



January 12, 2022 - SCAN Monthly Meeting
Zoom Online Meeting

Board members present:

Christine Chute, Victor Dodier, Bill Holmstrom, John Prohodskey, Ron Rubel, Jim Scheppke, Jeff Schumacher, Roz Shirack, Brian Sund, Carol Snyder, Lorrie Walker, Mark Wigg

Jon Christenson was excused from the meeting.

Guests were present as well. **See Exhibit A - Attendance Roster**

President Lorrie Walker called the Zoom meeting to order about 6:30 pm with a quorum present.

1. City and County Reports:

a. Councilor Anderson

The Secretary arrived late and did not capture Councilor Anderson's remarks.

b. Councilor Nordyke

Conestoga style huts (6'x14' with 60 sq. ft. of interior space) are an option for transitional homeless housing are a simple, modular transitional housing. They are not ADA compliant because they are too small and the 2'x3' window is too small to be used as a second egress. Locally built structures should be considered as they source materials locally and use local labor. Salem provided a grant for storage lockers at ARCHES.

UGM's new building doubled the number of people it could house at night.

Police audit shows the need to improve data and community relations

State of the art water treatment facility

There is a new emergency alert system. How to sign up for emergency alerts is [here](#).

City staff will prepare a report on a Mobile Crisis Unit. The pilot project has community partners, funding, and fits with existing services. It is being run by Courtney Knox Bush. There is a belief that mobile crisis units duplicate existing services. Mobile crisis units provide services that are not provided by Salem. CAHOOTS in Eugene had 23,000 calls last year and 150 of those calls required police backup.

Mobile crisis units have their own funding and don't take money away from police or fire departments.

Lorrie Walker said the mentally ill are frightened of police. When police visited the state hospital police had nothing visible that identified them as police officers.

Salem supported local businesses in 2021 by providing COVID recovery grants to businesses, URA grants for new and existing businesses, Open for Business grants to help restaurants transition to outdoor dining, and PPE donations to local businesses.

The library reopened after receiving a seismic upgrade

“The Marion/Polk region has a higher chronic homelessness rate than the state or nation, with 43% of people chronically homeless compared to 34% in Oregon and 27% nationwide” – Salem Reporter

Housing for 7,648 people was supported by the Salem Housing Authority.

Transitional shelters work. In the first two months of operations at the Church at the Park shelter sites 67% of the households that have left the shelter sites have found other housing and 60% of adults were able to obtain or gain income.

Challenges to ending homelessness include lack of mental health services, housing, county funding of support services, and landlords willing to lease sites for transitional housing.

The Climate Action Task Force is still holding public meetings and hearings.

There was \$10 million in regional tourism spending in 2021.

Downtown is changing and growing. A new hotel is being built, there are more outdoor dining options, the JC Penney store will be renovated into small shops, and the Nordstrom store will be replaced by a mixed use development that increases the number of apartments downtown.

Salem has a basketball team the Salem Capitals. 2022 will be their first season.

City Council increased the police budget which funded 6 new officers and the return of 9 former SRO officers to patrol duties. The Police Audit recommended hiring more non-sworn Community Service Officers (CSO) to free up police for higher priorities. There are a lot of calls for service and not enough police officers to respond.

Jim Scheppke asked when Council will review climate action plan. Vanessa said she doesn't know; the Mayor controls the scheduling. She doesn't want the perfect plan, she wants to try and learn.

Courtney Cox Bush put a link to Salem's 2021 Annual report in the Zoom meeting's comments - <https://www.cityofsalem.net/citydocuments/2021-annual-community-report.pdf>.

c. Sargent Hardy, Salem Police Department

Sgt. Hardy introduced himself. He has 20+ years of police experience and has been with the Salem PD since 2005. He has had experience with gang enforcement, SWAT and is the bomb squad leader. His parents were deaf, he was raised in a deaf culture, and understand deaf culture. He is a sports nut who coached kids through high school.

It was mentioned that there was a report of shots fired near the Konditorei. Sgt. Hardy said the police were not aware of any shots fired near the Konditorei.

