



MINUTES WEST SALEM REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday August 3, 2022, 7:30 a.m.
Virtual – [YouTube](#) - Online



1. **OPENING EXERCISES** 7:34 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ROLL CALL: Jeff Miller-Chair, Mark May-Vice-Chair, Ashley Morey, Jeremy Mackay, John Hannam, Jason Staats, Thomas Crozier

Excused: Mark Smith, Samantha Ross

Staff: Tory Banford, Irma Rivera

Guest: Andrea Newton, Katie Anderson, Adrienne Schaefer, Martin Glastra Van Loon, Rahim Abbasi, James Brackenhoff

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: Move to approve the agenda for August 3, 2022, as presented.

Motion by: Board Member MacKay

Seconded by: Board Member May

Action: Agenda for August 3, 2022 approved as presented.

Vote: Aye: Unanimous **MOTION CARRIES**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Move to approve the minutes for May 4, 2022, as presented.

Motion by: Board Member May

Seconded by: Board Member Hannam

Action: Approved the May 4, 2022, minutes as presented.

Vote: Aye: Unanimous **MOTION CARRIES**

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

a. Email comment were submitted by Robert Bierma (attached)

Comments/Questions: Banford, Miller, Mackay, May, Morey

5. **ACTION ITEMS** – N/A

6. **DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS**

a. **Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panel Update** – Katie Anderson, Adrienne Schaefer, Martin Glastra Van Loon, Rahim Abbasi, James Brackenhoff

Comments/Questions: Staats, Crozier, MacKay, Banford, Crozier

b. **Edgewater Partnership, West Salem Business Association, West Salem Neighborhood Association, and other updates** – N/A

c. **Next meeting topics** – N/A

ADJOURNMENT: 9:02 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: September 7, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENT

Hello Tory,

It's been a while since I last reached out. Since then my wife and I have had the joy of having our beautiful baby girl Norah. With that I haven't been as engaged with advocating for Salem's built environment, but with Norah starting daycare I am getting back into it.

I am wanting to advocate for what I see as the top transportation priority in the urban renewal area, the 2nd st bike/pedestrian connection across Wallace. Part of what has prompted me to finally reach back out is that it looks like ODOT is getting close to removing the temporary crossing at 2nd st. This temporary crossing has been such a pleasure to have and be able to use. I wrote to the planning department when it was first put in and asked if there was any way to make sure data was collected about utilization and incidents, but never got a response from them.

What I would like to advocate for is a permanent street level crossing be put in place there. It could even be synchronized to the traffic lights rather than be an on demand flashing beacon as the temporary one is. This would hopefully alleviate concerns about traffic impact, though having used the current crossing probably at least a hundred times I think even it has close to no impact on traffic capacity. I would also suggest that given the amount of people that cross that area of the street anyway, that giving drivers a signal is actually better for everyone, and I would love to compare traffic incidents from before the beacon and after to see if there is a difference. Another factor worth pointing out is that with 2nd street getting its improvements made there will be an even greater temptation for people to cross at that location and we could see more incidents in the future.

I would also like to share how inadequate and unexceptable the current pedestrian/bike route is that goes under the bridge. My wife and I take our daughter downtown in the stoller probably every other weekend. And before the beacon crossing we took the route under the bridge. This was not pleasurable as once winter set in and other campsites were removed people began camping under the bridge. At times it was so full of stuff that we had to move stuff to get our stroller though. They also had a fire going on the concrete path. Most concerning was two incidents where a very large dog lunged at our baby stroller. I will say that I reported this to the cities problem campsite reporting page and asked for someone to follow up with me about it but never got a response and the problem persisted for over a month before we stopped using that route. All this is to say there are some significant safety concerns with that route and the city has not been able to address them.

Let me know if you would like to speak sometime more about my interest in advocating for this project? I would like to request signing up for public comment to speak to the urban renewal advisory committee, and encourage them to look into this project and hopefully recommend it as a priority project for the district. Feel free to reach out with any questions.

In Collaboration,
Robert Bierma