

051820 West Salem Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 18, 2020 7:00 PM

Attendees: Kevin Chambers, Mark Coutis, Tammy Goad and 19 attendees via Zoom meeting.

Meeting called to order by Kevin Chambers at 7:00 pm by Kevin Chambers.

AGENDA

Introductions

Additions to agenda from the body - none

Approval of minutes from 2/17/20 Meeting - tabled until next in person meeting

PRESENTATIONS

[Toni Whittler, Parks Planner, City of Salem - Eagle's View Park Master Plan - VOTE](#)

See attached presentation slides for details.

Collaborative effort between Eagle's View neighbors, City of Salem, and external consultants. An online survey was also conducted.

This will be a neighborhood park - serves 1/2 mile service area (see map in presentation slides below)

Residents were notified of 3 planning workshops via postcards, along with info to sign up for email updates and URL links to planning process

Park land area has a number of slopes which present some design constraints

Red/pinkish areas on map are the steepest slopes and preclude development - but these can be overcome

Drainage way in middle of park draws storm water from neighborhood to the West - during heavy rain events water flow is pretty high. Currently covered with Blackberry thicket.

Yellow circles are streetlights

Entryways on W and NW corners

3 steps for adoption process - WSNA, City of Salem and City Council adoption of draft master plan developed through 3 workshops noted above.

Plan encompasses both passive and active recreation

Fitness pod is small piece of basic equipment with minimal moving pieces - chin up bar, parallel bar, etc. to encourage an exercise route around the park

Steve Anderson requested for an information kiosk as a place to post information about community events

Also drinking fountains will have spigot for dogs as well

Discussion of parking availability. AS a neighborhood park it is expected residents would walk or bike to park.

Parking provided along the side of the park and off Eola drive- residents did not want parking in front of their homes.

Mark Coutis Motion to endorse plan - Keith seconded. Majority approved.

VOTE: Approved via "thumbs up" reaction votes via Zoom

[Carol Houk, Salem Dept of Transportation - Wallace Road Project](#)

Presented Michigan City Lane at Edgewater Street (aka Wallace Road Project)

Pavement and safety improvement project

Pavement condition rated low to poor and sidewalks need to be upgraded to comply with ADA standards

Installing rapid flashing beacons at 5 intersections; adding beepers for sight impaired

Adding 172 ADA compliant curb ramps

See presentation for detailed location of push buttons, audibles, etc.

Funding coming from various dept. Fix It region 2 budgets - \$9.9 million

Final plans should be done by end of 7/2020

Go to bid by 11/5/20

Construction scheduled to start in December 2020 and continue through 7/2022 (actual construction probably will not start until first part of 2021)

There will be temp pedestrian access routes during construction - some will be marked or signalized

At this time, no full road closures are planned (at least one lane open during construction). No lane closures on weekends or during rush hour traffic.

There will be multiple single lane closures

Truck freight motility will be maintained through the project, but large loads will need to provide advanced notice and could experience up to a 20 minute delay

Repaving will be done at night.

Nick asked questions about signaling. Asked about Bluetooth connectors and flashing left signal light programming. Carol advised she authorized design team to implement left turn detectors. She will get answers to Nick's questions and send to Tammy once she gets answers from the design team.

Another question asked about location of equipment staging when not in use - Carol advised for most of the projects this is up to the contractor. Contractor will likely scope out area to determine best location for this. City has to grant permission and anyone owning the staging area will be contacted as well.

Marc asked about Orchard Heights and Wallace Road - impact of new crosswalks to property area - Carol will review plans and let us know. Marc would like to see a proposed plan before a completed plan so he has an opportunity to provide feedback

Residents can visit [odot.gov](#) and select link to projects in your area - enter project # and you can receive more information about a project...Carol will send the instructions to Tammy for inclusion in minutes.

Jim asked for more detail on crossing at 2nd and Wallace. There is a lot of contention about this site - City does not want a crossing installed there. There have to be routes for pedestrians due to ADA - only options were too far away. Also looked at one a couple of blocks north. Because 2nd street is on a hump, it blocks sight of traffic coming around curve off bridge. There will be a temporary crossing in this area only during construction.

