

Northeast Neighbors (NeN), Annual Meeting

October 12, 2021

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Attendance: 42; 6 board members (Kevin, Anne, Jim, Rick, Kirstin, John), 4 presenters, 1 elected official
9/14/21 General Meeting Minutes: Approved unanimously.

TOPIC: SANCTIONED SAFE-SLEEP SITES & HOMELESSNESS

There were four panelists with hands-on experience:

- Frank Bonser, Lead Operations Pastor, First Baptist Church
- Dan Bryant, Director, SquareOne Villages
- Heather Sielicki, Carry It Forward
- Pam Wooddell, Friendly area resident

They answered several areas of questions:

- What do they see in current trends in addressing homelessness?
- How the sites work: how people are screened, what behavioral expectations there are, what got people ejected, what help is available to them, costs, how to find a service provider, etc.
- What are the root causes of homelessness? Where do Eugene's homeless come from?
- What can individuals do to help?

Then the meeting was opened to the question, "If we create sanctioned sites, will the City then finally enforce law and order at the current unsanctioned sites."

- City Councilor Mike Clark spoke to the issue at length. Very appreciative of the work spoken of tonight. But addressing homelessness on a larger scale will require also holding people accountable. Many resist help, want access to drugs, come to Eugene because of perceived lack of rules.
- Several neighbors joined the discussion with questions and points of view.

Adjourned: 8:25pm