

East Lancaster Neighborhood Association
Minutes
October 1, 2020 - 7:00 pm
First Free Will Baptist Church, 1390 45th Avenue NE, Salem, Oregon

Board Officers present: Susann Kaltwasser, Co-chair; Sue Fowler, Co-chair; Mary Sarabia, Vice-Chair; Chesta Bauer, Secretary.

Board Members-at-large present: Patricia Mick, Terry Motte, Mike Sim, Chuck Westbrook. **Board Members-at-large absent:** Clark Hazlett (with notification); Dave Steiner (with notification); Vern Golden (with notification).

Others present: Chris Hoy, Ward 6 City Councilor; Brandon Bratley, Salem Police Department.

Neighbors Present: Lynette Horton, Mike Sobieski.

Introductions: The meeting was opened by Co-chair Sue Fowler at 7:00 pm.

Police Officer Report:

- Officer Bratley is working swing shift in the East Lancaster area. He explained that due to Corona-19 virus concerns persons who have been arrested for non-violent crimes are not being incarcerated in jail. They are given a ticket, assigned a court date and released. Persons who are put in custody are those that have been arrested for a crime involving violence. He said that the district attorney's office reviews cases and decides on the charges that will be assigned to each case.
- Mike Sobieski brought up a situation at his home involving a next-door neighbor who is having loud music played in his backyard several times a week. The noise often starts at 9:00 pm and can go on until 3:00 am. Mike said that the police have been called and have been there three times but the loud music continues. Officer Bratley said that if complaints about noise or other criminal activities are made about a residence, and if the police are called and their warnings are ignored, then fines and penalties can be issued which will increase each time the police come out. If the noise or activities still continue then criminal charges could be made and the house could be declared a nuisance house and other steps can be taken by the City. Officer Bratley will check into what has been recorded for police activity at the address. He recommended that all neighbors who are bothered by the noise call in the complaint to the non-emergency number and keep a record of who called and the time and date of the call. This will help to make a case against the neighbor. Mike mentioned that the resident of the house is a convicted felon and has a suspended driver's license, although he's been seen driving. Officer Bratley said this could be reported to the person's parole officer.
- The problems with the house on Swallow Court were mentioned. The officer will look into what has been the response to the complaints.
- Susann brought up the problem with people drag racing on several streets in Salem. Officer Bratley said that due to Covid-19 virus concerns, the police are limited on the types of traffic stops they can make at this time. Stops are usually for egregious situations.

Councilor Report, Chris Hoy:

- Chris read a letter by the Salem City Manager, Steve Powers, discussing the state of the city in light of the issues that have faced the City this year including the Corona-19 virus, the fires, water quality concerns, and major construction projects, including the library upgrades which are proceeding on schedule.
- Pubic Works may have to replace their buildings which are aging. The cost would be paid from utility fee revenues and would be paid back over time.

- Beavers (not the OSU Beavers!) are causing major problems in the creeks around Salem. Over 40 dams have been detected and this can cause problems such as flooding when the rainy season starts.
- The Salem climate action plan will be discussed this fall with plans for putting it in place in 2021.
- Salem's wastewater plant is producing a significant amount of electricity from methane gas.
- Salem maintains a list of derelict houses. The website for this list is at <https://www.cityofsalem.net/CityDocuments/property-violations-report.pdf>. The City also has a Blight to Bright program under which derelict properties can be rehabilitated. Chris said there is a building being worked on now under this program on Coral Avenue. The website for this program is at:

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/blight-to-bright-program.aspx>

