

WSNA General Notes

November 16, 2020

Call Meeting to Order

Pledge of Allegiance > Led by Jason Staats

AGENDA

Any additions to agenda from the body

Minutes Approval

Approval of minutes from October 19, general meeting
Jason moves to approve, EM seconds, no objections

Guest Presenters

Homeless Report

- Gretchen Bennett
Human Rights and Federal Compliance Manager
City of Salem | Mayor and City Manager
gbennett@cityofsalem.net | 503-540-2371
- Strategies in the current plan
 - Increasing shelter locations.
 - Building on Portland Road
 - Changed zoning rules, which allowed opening a shelter on State Street
 - City Council also increased funding to provide shelters
 - Expanding Safe Park locations
 - Working with Church at the Park, which are providing Safe Park locations
 - Working to expand affordable housing
 - Nationally, this has been an effective approach.
 - This model includes services in the same building with housing to help remove barriers from access to services. Opened one location in July, working to open a second.
 - Housing First Street Outreach
 - Working to identify barriers to housing
 - Continue to fund HRAP program
 - Policy and questions and needs around mental health, sobering, enforcement solutions. The regional organization is working to obtain federal funding to support these needs.
 - Working closely with State of Oregon
 - Project Turnkey Grant - allows communities to purchase hotel rooms for services
 - Working on a navigation center to support this work

- Currently:
 - 1500 unhoused
 - 200 shelter spaces
 - About 1100 are without any shelter
- **Questions and Comments**
 - Navigation center - is a mobile outreach being considered? Rather than relying on people getting themselves to services, a way to bring services to where the people currently are.
 - There have been services provided by partners (e.g. Northwest Human Services) at Wallace Marine Park and Cascades Gateway Park. City Council is also researching a mobile crisis unit modeled after the Cahoots program in Eugene. This would be a mobile unit to respond to mental health and other crisis events. You can also currently request a street outreach through the Northwest Human Services website.
 - What is the best way for WSNA to communicate neighborhood concerns to the City Council and City Manager's office.
 - It's helpful to communicate when we notice trends that impact the community.
 - CityCouncil@CityofSalem.net reaches all City Council, the Mayor, and city staff
 - Signing up to provide testimony during City Council meetings
 - What is the name of the regional coalition?
 - Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance - regional consortium of Marion and Polk Counties, City of Salem, City of Keizer. This organization is able to receive HUD dollars. They've done strategic planning and gap analysis to identify specific needs and coordinate funding services to avoid duplication of efforts. Private non-profits are also involved.
 - <http://mwvhomelessalliance.org/>
 - What can WSNA and members do to support expediting these efforts and help return the park to its purpose of being a park and not a camping area?
 - They are currently looking for alternate sites to allow camping and maintain physical distance. Until another space is located, they can't realistically, legally, or ethically evict people from the parks.
 - Refer or suggest parcels of land that could potentially be used. They are flexible, but there's a preference for locations that have indoor spaces. They would also consider outdoor spaces that could be something like a managed camping area. Commercial or industrial spaces for 20-40 people.
 - Currently the camping restriction is set to conclude in January. The camp count is also happening in January - this is used to determine the amount of funding they can potentially access.
 - Currently, there are several violations of environmental laws due to the park encampments that the City is responsible for.

Our Salem

- Eunice Kim | ekim@cityofsalem.net | 503-540-2308
- cityofsalem.net/our-salem
- Multi year project to update Salem, guides zoning for business, housing, parks. Project started 2 years ago, visioning started last summer. They have presented the draft vision presented to City Council and planning commission and are now looking for additional feedback. Focused on goals right now, will eventually focus on specific policy recommendations. Long range plan for development for the next 10-30+ years.
- Mixed use zones added to create more flexibility for future use. Identifying land throughout the city for multifamily housing, not just in one location. Live/work areas would allow businesses to be run out of people's homes.
- Plan to bring back to the City Council in February. They will be taking input and revising the plan over the next month. Online survey available.
- **Questions & Comments**
 - Currently the plan has some conflicts with Salem code. EM asks that the plan be revised to correct this issue.
 - Proposed new zoning (R4) - how is this different than current zoning?
 - Mixed use allows business and homes in the same zone. R4 allows for businesses to be run from the same building as a home.
 - Follow up - curious about whether parking would be addressed with this zoning.
 - The requirement would be that the resident would be running the business out of the home, not just that the building would be turned into a business instead of a residence.
 - Are there any provisions to keep residential spaces in these zones, rather than just converting to businesses?
 - Currently it isn't required that it's mixed use.
 - How is the plan incentivizing low carbon, easy access to public transportation, keeping neighborhood walkability, etc?
 - Incentivizing is typically what they try to do.
 - 2nd Street zone - why has this changed?
 - Craft Industrial area - they have changed this to mixed use after discussions with West Salem Redevelopment Advisory Board because it has been difficult for property owners to fulfill that vision.
 - Congestion over the bridge - previously there was talk about varying hours of operation for state, city, county offices to relieve congestion. Is there a way this can be supported at this time?
 - Relieving congestion is part of the Our Salem goals. ODOT is looking at reducing commute trips statewide.
- **Feedback requested:**
 - Are there areas where WSNA would like commercial zones?
 - 2004 plan had several commercial areas identified - near Brush College, near West Salem HS. Many are opposed to adding commercial areas in some regions of West Salem.
 -