Jim also asked about crossing at Orchard View and Wallace.

REPORTS

[Salem Police - Not Present](#)

[City Councilors](#)

Jim advised the improvements for Wallace Road will be starting in July, and this will affect congestion for the 1 1/2 years of construction - please be patient

There is work starting to improve sidewalks on Orchard Heights

Still cannot have public testimony at the virtual council meetings - please send questions in advance - next meetings are 5/26, 6/8 and 6/22.

Just finished budget committee process for period 7/2020 - 6/30/2021. Two meetings conducted and budget passed in two sessions in near unanimous votes.

There are additional expenses continuing into next year to accommodate growth. If income is not there, the expenses will not be incurred.

Jim advocates for virtual meetings to continue communication!

Attendee asked about funding for homeless. There are hopes there will be some federal funding - emergency declaration to allow camping in Wallace Marine park will continue for now.

Paula asked about county court judge ruling that Gov Browns order should have been voted on by Legislature within 28 days of the order. Jim believes supreme court will overrule the ruling - but for now, the order is null and void until supreme court reinstates it.

Mark communicated that spotlight at Orchard Heights is too far back and poses a safety risk. Planning to visit City rep for promised answer soon...Mark believes all that is needed is for some trees to be cut back.

[Land Use - Steve Anderson](#)

Posted two reports from City on Facebook. 1. 33 single family development on Doaks/OH and offstreet parking expansion for NW Human services. Residents can visit City of Salem web page, access West Salem neighborhood link and you can see all pending development projects.

Thanks to Clint for his work on Marine Drive.

Steve will provide links to projects for neighbors to comment.

[Homeless Committee - Fay DeMeyer is new chair!](#)

Fay shared info/vision on HopeCrest. Providing solutions for homeless, not just food and place to sleep. Also to provide wet and dry shelter to help both those who want help and those who don't. Has classrooms, swimming pools. 2700+ square feet - indoor and outdoor camping space. Also has restroom facilities.

Can provide food, education, treatment, etc.

While we have laws against loitering and public urination/defecation, we don't have a way to enforce those laws. Hopecrest would provide a legal place for even those who don't want help to stay, camp and clean up.

Need to repurpose budget from agencies not providing useful solutions or non-working programs (Navigation Centers?) to real solutions. Need to support people to improve their lives - no more enabling. Need to lead people to productivity. Fay will send Tammy email info and we will set up some meetings to send message that our parks should not be used for homeless camping, per the Association vote. Goal of Homeless Committee is to pursue any idea/options to address and solve the challenges posed by the homeless population - HopeCrest is one option. Totally open for how we achieve solution. Kevin will be forwarding names of interested neighbors to Fay as soon as he has a moment.

Parks - Micki Varney

Received 5th grant for David Chandler nature park.

Thanks to Nick for being on Salem Parks advisory board meeting - brought up issue on pedestrian road crossing at Orchard Heights park. Still haven't heard anything back from City on this yet.

Traffic and Infrastructure Transit - Nick Fortey

Nick asked City to perform some maintenance at Wallace Road/Glen Creek and asking City to mow the median near Eagles View Park.

As Micki said, Nick spoke about the pedestrian access to Orchard Heights park; asked City to look at access to parks in general

Nick brought up issue about Stop Bar at OH/Wallace with City

Sent comments back to MPO about transportation improvement program. One project at Doaks Ferry/Hwy 22 interchange - need to add lighting. Also talked about OH parks crossing. And finally requested doing some things for walking/biking optimization to help with traffic

West Salem Business Association - Not Present

Edgewater - Steve Anderson

Market started on Thursdays - talked with Mayor's office, trying to get him down for coffee sometime in June

This Thursday a rep from Glen Gibson Watershed Council - come by for some seeds, bring the kids!