Mark Wigg ask how much time the police spend dealing with the homeless. He said he has heard it is about 30% of their time. Sgt. Hardy said that is about right; it is a significant amount of time. Typical homeless issues police have responded to:

- Trespassing,
- Mental health issues,
- Sleeping in business areas, and
- Marion Square Park death investigation.

The majority are individuals acting in ways that concern citizens which are often call-ins.

Lorrie Walker said someone was working on a car on the street and sidewalk in front of 1165 Cross St. SE, the house west of Furnish. She said it might be a drug house. It appears to be a neglected property that might be classified as criminally nuisance property.

Sgt. Hardy said classifying a property as a criminally nuisance property is hard to do. In situations such as the house on Cross St. police are constrained by the constitution and laws. Code enforcement has different tools and police are working with them. The big question is how do we prove it?

Deb Romano said Code Enforcement is close to closing the case on that house. It didn't have running water for 10 years. There was a pump in the creek for several months that was used to water plants. The house has signs of progress resolving issues and code enforcement expects the house will revert to its previous state after case is closed.

Sgt. Hardy said doing drugs is no more costly than running a stop sign. He expects more people will move to Oregon because drug use is not criminalized, and he expects unfortunate consequences.

Victor Dodier said Liberty and Commercial Streets have become racetracks and it has been a long time since officers have looked at speeding on Liberty. He asked what are police doing about it? Sgt. Hardy said they are doing as much as we can and not as much as we would like to.

Sgt. Hardy said the police department was woefully understaffed by 60 to 100 officers. He said he had 130 callouts outside of normal hours last year and averages about 15 hours of overtime each week. Sometimes he has 20-30 hours of overtime. Accidents, murders, and drones are traffic unit responsibilities. To achieve the desired 50 to 75% unobligated police time (not responding) will require 27 to 83 more officers. There are 7 officers in traffic unit who also work with public works on environmental issues. Traffic officers also report what happens and they see and make suggestions.

Photo red light and radar cameras are over-maxed. Salem has 6 photo red light cameras of which 4 have speed radar. Courts can't handle more.

Sgt. Hardy's email is jhardy@cityofsalem.net.

d. Courtney Cox Bush

Salem is working on the specifics of a \$300 million [community improvement general obligation bond](#) for the November 2022 election. It will fund community needs. Courtney is developing the bond proposal to bring to Council and is soliciting input on the shape of the pie and project ideas. The tax rate won't increase as the bond will, if approved, replace the previous general obligation bond. It will fund major capital needs for 10 years including:

- Replacing fire engines,
- Street and sidewalk improvements,
- Park upgrades,
- Civic center earthquake safety,
- Acquiring fire station sites,
- Technology and cybersecurity needs, and
- Sites for affordable housing and shelter.

Fire engines were replaced using a 2006 bond and recent street repairs were funded by a 2008 bond.

John Prohodsky suggested the bond should fund street repairs and housing and services for the homeless.

Victor Dodier questioned using bond funding to fund technology. Using proceeds from a 10-year bond to fund technology with a 3-5 year life doesn't make sense.

Roz Shirack ask about the percentage of the bond going towards sidewalks. Courtney will respond by email. Roz also wants to know the rational for the size of streets and sidewalks.

Courtney said NEN asked for a breakout of sidewalks. There are no shortage of needs and CIOP ideas. Streets and sidewalk needs are estimated by staff without looking at specific improvements, repairs, and new streets.

Mark Wigg said technology is an administrative need that is budgeted yearly. He asked if Salem has considered a gas tax to fund streets and expanding courts to take in more money. Courtney replied staffing is funded from operations and traffic tickets cannot pay for courts.

Courtney said the vacated space used by the police will be built as a one-stop customer service area.

Briand Sund asked if the SCAN transportation committee could provide input for safe pedestrian and bike routes.

Courtney was asked when did planning for the bond measure start. She said it started with Finance Committee in the summer. Council has a 5-member steering committee that meets on Friday (1/14). There will be a bond measure recommendation to Council in

March to be finalized for November ballot. There is a possibility of flexibility in spending buckets of funds and carve outs in specific areas.

