

**East Lancaster Neighborhood Association**  
 Minutes -March 5, 2020 - 7:00 pm  
 Swegle Elementary School, 1751 Aguilas Ct NE, Salem

<b>Board Chairs/Members Present</b>		<b>Others Present</b>	
x	Susann Kaltwasser, Chair	x	Chris Hoy, Ward 6 City Councilor
x	Sue Fowler, Co-Chair	x	Officer Singleton, City of Salem Police
x	Mary Sarabia, Vice-Chair	x	Steven Tjoelker, City of Salem, Public Works
x	Chesta Bauer, Secretary	x	Will Kuenzi, City of Salem, Public Works
x	Dave Steiner, Member-at-large	x	ConnieTrigilio, Marion County Parole & Probation
x	Patricia Mick, Member-at-large	x	Michael Janusek, Willamette Town Center
	Clark Hazlett, Member-at-large		
	Fred Wright, Member-at-large		

**Neighbors Present:** Chuck Westbrook, Mike & Dahlia Sobieski

**Introductions/Approval of Minutes:** The meeting was opened by Co-chair Sue Fowler at 7:00 pm. The minutes of the February 2019 meeting were approved with the following changes: (1) One of the bus stops which has not had its bus shelter replaced is located on the west side of Lancaster Drive in front of the car wash, rather than on the corner of Market & Lancaster, and (2) The minutes should have included the discussion around encouraging Mary to apply for the position on the Cherriots Board of Directors that will be vacated by Doug Rodgers who represents Subdistrict 4, which includes North and East Lancaster, Northgate, and Gubser. We discussed Mary's passion for public transportation issues and her familiarity with using Cherriots services.

**Police Officer Report:** Officer Singleton said that Salem police activities can be followed on Twitter, Facebook, and the Next Door app; however, concerns that need to be reported to the police should be reported through the non-emergency website or by telephone or 911, if it is an emergency. Statistics on criminal activities in the Salem area can be accessed through the website [www.cityprotect.com](http://www.cityprotect.com). He reported that a motorcycle officer monitored Market Street traffic a week ago. Comments from neighbors on Market Street included that they wished that the monitoring was more consistent and that it was at all times of the day, rather than just around school starting time because there is a lot of speeding on Market. Officer Singleton said that there are only six officers monitoring traffic so it's difficult to be in on area consistently. He encouraged people to call the traffic section and report speeding. Chuck Westbrook mentioned that a couple of cars had been stolen in our area. The officer said that it's important to lock up your car if you are warming it up in the morning and to make sure cars are locked at all times when they are not occupied. A comment was made about someone in a neighborhood that seemed suspicious. The officer said that any suspicious activities should be reported to the non-emergency website or telephone number. This helps the police to keep track of areas where suspicious activities are occurring.

**County Parole/Probation Officer:** Connie Trigilio, Marion County Community Corrections Parole and Probation Officer, said that her caseload mainly concerned sex offenders, domestic abuse offenders, and drug endangered children. She handed out a Marion County Community Corrections Division report about the caseload numbers, the types numbers of parole and probation individuals they were working with, and the activities that occurred during the month of February 2020. During that month there were 3,212 supervised individuals on the parole & probation caseloads. She said that the parole & probation officers work with these individuals to try to change behaviors and to act as a coach to help them to reenter society and stay out of criminal activities. She explained the terms and figures on the report. She explained that drug endangered children had parents that were on drugs or alcohol. A question was asked about the supervision fees listed in the budget figures. She said that persons on probation were charged fee of \$40.00/month. The average time a person is on probation is about 18 months and five years is the maximum time a person can be on probation. There was a question about the figures under the Supervision Level heading. She explained that numbers for high, medium and low indicated the number of people who were at risk of reoffending and their level of risk. She also said that an alternative

probation program allowed some drug and property crime offenders to be diverted to probation rather than entering prison or jail for their crimes.

