



## **WSNA Meeting Minutes**

**November 17, 2021**

### **Call Meeting to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

Pledge of Allegiance > Led by Micki Varney

### **AGENDA**

Additions to agenda:

Micki Varney asks to make an announcement

### **Minutes**

Motion was made by Micki to approve the October minutes

Second by EM

Vote was called motion passed

### **Meeting Notes**

#### **Representative Paul Evans**

1. The possibility of a Special Session before the end of the year. If it happens, it will likely be the first or second week of December. It will likely be about housing/rent relief and maybe (if added) a bill that puts the recent forestry agreement into statute. During this part of my report, I shared my frustrations with the lack of consistent competence by several agencies, especially Oregon Housing and Community Services.

2. The second part of my report was about the impacts of the changing nature of the political landscape in the wake of the ongoing redistricting processes. Since then, the courts have affirmed the Legislative and Congressional Maps (although Congressional Maps may not be completely finished yet because of likely appeals), and the city has designated wards. Right now, we anticipate at least twenty new legislators in the Oregon House as an indirect/direct consequence of the redistricting outcomes.

3. We also talked about the upcoming 2022 Legislative Session and some of our priorities regarding Emergency Management Reforms and Investments (continuing the work we have been doing), a referral of a state bank, and infrastructure investments associated with the recent passage of the Congressional Bipartisan Infrastructure

Act. I explained that the ongoing partisan challenges make it very likely some or all of the House GOP members may boycott the 2022 Legislative Session because of the 2022 Election Campaign.

4. In the Q/A time we discussed the challenges of a potential bridge (3rd crossing near Salem) as well as the two paths forward: A) a path that would require the City of Salem, Marion County, Polk County, and ODOT to agree upon a location (for the beginning of the construction process -- including ESA, site development research, and be in a place far enough away from the last site that federal monies can be spent within the next five years), and/or B) establishment in statute of the authority for a Capitol Bridge Special District (and then the work to establish it via a vote of the people in the geographical area of impact).

He continues to support Pathway B because of historical precedent of the Golden Gate Bridge (and the historical and most likely outcome of a highly partisan effort that would be very difficult given the current state of political reality between the governments involved).

5. In the Q/A time we also discussed the ongoing aspirational planning along Edgewater Street (including a pedestrian improvement near the bridge as well as a possible track-based trolley). I want to restate my support for whatever planning and visioning effort you have moving forward. I will talk with ODOT about the pedestrian space (the island) when we meet this coming week).

#### **Councilor Stapleton talking points:**

- Safe Park has 130 people on a wait list, looking for locations
- Salem Housing Authority has a closing date on Yaquina Hall and the South fair projects of Nov 18th - Great news!
- City librarian has resigned - we are now looking to fill that and other positions. Hours are currently Tues-Sat 11am-6pm and we hope to open on Sundays soon. Library strategic planning has been pushed off till Spring.
- City of Salem, Polk and Marion County, Pacific Source and Keiser are back at the table to talk about a Sobering Center - RFP Jan 2022
- Warming centers are starting to open - currently we have three hundred beds which is not enough - we also need volunteers
- New website will start in Jan
- Climate action and ward reapportionment all happening soon
- Fall leaf haul - Nov 20th and Dec 11th - Browns Island
- 20 is Plenty update
- Boards and Commissions opening: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/view-current-board-and-commission-openings.aspx>

#### **Councilor Lewis talking points:**

- Bond measure will be on upcoming ballot
- Homeless over half of the people seeking shelter are woman
- Pit bull attacked small dog in park, dog came out of a camper

#### **Salem PD**

- Toy drive is starting
- Mailbox- 3 cases found of mailboxes being destroyed. Investigation is still on-going
- Case of three large dog's loos in the park two of the dogs will not be going back to the owner

#### **Zoom renewal**

- motion was made by EM to renew our Zoom account for the 2021 -2022 year. Motion was second and passed

## **Managed Homeless Camp Question answered by Gretchen Bennett**

- Motion made by EM to adjourned the meeting seconded by Micki Varney and the meeting was closed.

## Homeless Managed Camp Questions

### West Salem Neighborhood Association

#### General Meeting November 17th

1. What are the steps to approve a site?
  - a. Example: Slope, wetland, accessibility etc.?

Step One is to determine feasibility This includes: is the owner willing? Is it large enough – at least ¾ of an acre is needed. Other issues that are hard stops include:

- Within FAA flight path designation
- Presence in Greenway
- Within 100-year floodplain
- Within floodway
- Existing utility/storm drain access beyond 1000'
- Landslide susceptible area
- Within 75 'of riparian area

Other substantial challenges are

- if there is an incline/decline grade exceeding 5%
- If tree coverage exceeds 40% of total lot size

Our rules are also about to be clarified: right now, there are draft rules written to amend the Salem Revised Code to lay out a list of requirements. These have been before the Salem Planning Commission, and will be going to City Council Monday night, and then are anticipated for public hearing on December 6. These rules clarify additional items such as perimeter setback and zoning requirements.