When asked how many neighborhood association meetings she had attended, she said she is just beginning the process.

Jim Scheppke asked about the possibility of including 2 branch libraries in bond measure. Courtney said steering committee is open to input and the next meeting is Friday (1/14).

Courtney said Salem will have a new website soon.

Lorrie Walker asked if fire engines are for existing or new stations. Courtney said the fire engines have about 350,000 miles on the odometer. Salem needs to replace 16 engines, 3 ladders and rescue equipment. The fire department wants to move the station that is currently at Chemeketa Community College and build a new station in southeast.

Sites for affordable housing are needed. A person who is put on the list for affordable housing will wait 4 to 5 years for affordable housing. It is disturbing that a lot of people on the list are children. Courtney commented that a lot of women, children and families are homeless.

Roz Shirack asked if Salem could sell bonds in a phased way? Courtney said just in time sales of street and bridge bonds and refinancing bonds saved Salem money that was used on projects not in bond measure.

2. Board resignations

Carel DeWinkle and Delmy Edwards resigned from the SCAN Board of Directors.

3. Approval of December minutes

The December SCAN Board meeting minutes were approved with 10 votes for approval with Lorrie Walker and Ron Rubel abstaining.

4. Neighborhood Concerns

The lack of branch libraries in Salem was discussed by Jim Scheppke who presented a motion (**Exhibit B**) to include funding for two branch libraries in the general obligation bond which will be voted on in November election. Victor Dodier seconded the motion.

Ron Rubel can't justify branch libraries in the Internet age.

John Prohodsky said the libraries are a resource for children that encourages reading, the foundational literacy that other literacies build upon.

Bill Holmstrom is concerned about Salem's ability to staff and operate additional branch libraries.

Brian Sund said volunteers could help staff branch libraries. He mentioned that the Salem library has the lowest number of volunteers in the state.

Ron Rubel said libraries are not community centers.

John Prohodsky said that libraries are a resource for families. In addition to books the library has events for families and children and is a place of discovery.

Brian Sund pointed out many people said learning can be done online. Kids want books. Kindles, tablets, Chromebooks, and cellphones don't cut it. The new kids' section at library is really busy. It encourages their curiosity and desire to learn. Screens have their place, but they aren't a replacement for books.

Roz Shirack said operating cost is a yearly cost and leasing a building is an option instead of building branch libraries.

Brian Sund said leasing is also a yearly cost.

The motion passed;10 votes for and 2 against motion.

5. Committee Reports and Chair Report

a. Chair's report

No Chairs report was presented.

b. Land Use Committee

The Land Use Committee did not meet in December.

c. Historic Preservation, Parks and Gardens Committee

The Historic Landmarks Commission Subcommittee on HLC Code met in December. Participants included designated SCAN representation: Kendra Mingo, Claudia Howells (past SCAN president) and Mary Anne Spradlin. Please see HPPG report (Exhibit C).

d. Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee did not meet in December. The Committee's report **(Exhibit D)** is attached.

Victor Dodier had an announcement: Paul Howard wants to get SCAN interested in emergency management. Victor was asked if it is CERT training. He said it is about skills people have and how they can use those skills to respond to emergencies.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54.

Exhibit B

Motion to include funds for two branch libraries in general obligation bond

**SCAN RESOLUTION ON INCLUSION OF BRANCH LIBRARIES
IN THE NOVEMBER 2022 BOND MEASURE**

WHEREAS, only 37% of Salem's third graders were able to pass the third grade reading test according to 2018-19 statistics from the Oregon Department of Education, a figure that is 10% lower than the average for all Oregon third graders; and,

WHEREAS, research has shown that third graders who are not proficient in reading are four times more likely to drop out of high school than proficient readers, and that 88% of school dropouts were struggling readers in the third grade; and,

WHEREAS, access to library reading programs, beginning at birth, has been shown to make a significant difference in student success, including books and library cards for all newborns, storytime programs in multiple languages for infants and preschoolers, training for new parents on brain development and the importance of reading to children, and summer reading programs to keep children reading in the summer; and,