**Land Use Committee Report:** Michael Janusek, owner of the Willamette Town Center mall spoke to us about his plans for the continuing development of the Willamette Town Center (formerly Lancaster Mall). He said the Center was busier than ever and he will be bringing in new stores to the site. The mall now has both outward facing stores and inside stores. Some of the additions and changes that are planned for the future include:

- Xfinity will be moving its store to the Center.
- TJ Maxx will be moving from downtown into a portion of the space previously occupied by Sears. It is expected they will be opening in September.
- The Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles will be moving its facility from a building now on Center property to the former Sears automotive center building on the corner of D Street & Lancaster Drive. The old DMV building will be torn down and a new structure will be built there. There was concern expressed about the availability of parking around the new site and how pedestrians can cross the entryway from Center Street safely to get into the DMV offices. Michael said that new crosswalks and sidewalks will be put in to help with that.
- A new 12,000 square foot building will be constructed on the Lancaster side near the street and in the front of the former Sears location. There will be a Panera restaurant with a drive through window in the building and two other spaces will also be available in that building. It is expected it will be completed in about one year.
- The space previously occupied by the Payless shoe store will be leased to two food outlets: Mod Pizza and Crumble Cookies. It is expected that these stores will be open in about three to four months.
- The landscaping in front of the Center will be improved.
- There is about 50,000 square feet of space left available for new occupants.

Chris mentioned that he is interested in having a library branch in the NE area and he is looking for a location. Michael said that he is always willing to talk about new ideas for the Center and Chris should contact him. Chris also mentioned that the City goal for the tree canopy in the NE area is lagging behind City goals and he wondered if more trees could be added to the landscaping. Michael said that there could be trees in the Panera patio area and also the new landscaping could include trees. Chris also mentioned the Center entrance from Center Street by McGrath's restaurant. He said that entryway is confusing and causes traffic backup. Michael said that they are planning to put in crosswalks and sidewalks in that area to make connections better and that should help in making that entryway less confusing. Michael also said that the Center is not allowed to change the signage on southbound I-5 but they are applying for additional signage on the northbound side. Chris asked about the possibility of including some multi-family housing on the site since the City is looking for alternative sites for this type of housing. Michael said that they are always interested in new ideas for their shopping centers and he would be interested in exploring the idea of mixed uses for the property. Mary asked if the sidewalks could be fixed so that they are more wheelchair accessible. Michael said that she should talk to the on-site mall manager about the problems so he can get an idea of what needs to be changed or fixed.

**Traffic Committee Report:** Steven Tjoelker and Will Kuenzi, from the City of Salem Public Works Department, reported on the City's multi-modal pedestrian safety crossings program. They said that several projects have been approved, including the crosswalk across Sunnyview Road NE and Scotsman Lane NE. This crosswalk is near McKay High School. Steve said that work on this project will begin after school is out and is planned to be completed before school starts. He said there will be minimum closures of Sunnyview Road for equipment movements. There will be a refuge island in the middle so pedestrians can judge traffic from each lane separately. There was a question about how this type of crosswalk can be put in other locations. Steve said that people can make recommendations to the Public Works Department for new installations. The website is at: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/safer-pedestrian-crossings-program.aspx>. He said that there is

\$125,000 budgeted annually for these types of projects. The neighbors on Market Street asked if there could be a speed reader on Market Street. Chris said that there is momentum in the City Council to reduce speed limits in neighborhoods but ODOT controls these speed limits. Currently he has asked ODOT to review the speed limits on 45th Street NE from Sunnyview to Center Street NE and 17th Street from Mission Street to Silverton Road. Susann said that trees or bushes would be nice on the crosswalk refuges in order to calm traffic. There are some bushes on the refuge island on 45th Street. She also mentioned that the reflective paint is worn off around some of the safety crossings and it makes it hard to see them at night. Steve said to put in a request to Public Works to report the problems. Sue asked about the work being done on Cordon Road and the equipment that is near the road and the concerns about the safety of the roads around where the sewer/water project along Cordon Road between Caplinger and State Street. It was suggested that they talk to Kevin Hoffman, the project manager about the concerns.

