

11-18-2019 West Salem Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 18, 2019 7:00 PM

Attendees: Kevin Chambers (Chairman), Tammy Goad (Secretary)

Roger Williams, Jerry Murray, Roberta Taylor, Lois Caffey, Connie Russell, Helen Medu, Jim Heder, Karen & Roger Williams, Chris Swanson, Heather Swanson, James Clark, Steve Anderson, Julie Warncke, Donald Bond, Brendon Klukas, Crystal Dyson, Luan Sosa, Nick Forly, Gary Jones, Lana Frazer, Brent Fraser, John Love, Mark Coutis
Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Kevin Chambers

Agenda:

Kevin Chambers brings meeting to order at 7:00 PM
Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions

Additions to agenda from the body

Chair announcements:

On November 6, Don resigned from Vice Chair.

Approval of minutes

November meeting minutes approved - Linda Beerly motioned

Linda advised SIT applications due by 12/31 (from Linda)

Meeting procedure review

Nomination and election of new Vice Chair (ballot on reverse)

Applications for committees (former chairs may present per bylaws Section 8, Article 8 Section 2:)

Presenters:

Ina (police officer) - announcement:

Holiday packages - pick up right away to prevent theft
Cold Weather - be careful warming up cars and leaving them on
Black Friday coming - don't leave valuables out in car - close doors

Nominations for new Vice Chair

Mark Coutis (self nomination; with second)
Mark worked overseas and spent many years as a mechanical engineer.

Mr. Evans/Ian motioned for vote of acclimation
All voted aye - congratulations

Special Committee Chairs

Chairs of special committees term ends at annual meeting. We will open up for discussion/presentation from new potential chairs
If you have an idea for or would like to chair a committee, please let us know.

Representative Mike Evans

It is Legislative Days at the Capitol - policy committees and eboard get together to discuss adjustments. Will be discussing the economy.
Ideas for next legislative session are due at the Capitol by Friday to enable time for logging.
Forecast for session is not too controversial.

Legislators are looking at how schools will be spending money with Student Success Act. Suggestions can be sent by email or phone call
Could be a climate change bill. May be some adjustments. Reprise from vaccine bill. Some move for discussion of Columbia River crossing.
Linda has secured a few generators to go to West Salem - requested help to get things going. Best way forward through Kevin and emergency manager. We are getting another \$20M for equipment in budget.

Greg Walsh (emergency mgr) lives in West Salem.

Linda Berely EM Easterly

Julie H. Warncke, Transportation Planning Manager, Congestion Relief

Update on congestion relief task force (formed in 2018).

Task Force looking at things other than a bridge, as a bridge would take 10 years or more.

Task force solicited ideas from public, then council (mayor and 3 councilors) worked through ideas for feasibility. Now requesting public input for recommendations.

Two recommendations:

1. Proposal to open up Muskgrave - street that runs by Salem Tent and Awnings. If gate was removed, people trying to go into the park or in the direction of Roth's could drive through park to get there.
Gate was originally installed when Glen Creek Road was opened due to safety concerns.
Task force spoke to ODOT about opening gate - they have say in intersection. This intersection would have to be right in/out only.
Recommendation brought to Parks & Rec - they are opposed due to potential safety issues for park users. Road under trestle is very narrow.
Also not support by Salem "" Advisory Board.
Were impact studies performed? Linda advised it was minor enough to not be noticeable.
Cost? Just cost to take out gate...council would need to determine what other improvements they want to do along with opening the gate. Boat traffic might increase, but could close the gate during big holidays (i.e. 4th July).
Not going to council until Feb 2020.
There are a lot of details still to be worked out (like speed bumps). No large trucks (low clearance).
Linda soliciting input from WSNA.
2. Allow and encourage people to park cars in the park, then walk or bike into work using the pedestrian bridge
Pave gravel parking lot, add lighting for security. Would add @42 spaces.
Salem Parks & Rec did not support this recommendation - support parking, but not at an impact to recreational users.
A lot of people are already doing this (especially in the summer).
This is occasionally under water some days of the year.
Parking zone is not authorized to be a park n ride - either we call it something else, or it is rezoned.
Cost? No information available. Limited reduction in traffic congestion may not be worth the expense for repaving.
Suggestion made to lease 50 parking lots next to bus route and do the same thing without the bureaucracy.