WHEREAS, libraries must be conveniently located within close proximity to families to encourage habitual and frequent library use as part of normal family activities; and,

WHEREAS, Portland is a model of best library practices in providing an extensive array of literacy services to children delivered from *fifteen branch libraries* located within a mile of two of most children in Portland; and,

WHEREAS, the excellence of library literacy services to children in Portland is reflected in third grade reading proficiency scores of Portland school children that are *19% higher* than scores in Salem; and,

WHEREAS, the Salem Public Library Advisory Board has recommended to the Salem City Council that construction of two new branch libraries in the underserved NE and SE/South areas of the city be included in the bond measure that will be referred to Salem voters in November, 2022.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of the South Central Association of Neighbors endorses the recommendation of the Salem Public Library Advisory Board for inclusion of two branch libraries in the November 2022 bond measure so that we can begin to better meet the needs of all our children to become proficient readers.

Exhibit C

Historic Preservation, Parks and Gardens Committee Report

I. DESIGN REVIEWS

No Historic Design Reviews (under SRC 230 Historic Preservation) were received or circulated for properties in SCAN in December 2021.

II. HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEE ON HLC CODE

A report is being prepared by City staff for the January or February 2022 meeting of the Historic Landmarks Commission. Draft priorities include enhancements of educational tools and materials to assist owners of historic resources in National Historic Districts (NHD).

Participation has included three very able SCAN representatives,--- Kendra Mingo, Claudia Howells and Mary Anne Spradlin, who have been an anchor to this process, and outstanding.

Under consideration is the development of educational tools to inform and aid property owners: (1) a webinar for property owners; (2) a brochure, "The Benefits & Responsibilities of Owning Historic Property in Salem"; (3) a "Welcome Packet for New Historic Property Owners"; (4) a GIS Database with baseline photos of designated historic resources for each neighborhood. The webinar lead person is a person, historic property owner from South Central Salem. Programs such as "Tool Box" grants to assist repairs and upgrades were discussed, and the benefit of improved collaboration, cooperation among units at City Hall.

Emphasis has been on education, to gain voluntary informed compliance with SRC 230.

Jon Christenson

Exhibit D

Transportation Committee Report

The Transportation Committee did not meet in December. There is nothing to report.

In lieu of a meeting, I surveyed committee members on several topics.

SHOULD THERE BE A SCAN TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE:

All who responded to the survey said that, YES, there should be a SCAN Transportation Committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

Carel DeWinkel is leaving both SCAN and the Transportation Committee. Members of the committee going into 2022 include:

- Victor Dodier, Chair
- Jon Christenson
- Bill Holmstrom
- John Prohodsky
- Gary Obery
- Jim Scheppke
- Jeff Schumacher
- Brian Sund
- Lorrie Walker
- Mark Wigg

Any SCAN board member and any SCAN resident may serve on the Transportation Committee. If you are interested in joining the Transportation Committee, please let me know. I will add your name / email to the committee Google Group.

TOPICS:

The proposed City of Salem bond measure, update of the Salem Transportation System Plan, traffic speed, traffic congestion, bicycle and pedestrian issues were suggested as topics that the committee could take up during 2022.

MEETING TIME / LOCATION / FREQUENCY

Committee members are okay with meeting via Zoom, at least until Omicron runs its course. The current meeting time ... that is, 5:00 PM on the third Wednesday of the month ... presents a problem for some. There were also suggestions to shift to an every other month or an "as needed" schedule. I will send out a Doodle poll to current committee members to see if there are better alternative meeting times.

As to the next, January 19, Transportation Committee meeting. I hope that we can meet at 6:30 PM unless the Doodle poll comes together with a better meeting time.

Topic: City of Salem Public Works is proposing a change to the City code, Chapter 64.025, to insert performance standards for the transportation system when the City considers whether a "major plan amendment" significant or not significant. Currently, the City code does not have performance standards.

City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposal on Monday, January 24, at 6:00 PM.

I will send the materials associated with this proposal to Transportation Committee members. While I have read the material several times, I am uncertain what the proposal does.