davis and Liberty.

Site Plan Sprague High School Expansion - Sally Long - city of Salem planning division; Joel Smallwood & Karma Krause Salem/Keizer School District

They came to address neighbors concerns over the easement showing on the site plan that connects Joplin Court to the Skyline Trail and then to Sprague High School property. Neighbors expressed concerns about the easement on Joplin Court becoming a drop off/pick up point for the school and a place for students hanging out. They have prepared testimony to submit to the planning commission.

Sally Long shared a plot map for the development on file with Marion County which shows the easement as well as a sewer easement and the Skyline Trail. She explained that the parks department would be responsible for developing the easement as access to the trail.

Joel Smallwood explained the school district is proposing relocating the Skyline trail according to the parks plan off school property. They are concerned about limiting access to the school property for safety reasons and they do not want access through the Joplin Court easement. He said they have not yet determined how they will block access to the trail from that part of the school property. Work on the main building will begin May or June 2021 and will take 15 months to complete the entire project. It is slated to be completed in August of 2022.

The parking lot as you enter the campus from Kuebler Blvd. remains city property except for about 4 parking spaces and provides access to the Skyline Trail.

The remodel at Schirle Elementary will begin in August, 2021. The school district will have 44 construction projects going on this summer.

Parks - Chairman Alexander

He will be submitting an application for a grant for a grass volleyball court at Sunnyslope Park to the Salem Parks Improvement Fund. The cost for the project is \$3,001,36. The grant will cover \$2,250 of the cost and he will submit a grant to the Salem Parks Foundation for the rest of the cost.

Bruce Miller moved and Henry Neugass seconded a motion to have Chairman Alexander submit grants on behalf of the Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association to the Salem Parks Improvement Fund and Salem Parks Foundation for a grass volleyball court at Sunnyslope Park. Motion carried.

Chairman Alexander has completed and will submit by the end of January the annual review for the Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association.

Chairman Alexander encouraged neighbors to zoom in for the annual Breakfast with the Chief that the Salem Police Foundation puts on as a fundraiser. To get more information go to Salempolicefoundation.org

Chairman Alexander has received a letter from the parks department reporting that there are just a few things to complete phase 1 at Secor Park including an ADA accessible picnic table. The neighborhood association will now advocate for the construction of phase 2. He will also contact Tibby Larson, who handles volunteers with the city, about getting a bulletin board installed at the park similar to the one at Sunnyslope Park which is a vital communication tool.

Neighbors mentioned the missing trees along Croisan Scenic Way along Schirle Elementary that would be great to be replaced. Chairman Alexander mentioned that the city employs an urban forester who determines which trees must come down on city property and where and what kinds of trees can replace them. Salem also has a Salem Friends of Trees that also replaces/plants trees. He will check with both of them.

Kevin Willingham reported that House Bill 2484]requires a landlord to allow a dwelling to be used as a family child care home. Sets conditions on use. Authorizes Early Learning Council to establish rules for landlords.

Our next meeting will be February 18th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Miller

Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association Secretary

Those in attendance:

Alan & Judith Alexander

Bruce & Linda Miller

Bill Davis

John & Kathleen Hill

Olivia Dias

Robert & Chris Rhines

Sally Long

Bill Kelly

Evan White

Gretchen Bennet

Joel Smallwood

Henry Neugass

Brandi Dalton

Karma Krause

Lt Jason VanMeter

Elena Guevara

Julia Stewart

Kevin Willingham

Kathy Martin

Sally Cook

Vanessa Nordyke

Rabbi Eli

Noelle Carroll

Jeff Graham plus

Gary Knighten

Kathy Martin - Willis