Remodel and additions to Myers Elementary

- Drew Cornedi, CB/Two Architects
- Remodel includes removing two portables, adding three classrooms, cafeteria and kitchen servery. The classrooms would allow for expected population growth. They are required to add emergency access when doing the remodel. They would also redo the track and create a space for dumpsters and trash pick up. They are also required to add parking stalls. They are required to bring sidewalks up to current code.
- The City would like an 8 foot wide sidewalk for safety, extending from the current 5 feet. Extending the sidewalk would damage the trees along the frontage. They would like input as to whether the neighborhood views the safety of wider sidewalks as more critical or keeping the mature trees. If the preference is to retain the trees, they would ask for an exception to the code and ask WSNA to write a letter in support of this.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - What is the safety concern? Is it an ADA requirement?
 - Not entirely clear what the specific concern is. It is not an ADA requirement.
 - If the trees are removed, would new trees be added?
 - Yes, they have a landscaper they would consult with to determine appropriate replacements and locations.
 - If trees are replaced, it would be an acceptable update/change. However, if the trees are associated with trees as memorials it could be a concern.
 - One tree does have an associated plaque.
 - Comment - it might be more appropriate to have the neighbors in the area near the school weigh in on this issue since it directly impacts their neighborhood.
 - Mike has reached out to the school and shared the presentation to get their input.
 - Comment from parent of previous students at Myers - since no specific reason has been given to extend to an 8 foot sidewalk, preference for keeping the mature trees.
 - How many trees are slated for removal?
 - 4 near the school
 - 9-15 near the frontage
- CB Two would need a letter of support within 2-3 weeks to support non-removal of the trees if that is the decision made.
- Joel Smallwood, Director of Maintenance and Construction Services for the School District
 - They have not talked with the school administrator and staff yet since they are still in the planning stages. The neighbors will have input during the later stages of the project.

Plans for West Salem High School
Karma Krause and Joel Smallwood

- Last provided information in 2018 about plans for money from the bond. Bond was passed May 2018. There will be updates to every school in the district, some will have small updates, some larger.
- West Salem High School will get an update to support projected growth over the next 15 years. Construction will start in June 2021 and wrap up fall 2022. The construction will add 20 classrooms, convert existing spaces into science classrooms, add CTE spaces, add space to support special education, expand the commons area, expand locker rooms, expand admin/office area, and add an additional parking lot of about 80-100 parking spaces. The CTE addition would allow expansion of the fire program. The expansion of classrooms would include a black box theater space to allow for small performances (seating for 30-50). The expansion would include a developmental learning center that provides direct access to the bus route. The parking lot would cover part of the property on Doaks Ferry that the school district purchased. The driveway to this property will be closed, so this will not create an additional traffic route through this property. They are replacing ADA ramps throughout the building.
- **Questions and Comments**
 - Will the trees on the property on Doaks Ferry be removed?
 - Tree removal will be minimized, but some will need to be removed.

Open Action Items:

- Marine Dr, 5th at Cameo to Riverbend
 - Steve Anderson went before the City Council. The land use report describes this.
- Question from last meeting Cheryl (and Rob) asked whether a neighborhood association must sponsor the event or can WS residents just participate in activities like “Make a difference day” or” National Night Out” to qualify
 - These can be used as credits, but the WSNA must be a cohost, advertise it, and let the City know about the events.

Finance Report

- Current balance is \$1,504.04
- Approved expenditures by executive committee, \$500 total:
 - Zoom Account
 - Posters
 - Web design
- EM moves that the members approve the expenses, Micki seconds. No objections, motion passes

NEW BUSINESS

New E-Mail Address

Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Recovery Committee

- Concerns that this committee would address: emergency equipment on this side of the bridge, what does the neighborhood need to do to support a major disaster, communicating with the neighborhood about this plan

- Deliverables: risk analysis, decision tree demonstrating how to deal with disasters affecting West Salem
 - Comment: This planning is done by Greg Walsh, the City Emergency Preparedness Manager. This level of planning and action is not authorized by the City for CERT members.
 - Suggestion: CERT members to talk with the board about what would be an appropriate connection within the WSNA.

Volunteers are needed for current committees. If you'd like to volunteer, let Mike know what committee you'd like to participate on.

Volunteers

- By-Laws
 - Rose Thrasher
 - Jessica Jung
- Education/Advocation
 - Rachel M. Walaskay
- Homeless
 - Molly Hartshorn
 - Laura Vargas Crofoot
- Volunteer Hour Tracking
 - Beverly Freitas

City of Salem Meeting

Jason and Mike have been invited to attend a meeting on 11/18/20 held by Courtney Knox Busch she is the Strategic Initiatives Manager

- Community Policing
- Climate Action Plan (this item has been removed from the meeting agenda)

Mike and Jason will report back after the meeting.

Committee Reports

- Land Use - Steve Anderson
 - 2nd street will meet standards to be pedestrian friendly
 - Murlark installing a spray booth - the potential concern is toxic pollutants from paint and ensuring these are removed from the air
- Parks - Micki Varney
- Traffic and Infrastructure Transit -Nick Fortey
- Welcoming and Inclusion Committee-Steve Van Pelt
- Edgewater - Steven Anderson
- Glen-Gibson Watershed - EM Easterly

Proposed: no meeting in December, reconvene in January.

EM moves to suspend December 2020 meeting, Steve Anderson seconds. No discussion, no objections. Motion passes.

OLD BUSINESS

Adjournment

EM moves to adjourn the meeting.