

Final Meeting Minutes – WSNA – 2018-01-15

Jim Allhiser called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. 33 people were present.

Jim added an item to the end of the agenda – discussion about an ODOT report regarding bridge conditions and comments from Gary Shearer RE: traffic signal at Michigan City Lane & HWY 221.

Herb Shaw moves to approve minutes. Steve Evans seconds. All but 1 aye, 1 abstention. Motion carries.

Presentation – Louise Newswanger

Salem public library foundation – <http://www.splfoundation.org/>

Presentation focused on the February schedule of events surrounding the discussion of the book “Outcasts United” by Warren St. John. Discussion starts with the Salem City Club at the Willamette Heritage Center, 11:30AM on February 2nd. The month has 16 planned events ending on February 27th at 7PM at Loucks Auditorium at the library, where the author of the book will be speaking about it.

Reports:

Mike Nunez – Salem Police

It is Mike’s 2nd week on the West Salem beat. No areas of concern at this time, but he is available to answer questions.

Question : “What’s the homeless situation in the marine park right now. There is a rather large encampment in the park by the softball fields.”

We clear out the people routinely, but the police do not clean up structures or left behind materials. It is the opinion of Officer Nunez that it is not the role of police to “solve” the homelessness problem, but to work with the city on a collaborative solution that includes law and code enforcement activities.

City Councilor – Jim Lewis

As previously reported, 2 task forces are starting up – Downtown Taskforce (chaired by councilor Kaser) and the Traffic Congestion Mitigation taskforce (chaired by Mayor Bennett and containing Councilors Lewis, Kaser, and Hoy).

Councilor Lewis encourages everyone to participate in planning activities. Specifically, the downtown streetscape project and riverfront park master plan update. There were 75 people at the first streetscape meeting. This focus group may not be representative of Salem’s 160,000. It is each resident’s responsibility to speak up and be heard.

At council, there is talk about a sobering center. Jim believes it will happen at some point this year, and expresses the opinion that it will be connected to other social services its clients could need.

Also, the city is moving forward to evaluate concept renditions about underpass and overpass options regarding 2nd street and Wallace road.

Land Use – Tyson Pruett

He has been in contact with Lisa Anderson at the city. Approximately 60 permits open, not necessarily all land use. At this time there are 3 items Tyson is working through. He will provide information to Jim Allhiser, which will then be shared in the WSNA Facebook group. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WestSalemNA>

Difference Makers – Craig Evans

Dwayne Hilty and honoree are both sick.

Craig Oviatt nominated Lyle Mordhorst and spoke about Lyle's exceptional contributions to the community including assistance at West Salem High, the Dream Center, and in other places. Lyle will receive an official Certificate of Appreciation and Java Crew gift card.

Traffic – Nick Fortey

Wallace and Hwy22 streetlight improvements? Next time we can have a short presentation on where they are. Look for it on the agenda.

Nick has ideas about variable speed limit signs and possible signal timing changes, to provide as input to the congestion committee.

Josh Pollock commented about happenings at last 2 planning commission meetings. She stated that she feels the position of the WSNA as presented was "that the neighborhood association would continue to oppose any development that impacted traffic on Wallace road." and that "the speaker said he did speak for the WSNA when asked if the membership was in agreement." Chris Wilhelm said he would clarify and respond to that concern later in the agenda.

Transit – Steve Evans

Buses available and routes have been updated. See the Cherriots website for all of the details.
<http://cherriots.org/en/changes>

Chair Announcements – Jim Allhiser

Nothing other than the added agenda item mentioned earlier.

Edgewater Partnership – Steve Anderson

The partnership won a city of Salem grant for another 2 years of support. There are other neighborhoods in West Salem, and the grant has an item in it where Edgewater can mentor another neighborhood. Contact Steve if you have interest.

Local town hall at Walker Middle School on January 24th from 7 to 9 pm. Councilor Kaser and Representative Evans will be present. Councilor Lewis encourages you to be there and participate.

January 28th 3PM – Urban Grange – Walk looking at health ideas. For more info, contact Dwayne Hilty at 971-720-8300 or Dwayne@SalemLF.org

Watershed – EM Easterly

Glenn Gibson watershed council has been around since 1998, celebrating its 20th year. It has been funded through OWEB (Oregon watershed enhancement board). It has most recently been co-funded with the Rickreall watershed council, and at the last meeting discussed ways to continue to fund the council.