- A plan for a 36-unit veterans housing project was pre-approved. It will be located on the site of the old YMCA building in downtown Salem.
- Construction has started on the apartments and houses approved for placement on the north campus of the old Oregon State Hospital grounds.
- A homeless shelter and transition center in the old DMV building is scheduled to be open soon.
- A question came up about the campers underneath the I-5 overpass at Market Street NE. Chris said that this is ODOT property and ODOT has made the decision to not clear out the campers at this time due to the Covid-19 virus concerns among the homeless. The City has worked with ODOT to clean out these spaces and have taken out truckloads of debris. There was discussion about having a non-profit organization work with the City to keep the area clean and to place garbage receptacles on the site.
- There was a question about Salem passing a law that money or other items cannot be transferred from a vehicle to a person. Chris said that Salem has decided not to pass this law as other cities have done, but to use education to let people know that they should not give money to people asking for it on the streets, but instead contribute that money to agencies in the city such as ARCHES and NW Human Services that are helping homeless people.
- Our Plan, the Salem Area Comprehensive Plan, was discussed at the September 23 City Council work session. They viewed a video produced by City staff that provides more information on this project. This video can be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYr_Mfcnyes&feature=youtu.be
- At the October 12 City Council meeting, the increase in water and sewer rates will be discussed. The proposed rate increases are 3% for water, 3% for sewer and 5% for stormwater annually. They would go into effect in January 2021 and January 2022 if approved. For an average single-family residence, the total combined increase each year is estimated to be between \$2.15 and \$3.15 per month. These increases are needed to continue to manage and upgrade these utilities to meet future needs and challenges. Also, Salem's water quality could be impacted by the recent wildfires for up to ten years which increases the need for additional funding.
- Susann asked about the Salem utility relief program. Chris said that since the Covid-19 virus crisis occurred, the amount of this fund was increased to \$500,00 with a maximum of \$500 per residence/business and the income eligibility for the program was also increased. It is managed by a non-profit organization that screens applicants for eligibility for the program and notifies the City of eligible applicants. The City also suspended shutting off accounts for non-payment. That resulted in 2736 accounts being in arrears amounting to \$1.1 million of delinquent payments. The City Finance Department will work with people to make up the amount they are delinquent, however, if the plans for repayment are ignored the account may be subject to cutoff. Susann said that the City of Salem website is not very clear on how the payment relief can be accessed. Chris said that most people just call if they can't find it on the website.
- The City is helping with the fire recovery efforts in the Santiam Canyon.

- The City burn ban has been extended.
- A question was asked about the water quality due to the fire along the Santiam River. Chris said that our watershed was affected resulting in changes in the chemical balance of the water. This is being taken care through changing how the water is treated and the new ozone plant is dealing with it. Chris also mentioned that Sam Brentano, the Marion County Commissioner, wants to put in sewer systems in the Santiam canyon cities, something that has been wanted for a long time. This could take up to \$65 million in funding.

Election of Board Officers:

- Nomination for Board officers was as follows: A motion was made by Mary Sarabia and seconded by Mike Sim to nominate Susann Kaltwasser and Sue Fowler for the office of Co-chairs. A motion was made by Susann Kaltwasser and seconded by Mike Sim to nominate Mary Sarabia for the office of Vice Chair. A motion was made by Mike Sim and seconded by Mary Sarabia to nominate Chesta Bauer for the office of Secretary. A motion was made by Mike Sim and Terry Motte to approve these nominations. The motion was approved unanimously.

Election of New Board Member:

- Lynette Horton was asked if she would serve on the Board and she assented. A motion was made by Susann Kaltwasser and seconded by Chesta Bauer to nominate Lynette Horton to the ELNA Board of Directors. The motion was passed unanimously. This makes 12 members on the board.

Committee Reports:

Land Use:

- Susann will schedule a presentation on the Our Salem plan for the November ELNA meeting. This is the first round of presentations of the plan and there will be a public hearing on the plan in November. We can make official comments about the plan at this meeting.
- The developer for the Center Street apartments that were discussed at the last meeting hasn't yet completed the paperwork for the project. Susann noted that if the project meets all the code guidelines, the City staff can approve the application for the project. If there are variances from the guidelines requested, then there will have to be a public hearing.
- The Willamette Town Center I-5 sign application is in front of the hearings officer.

Transportation: Susann mentioned that a representative of the Cherriots usually attends ELNA meetings but since Doug Rodgers left the Salem Area Mass Transit Board no one from Cherriots has attended our meetings. She asked if we wanted to continue to have a representative come to our meetings or have them attend only when an issue needs to be discussed. It was decided to take this off the agenda and have a representative come when they want to come or when we request a representative to come. Susann also mentioned that Cherriots has resumed their normal schedules and routes.

Neighborhood Concerns:

- Susann consulted with Irma Dowd about the ELNA flyer. Irma said she thought we should just start over on designing our flyer. Susann also showed us a design for the business cards for the Board members. We discussed the design and what to put on the card and decided to finalize the card design at the December meeting. These actions are needed to meet our communication goal in our NA plan.

Approval of the September 3, 2020, ELNA Meeting: A motion was made by Mike Sim and seconded by Chuck Westbrook to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2020 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.