2. How are locations selected?
  - a. What criteria was and will be used to select site in the different Wards?

Same as above – except I would add that we have tried, to date, to propose sites not currently used for another purpose, and have tried to have geographic distribution throughout the City.
  - b. What criteria was used to initially select the West Salem site?

Same as above – we have researched locations for years and are unable to find enough locations that fit the feasibility criteria outlined above. We have been bringing parcels forward that are feasible for the Council's consideration.
3. What /how is communication delivered to property owners/renters about the potential use of land for a Managed camp?

Currently we reach out to adjacent property owners, contact the neighborhood association and are open to scheduling town hall forums as the community is interested.

What improvements can be made in this area?

We can comply with current land use change notification rules which are, "It's 250 feet from the boundaries of the subject property, or the boundaries of all of the contiguous property under the same ownership. The notice goes to property owners, tenants, residents, etc., within the 250 feet. It also goes to the Neighborhood Association, everyone that has asked to receive notice within that neighborhood association, any relevant homeowner's association and various government agencies such as transit, ODOT (when relevant), etc." We will continue to also host or attend community conversations.

4. What is the status on the Wallace Road site?

We have decided it is not feasible, due to the wetland delineation study informing us that it is substantially a wetland.

a. Has the review of wetland been completed?

Yes, it has been completed.

a.i.If not, when will it be completed?

b. If this site is okay to use, when will it be occupied?

c. How long will this camp be up and running?

5. What are the steps in vetting individuals to occupy managed camps?

a. Who is responsible for the vetting process?

The Church at the Park shelter and safe parking waitlist is open to any person experiencing homelessness. As we have openings, we pull from our waitlist, prioritizing people who are most vulnerable. Key vulnerability factors considered are age, kids in the household, chronic health conditions, and fleeing domestic violence. Once the household arrives at the shelter, staff complete the intake paperwork and orientation to the site clearly outlining safety and behavior expectations.

6. How many homes will be built?

a. How many people will occupy this camp?

Generally, we aim for 30 microshelters and 8 vehicle safe park spaces at each location.

b. How long may an individual stay in the camp?

People begin with a 30 day stay which is renewable if conditions are met; managed by the nonprofit.

c. What actual facilities beyond the micro-housing units will be included in each camp?

Depends on the site and is anticipated to be built out in the recent Salem Revised Code standard changes, and includes an eating area, restrooms, shower access, case management spaces and office/hospitality spaces.

- d. What steps must an approved resident take to become a positive graduate from the micro-housing site?

The objective is to assist people with their next step that is right for them; that could be housing, entering a supportive home, or some other service.

7. What is the budget for this type of camp?

Generally, \$1600/guest/month plus the cost of site set-up.

- a. Who manages the budget?

The nonprofit operating the site manages the budget and the City, when the City provides funds, manages the agreement with the nonprofit.

- b. Is there an audit of the spending on a project such as this?

The City is audited regularly; the City staff review receipts and other spending documentation as a part of paying each invoice on the contract.

8. How is the camp managed?

- a. Is there someone there 24 hours a day seven days a week?

Church at the Park's proactive approach to safety for guests and neighbors include: 24/7 staffing, a licensed security team that responds to non-emergent safety concerns on property or in the neighboring vicinity, video surveillance, and key partnerships with emergency responders. Through these measures, we have had minimal neighboring impact.

a.i. People managing camp

a.ii. Salem PD

9. What happens if someone does not follow the rules of the camp?

Safety of guests, staff, visitors and volunteers is a paramount priority.

- All sites will provide 4k video surveillance. This serves as a deterrent to bad behavior and a follow up tool for staff.
- The micro shelter communities are closed campuses with only approved visitors who have been vetted and have agreed to the community expectations.
- Curfew hours are from 12am-6am.