West Salem Business Association – Steve Evans

There hasn't been a liaison between WSNA and WSBA for a little while, and Steve Evans has decided to be that person, or at a minimum help identify that person. Look for updates at WSNA meetings soon, after the next WSBA meeting.

Old Business –

Steve Anderson – Appeal on 500 block of Glen Creek Rd.

Crux of the issue is related to the legality of moving a driveway, and the negative effects of doing so specifically citing safety. The other main component is a disagreement about the interpretation and application of traffic impact analysis studies and statewide planning goal 12. This specific application's staff report didn't cite any analysis or display any narrative showing that the analysis had been done.

Record for the hearing is still open for comments until Wednesday the 17th at 5pm.

Discussion and clarification about statements made at City Council and Planning Commission.

Specifically, Secretary Chris Wilhelm clarified his comments to the City Council. Chris simply asked the city council to set up a meeting with city staff planners, traffic engineers, and deputy attorney.

Councilor Lewis responded that he requested 2 meetings. A specific meeting to address concerns regarding transportation engineering and land use planning with city staff, WSNA board members and WSNA Land Use Committee; and a "land use 101" meeting for the general membership at an upcoming WSNA meeting, for questions and answers from the entire body, for anyone who has interest.

Secretary Chris Wilhelm clarified his comments to the planning commission. He stated "the WSNA will continue to comment on any land use action that includes a transportation component, and will be at each planning commission meeting where those land use actions are discussed." Since the WSNA already utilizes its opportunity to comment on land use applications, this statement was nothing more than a reaffirmation that the land use committee of WSNA is active, and enjoys its participation in the land use application process. No claim was asserted that the WSNA was against any development in West Salem. On the contrary, WSNA supports development and is on record in the recorded comments of land use applications as being so. As far as addressing the comment about whether the neighborhood association was aware of this action, Mr. Wilhelm responded to the planning commission that the neighborhood association was aware. This is because one of the basic functions of a neighborhood association is to comment on land use applications to have standing in case of future opinion changes or any need to have a basis for appeal.

E.M. Easterly confirmed Mr. Wilhelm's clarification of what was said (or at least, the intent of) at the planning commission, as E.M. was present.

Additional discussion regarding focus of WSNA effort regarding comments on land use applications.

Discussion on Riverbend application –

Steve Anderson reiterated concerns that the staff report appears to be lacking specificity or analysis that supports findings. A fair analogy would be a math problem that arrives at an answer, but the student has not shown any of the work about how they came up with the answer. "Show your work."

Mike Evans asked for clarification on "what is our position" and stated that he feels the letter submitted was not clear enough, and tries to address too many topics. Whereas any 1 issue could be discussed and the association could vote on its position, as a combined statement, he feels it is not representative.

E.M. Easterly asked to have our position (comments) on the Riverbend application (secretary did not have them immediately available). E. M. continued that he felt that maybe the association did not have the information at hand to make any motion of support. He feels that maybe we should wait for outcomes from the meeting with city staff and attorney.

Craig asks that we should consider whether or not we need to put these sorts of transportation concerns into the Riverbend land use application; versus just working with the staff collaboratively outside of the land use comment and appeal processes.

Kathleen Dewoina discussed that in order to be legitimate or in order to be effective, we must use the processes in place to raise legitimate concern with the city.

Herb Shaw comments that he believes the city staff report needs to address their own codes and rules.

Councilor Lewis objects to criticism of the city staff. Jim Lewis asks that the association wait to hear the hearings officer's decision regarding the Glen Creek appeal when it is final.

E. M. Easterly moves that the discussion about Riverbend and Wallace Rd. be tabled. Seconded (secretary failed to confirm the name of the individual who seconded the motion). All aye, no nay, no abstention. Motion carries. Item is tabled.

City Staff Project Manager - Troy Thomson – Orchard Heights Paving Project

Funded by Oregon gas tax revenue. All ramps and ADA accommodations had to be reviewed, as the surface replacement will be more than 1 inch deep. The ramps and accommodations will be replaced, as-is, with up to code elements.