Next meeting a week from Thursday to talk about reopening walking cruises

Glen-Gibson Watershed - EM Easterly

See attached newsletter for upcoming/ongoing events

Chair Announcements - Kevin Chambers

Board approved printing expenses for Tammy and also agreed to spend what was needed for communication (aka Zoom account) for meetings

Kevin planning to have executive meetings every 2 months

Vice Chair Announcements - Mark Coutix

Need to identify who is in charge of school crossing lights and have them turned off

Bridge Committee Update - none

State Representative Report - Not Present

State Senator Report - Not Present

Old Business - None

New Business

Might be beneficial to move to 2 WSNA meetings per month to allow more time for presenting and Q&A

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

Links for more information:

WSNA - <http://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/west-salem-neighborhood-association.aspx>

Land Use (chair: Steve Anderson) - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1920123584965094/>



0520EagleView

Eagle's View Park Master Plan



 0520Watershed




Existing Conditions | Service Area Map
 EAGLE'S VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN





WATERSHED EVENTS

Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council Newsletter

Summer 2020

Working on the Watershed at home

In the spirit of the changes designed to keep us and our community safe, here are some activities allowed during these times. This issue will feature two home watershed restoration projects that can be done in your own backyard and an illustrated walking tour through the Wallace Marine Park Natural Area. Please stay safe and keep working toward healthier watersheds!

Wallace Marine Nature Park Walk

Getting out of doors is good therapy and we can still go for walks, observing social distance. Wallace Marine Park Natural Area is one of the best Salem walks for birding, watchable wildlife and river views. This regional park offers recreational softball and soccer fields, Willamette River boat access, bike and pedestrian trails, playground equipment and picnic facilities. The park is also a winter time flood mitigation site, protects the riparian natural forest area along the river and provides wildlife sanctuary within the City limits.



A snag tree nest set from the pedestrian bridge

The City's efforts to protect this urban jewel are two fold. For more than 4 decades, most of the park has been included in the Willamette River Greenway which limits development along the river riparian shore and the slough. More recently, the City designated most of the passive recreational portion of the park as a "nature park" to insure that the forest, flora and fauna are preserved as a natural habitat for future generations. The area designated as the Wallace Marine Park Natural Area does not include the west side slough or the pond north of the softball fields.

Nature Walk continues on p.2

Author and photographer E.M. Easterly is a founding member of the Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council and represents the West Salem Neighborhood Association on the watershed council. He is currently challenging the City's implementation and application of the Salem Area Comprehensive Plan Policies in Wallace Marine Park.



City of Solon **Existing Conditions | Site Analysis - Opportunities and Constraints**
EAGLE'S VIEW PARK MASTER PLAN

Master Plan Process

Outreach and Master Plan Development



Adoption Process





The pond North of the softball fields



A Feathered Fisherman



Bald eagle in tree top



Homeless camps impact the park. Untreated sewage, the detritus that accumulates around the camps, and the human disturbance that goes along with life in these camps all have adverse affects on water quality, plant and animal life.



The pond visitor

Draft Master Plan



Questions?



My Accidental Pollinator Garden



For a number of years I tried to grow vegetables in three raised beds in the only reliably sunny part of my yard, a strip along the drive in the front. I failed year after year. So three or four years ago I gave up and just spread cosmos seeds in the beds, and that is when the beauty began.

I already had a border of perennials along side the raised beds planted with trustworthy plants like lamb's ears, liatris (gay feather), echinacea (cone flower), lavender, yarrow, etc. Once the cosmos grew up and I realized the possibilities (Click! I can have a pollinator garden), I kept planting, tucking in some milkweed and adding more echinacea and other colorful plants. The result is a pretty border with lots of color. But the excitement is when you get closer and see all the bees and butterflies and other pollinators buzzing around.

Last year I "fostered" two Monarch butterflies for a couple days. They roosted on the cosmos, and finally, on day three, flew away. I felt proud to be part of this statewide effort to establish local Monarch habitat and hope that they or their offspring will return. In the meantime, however, the little garden is providing grazing for lots of little bugs.

An upside of all this is not only a habitat for pollinators and a pretty flower garden, but also a low maintenance growing space. Other than pulling weeds as needed and cutting back the plants in the fall, it pretty much takes care of itself. I have a drip/soaker hose system for watering and the flowers flourish without fertilizer or, of course, pesticides. So far the cosmos has reseeded each spring so I have not had to replant.