These are short term plans - if WSNA would like to hear about this again, they are happy to present

Has anyone looked at changing traffic signals to optimize traffic flow? Julie confirmed their engineers are working on this. The issue is that the peak volume on Wallace Road would result in side streets not getting any green lights.

This is not a simple fix.

Ian recommended we do not formally add this to agenda for meetings, but add it to another meeting. Kevin agreed that was the plan.

Next meeting we will have formal vote on supporting these recommendations.

Brandon Klukis, Sidewalk Programs (Field Supervisor)

Brandon's team deals mostly with rehab/repair of existing concrete structures.

Response program is customer complaint driven program. From complains coming through dispatch. Hazards are reviewed and assessed. Group does 5 - 7 repairs in each community before moving on.

Currently doing repairs down Rosemont, Kingwood, 3rd. Performed a repair on Winchester. Prompted by other identifiers, like a tree being removed.

This program is ending soon (last location is Franklin).

Concerns commonly received are based on misinformation. Brandon wants everyone to know how these projects are selected.

Sidewalk program follows after other city utility repairs. The scope is tied to the monies funded for related utility repair.

Projects selected for Response program based on # of hazards, location (near park, clinic, etc.), is it on a critical ADA route, etc.? Can't run through entire neighborhood when one specific area/issues is designated for repair.

Gerth, from Edgewater to 7th - repairs in progress. These areas will be turned over to property owners for continued maintenance after the repairs.

ODOT has been tasked to do ADA upgrades on their infrastructure, but they will not be coming into city public streets for repairs.

Repairs planned for sidewalks on Rosemont going east. This is with planning - not Brandon's dept. Should be directed to

Eunice Kim, City Planning, City of Salem Comprehensive Plan

Our Salem project is a project to update the Comprehensive Plan - 20+ year plan for development and growth

This effort stemmed from 2017 planning effort.

We've seen a lot of growth, what is the vision for this growth?

What are the community's priorities for growth and development? Where housing is located, policies for transportation, how growth impacts natural resources. These plans are translated into zoning and other community plans.

Visioning was kicked off in late summer 2019 to try to get the word out and solicit feedback.

A lot of partially vacant land are in W and S Salem. Area outside the urban growth boundary is expected to see another 60K people.

Want to hear from community members, not just developers, business owners, etc. Had 3 workshops in October - looked at map of the city and provided stickers for folks to designate where they'd like to see various neighborhood features (parks, roads, etc.)

Cityofsalem.net/our-salem - will receive in electric bill. You can visit the site and stick your own "dots". Can also provide your email address to receive updates to the planning process.

Will be collecting information through early next year, spend a few months reviewing, then come back in Spring 2020 to share the input, and hopefully have a vision by fall 2020. Will take another year to generate maps, plans, etc.

Our current comp plan was adopted in the 1970s.

Current plan does not reflect input of need for a bridge (250+ people attended the 2017 event). No mention of a bridge in the plan.

Only thing referred to in current plan is bikes, buses and pedestrians. Nothing provided for traffic relief for car commuters.

We gave a lot of input, seemed ignored. How will any input we give be incorporated this time?

Attendee called to order for comment ("stupid")

Council has to adopt the plan. There has been a lot of conversation about a bridge at planning. Need to compare growth plan and provide feedback on how the growth will happen.

Question asked if Salem is modeling the plan against any other city? Planning is modeling the process after other cities' processes, not the plan.

Fregedose consultants.

Mark Coutis: West Salem has been planning for a bridge for 45 years - we may need to become City of West Salem again.

Eunice's group is trying to hear all the voices now understanding that the vocal minority tend to attend meetings at the end of the process. Eunice wants to get ahead

of that.