Mike Evans asks if Troy could look into a concern expressed regarding a possible realignment of this intersection. Discussion revealed that one of the options in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Salem River Crossing may have had this element, but it is not in the "preferred alternative." There is no current city plan to realign Orchard Heights and Wallace Rd. intersection.

Nick Fortey asked for details about pedestrian crossings on Mr. Thomsen's chart. Mr. Thomsen elaborated on the improvements. Improvements to pedestrian crossing at Wallace, Valley View, Overlook, and Westhaven.

Kathleen asked if they would be painted or have the flashing beacons. Troy said none would be painted or have flashing beacons, as all intersections are in fact a crosswalk, albeit unmarked.

E. M. Easterly moves that the neighborhood association pursue crosswalk striping at Orchard Heights Park. Craig Evans seconds. All vote aye, no nays, and no abstentions. Motion carries.

Discussion about ODOT Bridge Condition report -

Jim Allhiser asked for ideas and discussion regarding the ODOT findings about the percentage of the bridge quality on the ODOT Bridge Condition report. Center Street – 17.9 out of 100. 48.5 out of 100 for Marion.

Steve Anderson comments that there is open work and cited actions underway by Peter Fernandez, public works director. Also, comments that there are legislatively approved monies for seismic upgrades. Also, comments that there are items regarding "water injections" on the west side, with regard to the water mains that travel under both Center and Marion bridges.

Troy Thomsen comments that there hasn't been a current seismic study, but that an RFP will go out for Center Street seismic upgrade soon, and that he is one of the project managers on the project.

E. M. Easterly asks that the ODOT report information be included in the minutes --

Information URL: <https://www.oregondot.org/bridge-condition-report/>

*Center St bridge has a SUFF RATE of 17.9, a Nbi Rating of 2 and is defined as "Functionally Obsolete."
Marion St bridge has a SUFF RATE of 48.5, a Nbi Rating of 1 and is defined as "Structurally Deficient."
Bridge Sufficiency Rating - Bridge sufficiency refers to the bridge's ability to stay in service; the lower the rating, the lower the bridge's ability to stay in service. For example, 100 percent would represent an entirely sufficient bridge and zero percent would represent an entirely insufficient or deficient bridge. Sufficiency is determined by evaluating the bridge's performance over 20 National Bridge Inventory data fields, including structural soundness, functional obsolescence, average daily traffic, its role in the system and more. A low sufficiency rating may be due to structural defects, narrow lanes, low vertical clearance, or any of many possible issues. If a bridge is deemed dangerous, it will be closed to all traffic.
ODOT measures bridge conditions using two categories:
Functionally Obsolete (FO) – A bridge condition rating used by the Federal Highway Administration to indicate that a bridge does not meet current (primarily geometric) standards. The rating is based on bridge inspection appraisal ratings. Functionally obsolete bridges are those that do not have adequate lane widths, shoulder widths, vertical clearances, or design loads to serve traffic demand. This definition also includes bridges that may be occasionally flooded.*

Structurally Deficient (SD) – A bridge condition rating used by the Federal Highway Administration to indicate deteriorated physical conditions of the bridge's structural elements (primarily deck, superstructure, and substructure) and reduced load capacity. Some of these bridges are posted and may require trucks of a certain weight to detour. A classification of "structurally deficient" does not imply that bridges are unsafe.

When an inspection reveals a safety problem, the bridge is posted for reduced loads, scheduled for repairs, or in unusual situations, closed until repairs can be completed. Structural deficiency is one of the many factors that are used in the ODOT State Bridge Program for project ranking or selection.

Various members discuss the real concerns this community would have if the bridge were to fail.

Gary Shearer – Signal at Michigan City Lane & Wallace Rd.

Gary says that he has talked with the city extensively, and ODOT. He has expressed concern that he feels the residents in the area are not being heard and their concerns are not being accounted for. Gary asks that the WSNA support the effort to get a traffic signal at Michigan City Ln.

Jim Allhiser said he will put it on the agenda for next month and asked Gary to come again. WSNA will vote next meeting whether WSNA will support efforts to get a traffic signal at Michigan City Lane & Wallace.

Herb Shaw moves to adjourn. Seconded by Craig. All in favor. Motion carries.

Meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by Chris Wilhelm – WSNA Secretary