There are a number of free resources for planning and maintaining a pollinator garden.

Xerces Society publishes an excellent list of pollinator friendly plants at <https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/pollinator-friendly-plant-lists>

Natural Resource Conservation Service of the USDA has several publications dealing with pollinators at (search for pollinator gardens) www.nrcs.usda.gov

U.S Forest Service offers a publication on Gardening for Pollinators at <http://fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/gardening.shtml>

The National Wildlife Federation's publication on pollinator gardens can be found at <https://www.nwf.org/garden-for-wildlife/about/national-initiatives/plant-for-pollinators>

Oregon State University's Extension Service offers an on-line publication:

Living on the Land: Providing Habitat for Native Pollinators, that lists a number of resources. Get it at <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1649>.

Author and photographer Dorald Stoltz is a founding member of the Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council, and served as Chair in the past. She has used her back yard, home to a reach of Glenn Creek, as a conservation project planting native plants and conserving a healthy riparian corridor. She is a Master Watershed Steward through the OSU extension program. Other community service includes member of the board of the Willamette Heritage Center and immediate past president of the Salem Fiber Arts Guild. Dorald has many roles in GGWC among them using her journalism skills as our editor-in-chief.



Reasons for Rain Gardens

Recently I heard someone say, "If water is the key to life, then protecting it should be the way of life," and I agree. That is why we built a rain garden at our West Salem home.

Development in urban areas impacts our local streams and the Willamette River. Hard surfaces, such as roofs, roads, and driveways alter the natural water cycle because rain cannot soak into the ground as it did during pre-development. Rain flows from hard surfaces (as stormwater runoff) to the nearest storm drain. This movement of the stormwater helps prevent the flooding of our homes and streets.

While storm drains help prevent flooding, stormwater runoff picks up pollutants, such as oils, pesticides, dirt, and pet waste and discharges them into sensitive streams where the pollution can cause harm to aquatic life, such as fish, frogs, and salamanders.



Rain Garden beginning



Rain Garden Underway

Rain gardens help protect stream water quality by reducing and filtering the stormwater that flows off your yard and into the nearby stream. A rain garden is a shallow depression that collects water from downspouts and allows it to soak into the ground, helping to mimic pre-development conditions.

Rain gardens are usually designed with native plants, they are cost effective, low maintenance, beautiful, and habitat.

havens! For example, hummingbirds are often seen sampling the red flowering currant and Western columbine planted in our rain garden.

Rain gardens can vary in size depending on the amount of water being channeled to it and are generally 10-15 percent of the roof drainage area. A rain garden is a great option to consider as an addition to your landscape. A quick Google search results in a wide arrangement of designs. [Oregon State University](#) and the [City of Salem](#) have helpful guides.



Rain Garden today

10 Reasons for Rain Gardens

- Filter runoff pollution and protect streams from pollutants
- Recharge local groundwater
- Protect community from flooding and drainage issues
- Create habitat for birds, butterflies, bees, and beneficial insects
- Create drought tolerant green areas
- * Reduce yard maintenance
- * Reduce use of pesticides and herbicides
- * Beautify yards, neighborhoods, and parks
- * Increase biodiversity
- * Conserve water

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information

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(503) 362-6860

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Visit us on the web at
[https://
glennigibsonwc.org/](https://glennigibsonwc.org/)

Join us

We are always interested in new members or issues of interest to watershed health.

We meet at 5:30 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of every month in the Breezeway Room at Salemtowne
1800 Oakcrest Dr. NW,
Salem, OR 97304

Author and photographer Deborah Topp staffed the Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council in the early days of the Council, then was the City of Salem representative for some time. She has recently returned to that position. Deborah directs the City of Salem Department of Public Works' Environmental Education and Outreach Program. Deborah has directed, helped and orchestrated the public education programs of the GGWC including presentations on Rain Gardens and Native plants. She serves the GGWC as the City of Salem representative and our environmental educator and has been a resident of West Salem for 15 years.