Attendee said there is little planning for utilities and infrastructure - water, drainage, etc.
Cost of the Our Salem planning process = \$400K total

Julie Warcke for Toni Whitler, Park Planning, Eagle's View Park Master Plan

Workshops coming up - first one Wed 11/20 at 630 PM. Encourage attendance. Bring kids, come provide input on how you'd like the park to be developed.
Eagle's view is on Eagle's View Wing Street NW

Reports:

City Councilors - none in attendance. Will try to make future meetings.

Land Use - Steve Anderson

All land use chairs met with Eunice and team to understand legislative process.
We dropped a line map on the ??
Received notification that application has been filed for NW corner of OH and Doak's Ferry property
Would like this plan included on next meeting - haven't seen final yet.
110 SF homes and 2 commercial lots.
Can find land use committee info on WSNA web site.

Parks

Applications due for SIP by 12/31/2019

Traffic and Infrastructure

Concern at last meeting on 7th Street near Walker. Concern is about speeds - no stop signs, etc.
Chair reached out to school - haven't heard back yet.
Would like to know where children are crossing, etc. to improve crosswalks and options to slow down traffic

James Clark - what are we going to do about Dutch Bros? Traffic lines impacting traffic flow.
This is an ODOT owned issue - they have tried to work with property owner.
Can also let Salem PD know and they can possibly help

Transit

Chi Win - subdistrict 1 direction
Question regarding Capitol Manor - we do still serve Capitol Manor. The shopping component serves W Salem Tuesday AM and Wednesday PM. The ride portion is on demand - service hours recently reduced. Can only provide service with available funding. Residents have access to this service and can book a trip.
Slow month for Transit - things will pick up after the holidays.
House Bill 2017 helped restore Sat bus service again for the first time in 10 years, and added Sunday service (to come). New charge for youth pass is \$10 (from 33.50), and night hours extended from 9 - 10 PM and ultimately will go to 11 PM.

West Salem Business Association - no attendance

Edgewater - Steve Anderson

Last Sunday had coffee with Councilor Kaiser
Any ideas you have you would like to see in the market, please share.
There will be a Winter Fest at the Brew with some charitable organizations in December 2019. Hoping to have a small street festival next year.
12/24 will have the Sneaky Elf project - put cookies on everyone's door step on Edgewater. More to come on Facebook page.

Glen-Gibson Watershed - Ian Easterly

Last Saturday, members of the council planted new native plants in the water garden in Wallace Marine Park behind the old restroom facilities. Was City funded.
Another effort is the funding of the Butterfly Garden. Supported one in Eola Park last summer - next one is going into Orchard Heights park. Council funded seeds, labor through volunteers and former incarcerated individuals. Funded by HLP program (Help Local Habitat). Please see web site. You will find a quarterly newsletter with events.
Big project - the council has submitted an application to the City to fund an assessment project along the Willamette River. Idea is the coordination between the various counties and cities, will provide environment research and engagement for assessment. Will be asking other non-profits to get involved with this.

Chair Announcements

Had emergency preparedness management meeting for chairs a few weeks ago. There are 2 spots for First Aid and Ham Radios. No food stores.
Also discussed lack of water - Kevin will be talking to City of Salem to put in wells for own water supply.
Kevin talked to Urban Renewal - 12/4 is next meeting and Kevin will be attending. Explained members are unhappy due to no bridge.
Last meeting, Kevin created committee for Trails Committee - disbanding due to limited interest (1 person).
Kevin will be starting a new Bridge Committee. Volunteers needed - Roger Williams, Mark

New Business

Evan - city is working on a plan to get residents 2 week "ready" for emergencies. This is a high priority for Greg Walsh. WSNA can reach out to Greg Walsh about the training coming up. More folks preparedness will be better for everyone.

Salem Electric pushing out incentives for EV chargers. ADD TO NEXT MEETING AGENDA.

Steven Anderson - appointed Land Use Chair.

Nicki Varney - Park Chair

ADJOURNED 8:29 PM

Old Business

None

Adjournment: 8:29 PM