- Safety and Security Team staff will always be present on site. Staff will be trained in security sets. Essential job duties include but are not limited to:
  - Provide a calm, decisive presence on all Church at the Park Micro Shelter properties.
  - Monitor activity on all properties for Safety & Security 24 hours a day.
  - Work with on-site staff leads to **addressing** all behavioral concerns.
  - Address Micro Shelter guest safety & security concerns daily.
  - Be the first point of contact for emergency responders including Salem Police and Salem Fire Department.
  - Develop proactive and positive relationships with site guests and staff.
  - Ensure guests are complying with rules of the site and community expectations.
  - Complete all necessary paperwork and reports on incidents.
  - Review and answer questions from guests about the participant agreement.
  - Use trauma-informed care principles whenever possible when interacting with staff and residents.
  - Assist other staff and volunteers in providing a calm and safe environment for guests. This may include checking restroom activity or monitoring door and/or parking lot activity or handing out supplies.
  - Carry out CAP protocols and emergency procedures in the event of an incident.
  - Attend required training and learn policies and procedures for shelter operations.
- Guest agreement expectations shall be provided in writing and guests will provide a signature of commitment as a condition of receiving sheltering services. Staff work to hold all accountable to

this agreement. The agreement is subject to change.

10. What supports will be available to campers to connect them with social workers and meals?

The focus of our Micro Shelter Communities is the provision of a safe, sanitary, and supportive environment for guests to take the next steps towards housing and employment. C@P has 24/7 staff on-site supporting both the guests to gain stability. Additionally, we provide space on-site for partners to provide services

11. I know that other camps have shower trucks come occasionally for the residents to use, but they come during the day when people are at work/school. What considerations will be taken to build services and supports around the needs of the campers?

Site plans now include showers in the startup expense for operating a site.

12. What is the City's arrangement with Church at the Park? How were they chosen? How long is their contract?

The City is in a contractual relationship; we have signed agreements at each site the City has funded. The City is a funder and the Church @ the Park is a nonprofit operator. Each contract currently active is through the end of our fiscal year, June 30. They were chosen out of a nonprofit capacity assessment which demonstrated at the time they were the only nonprofit stepping forward in the outdoor micro shelter arena.

13. Where are the other camps located (i.e., in which wards, as well as specific addresses)?

Two other micro shelter sites are currently in operation. Both are in Ward 5. The addresses are 2640 Portland Rd. NE and 3737 Portland Rd. NE.

14. Are there any wards in Salem that do not have temporary housing options in place? If so, what is the plan to add other locations?

Yes. We are working on a map right now that shows all the shelters in Salem and where they are located. Our hope is to locate possible sites throughout Salem.

15. What are the physical dimensions of each structure?

One type is 8" by 8" and the other is 8" by 10."

16. Is each housing unit shared by 2 people?

It depends sometimes families are larger.

17. How will their belongings be secured during the day when they may be out accessing services, seeking jobs, etc.?

The shelter units are lockable, and staff are on site 24/7.

18. How are they going to handle residents that have pets?



a. Are pets even allowed?

Yes

b. What is the plan for pet care when residents are out looking for jobs, using services, etc.?

Residents are required to organize pet care with friends or other residents.

19. Will there be a continuous review process to determine if this idea is even working well?

20. Absolutely.

a. If so, will the community be included and allowed to have input?

We welcome that; input is always welcome to the City and we are happy to design something; what do you have in mind?

21. How will provision be made for transportation to and from the site (bicycle parking, transit access, vehicle parking)?

Bus passes are provided upon request for residence based on appointments. Van transport is available daily based on needs of the resident. Bicycle parking and repair are available through our partnership with the Northwest HUB.

22. Have some program metrics been developed or are in process?

Our regional Homeless Alliance is at work on data measurement.

C@P collects an abundance of data on every single person using our services utilizing the community's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). We review our data weekly and are always looking for ways to improve service delivery to meet our target outcomes.

**PROJECT GOAL:** We want to see our average length of stay to be *less than 90 days* and that more than 60% of people exiting the program would leave with income and a more permanent housing destination.

At our first managed microshelter community, C@P has served 98 people since April of 2021. In that time, 60% of the individuals have been able to obtain or maintain income and 33% of people served have exited the shelter to more permanent destinations.

In the first two months of operation at Catholic Community Services C@P has served 65 individuals (38 adults and 27 children). In that time, 67% of the households that have exited the project are in more permanent destinations and 60% of adults have been able to obtain or maintain income.

23. What are the next steps for the homeless at Wallace Marine Park?

Tomorrow we are cleaning near the areas of the riverbank. Code enforcement staff are at work to address vehicles remaining beyond what is legal. Public and nonprofit partners are communicating about flood concerns with those near the riverbank.

24. The community believes that security will be provide at the site, but what about outside of that small area? Seems like people are concerned with others who may come to the site, and may not live there, causing concerns in the surrounding areas.

Each site seeks to be good neighbors and will problem-solve should issues arise; contact information for the nonprofit operator and the City will be provided to address concerns and any crime in progress should be reported to law enforcement. We have had positive reports from neighbors at current sites. Having the presence of management can be a positive contribution to an area.