### **City Councilor Report, Chris Hoy:**

- Chris reported that the City did a tree study and found that the overall tree coverage was 24% for the City, however, areas in the northeast portion of the city were lower than that. ELNA, NOLA, and NESCA coverages were at 15% to 17%. We need to look at ways to get more trees planted. There was discussion about how this could be accomplished such as reaching out to the community, do some publicity, consider offering a rebate to property owners who plant trees.
- The public workshops to continue the Our Salem discussions about the vision of the future for Salem are continuing in March. There will be three meetings: March 16, 6-8 pm, Court Street Christian Church; March 17, 11:30 am-1:30 pm, Courthouse Square Building; Tuesday, March 17, 6-8 pm, McKay High School (Spanish language only).
- United Way is putting together a proposal to build tiny houses for senior citizens. They are looking for locations. They are also looking to put together two crisis response units including a social worker and a paramedic to respond to situations that don't need police/fire interventions. They also want to expand their safe sleep space on Front Street (Inside/Out) and are planning community fundraisers. Dahlia talked about the Moving Forward to Success program for homeless mothers with children to learn skills and become CPR certified in order for them to become certified child care providers. Participants must pass criminal background checks. This program is now provided in a private home near the south Lancaster Taco Bell (website: <https://www.movingforwardtosuccess.org/>) She wondered if they could connect with United Way.
- The main library is closed until the summer of 2021. The new location on Broadway will have a grand opening on March 14th. Susann mentioned that the Salem Library Foundation contributed \$500,000 to the library to provide for improvements inside the renovated library. This money was not included in the bond measure.
- There was a question about why the Salem police department does not have precincts in the neighborhoods. Chris said that the City doesn't use the precinct model. It was tried at one time but proved not to be very cost effective. Chris said that the City currently has fewer officers than in 2011. They are very short staffed because of budget constraints; however, recruitments are still going on.
- The City Council is proposing a compromise plan for modifying the sit/lie provisions to address the homeless situation in downtown Salem. There could be a citation issued which would not be a criminal offense but would involve a fine. This provision would not go into effect until there is a place to relocate the downtown homeless. There will be a temporary covered area with self cleaning restrooms located in the Marion Square park. Susann said the Council should be more proactive in communicating what efforts are being made. Chris said Brady Rogers is monitoring the health hazards and a security officer would be hired for the area. Chris also mentioned that the overnight car parking option offered to places that have an eligible parking lot has not been taken up by any organizations. The barrier is having to provide bathrooms on-site or having to secure interior bathrooms. There needs to be better communications about the requirements and how to make it work.

**Committee Reports:****• Land Use:**

- The appeal for the project at 4560 Center Street will be finalized by next week. There is an issue about wetlands on the site which needs to be resolved with the State Land Use Commission.
- Willamette Town Center project - Michael Janusek: see above.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Traffic:** McKay High School crosswalk: See above.
- **Parks:** Susann reported that she was ill and couldn't submit the park bench grant before the due date. She said that the same grant application could be submitted to the Salem Parks Foundation.
- **Transportation:** No report..

**Neighborhood Concerns/Other Issues:** There was discussion about carrying firearms at Center 50+. Chris said he talked to the City Manager about the issue and he said that people who have concealed carry permits cannot be prohibited from bringing guns into Center 50+. People are not allowed to open-carry guns there, though. It was noted that, unfortunately, before we can restrict access to weapons in public places, there has to be something unacceptable to happen.

**• Next agenda:**

- Marion County Historical Society - Mission Mill representative to discuss their activities and facilities.
- Brandy Dalton - Change in plans for expanding the backside of the Market Street apartments.
- Annual meeting
- By-laws: Review by-laws to see if they need changing. A 30-day notice is required before changes can be made.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.