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# *South Central Association of Neighbors*



[www.scansalem.org](http://www.scansalem.org)

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December 13, 2023 - SCAN Monthly Meeting Minutes

Board members present:

Jon Christenson, Christine Chute, Victor Dodier, Brian Hart, Ariel Loveall, Josh Peterson, John Prohodsky, Ron Rubel, Jim Schepke, Brian Sund, Lorrie Walker, Evan West, Mark Wigg

Jeff Schumacher's, Roz Shirack's, and Carol Snyder's absence was excused.

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

President Victor Dodier called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm with a quorum present.

1. The November 2023 meeting minutes were accepted with corrections.
2. Wally Benson was nominated for the SCAN Board by Jon Christenson and the nomination was seconded by John Prohodsky. The SCAN Board unanimously approved Wally as a SCAN Board member.
3. City and County Reports:

- a. Councilor Nordyke

Salem's Urban Renewal Agency approved a development grant for a 105 unit apartment complex at the NW corner of High and Chemeketa Streets which is currently a parking lot. City staff anticipates the developer will request tax breaks in exchange for making 10-20% of the apartments affordable.

City Staff received a grant request for the former Green Thumb flower shop that will be reviewed by the Urban Renewal Board in December.

A 120-unit affordable housing project has been proposed for the site of the former Salem General Hospital which is west of Yaquina Hall. It is anticipated that the City will assist the developer with acquiring and developing the property.

There was a quiz on living wages in Salem. Living wages:

- 1 adult, no children: \$17.39 per hour
- 1 adult, 1 child: \$35.27 “
- 1 adult, 2 children: \$44.46 “
- 1 adult, 3 children: \$59.07 “
  
- 2 adults, no children: \$27.63 “
- 2 adults, 1 child: \$34.93 “
- 2 adults, 2 children: \$40.16 “
- 2 adults, 3 children: \$45.77 “

Note: The living wage for 2 adults is based upon one adult working.

There was another quiz on gun violence in Salem: The questions and answers:

- Salems population in 2022: 179,605
- Number of homicides in Salem in 2022: 5
- Average homicides/year between 2018-2022: 5.8

Gun violence in Salem:

- Gangs commit most gun violence in Salem
- Shootings are concentrated within 5 square miles of northeast Salem
- Nearly 70% of victims and suspects are “known to the criminal justice system” (parole, arrest, felon, etc.)
- Victim and shooter know each other

Revenue Task Force

The revenue task force will have 20-30 public members and neither City Councilors nor the Mayor will be task force members. Task force membership will be composed of people with diverse backgrounds from different geographic areas in Salem. Special interests will be represented. The deadline for task force recommendations will be in July or August of 2024.

New public Library hours in 2024:

Main branch:

- |           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Tuesday   | 10 a.m.-6 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 10 a.m.-6 p.m. |
| Thursday  | 10 a.m.-6 p.m. |
| Friday    | 10 a.m.-5 p.m. |
| Saturday  | 10 a.m.-5 p.m. |

West Salem Branch:

Tuesday	1-6 p.m.
Saturday	12-5 p.m.

Councilor Nordyke is not pleased with the “stealth” nature of reducing library hours. City staff made the decision and presented it to City Council. The library’s 2023-24 budget funds 42 employees. Six employees left over the summer and 3 more left in the fall. Those vacant positions will not be filled. To reduce burnout of the remaining employees, City staff decide to reduce library hours. Several attendees said they felt reducing library hours is short sighted.

Comments about public safety:

- Salem Police does not prioritize civil infractions.
- Vehicle fatalities have doubled.
- Salem Police have 22 unfilled positions.
- Police focus on violent crime and homeless issues.

Given the increase in vehicle and pedestrian fatalities, there is an increased interest in traffic calming. Salem focused on single family developments made possible by increasing car ownership.

Councilor Nordyke would like to see a more transparent, public discussion of the budget and service cuts needed to balance Salem’s future budgets.

#### 4. Spotlight on businesses

The owner of Rhythm Kombucha provided samples of his kombucha. More information can be found on Instagram: @rhythmkombucha.

Sue Wells has a food bank that connects people with sustainable food produced by local farmers.

Yvonne Putze, Executive Director of the Friends of Deepwood, said is a great resource for understanding Salem’s history and she encourages you to visit the museum.

Charlie Espatza organizes a “casual Saturday” bicycle ride that meets at the bottom of the Bush Park Soapbox Derby at 11 am on Saturdays.

#### 5. Neighborhood Concerns

##### Graffiti

Pictures of graffiti in Bush Park that was done on November 11<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup> were shown by Kathy Lingo. The graffiti was on the bathroom by the top of the soapbox derby track and on signs. She feels park department staff and the graffiti removal team are fabulous. The graffiti on the restroom and signs was removed the day it was reported.

She said that graffiti and other destructive actions eat at the community’s social fabric. An example of a destructive action was a man being assaulted in front of his house. She asked

for more funds for graffiti removal and the police department's gang task force. Lorrie Walker said that Salem does not have a gang task force and that two minor California-based gangs have affiliates in Salem.

Graffiti has been seen more often in the past year in SCAN.

Public art discourages tagging. If the occurrence of graffiti is reduced in one area, it is reduced elsewhere. Removing graffiti discourages further tagging.

The Northeast Neighbors neighborhood association has found that dog walking helps reduce violence. Dog walkers see and hear things.

#### Vandalism and safety at Deepwood

Yvonne Putze, Executive Director of the Friends of Deepwood, said the increase in the number of homeless around Deepwood makes her carry mace in her hand and a whistle in her mouth when she goes to and from her car at Deepwood. Homeless people around Deepwood discourage visitors to the museum. It is very discouraging that the homeless are impacting a cultural attraction.

There has been significant vandalism at Deepwood, including plants being stolen. Efforts to reduce vandalism include outdoor lights, motion operated sprinklers, motion operated sound, and cameras. Deepwood would like to make improvements and additions to outdoor lighting, but maintenance and operating costs are preventing them from proceeding.

Deepwood hopes to attract more younger visitors this spring.

Yvonne said that City Park staff is wonderful.

#### Discussion: Murals as graffiti prevention

SCAN has a large artist community that could help with murals. Jon Christenson said mural maintenance should be considered. The Elsinore mural should be repainted every 11 years.

Sacramento has a lot of murals. Examples of those murals are [here](#). Boise also supports public art; examples are [here](#).

Street art is an art form that is unrecognized. According to Lorrie, it has been discussed by the Salem Art Commission. A business in Corvallis lets artists paint on one of its walls.

Brian Hart said he will ask various organizations about their interest in supporting public art.

#### 6. Announcements

A casual bike ride is held every Saturday. Riders meet at bottom of the Bush Park soapbox derby track at 11 am.

## 7. Committee Reports and Chair Report

### a. Land Use Committee

The Land Use Committee did not meet in November. The Committee Chair's report (**Exhibit B**) is attached.

### b. Historic Preservation, Parks, and Gardens Committee

The Historic Preservation, Parks, and Gardens Committee did not meet in November. The Committee Chair's report (**Exhibit C**) is attached.

The Historic Landmarks Commission is reviewing the proposal that SCAN be designated as a Heritage Neighborhood. SESNA, Geant, and Highland neighborhood associations are designated as a Heritage Neighborhood. They will meet on December 21<sup>st</sup> to decide. Victor and Evan will attend.

### c. Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee did not meet in November.

### d. Chair's report

SCAN is a member of Salem's City Club which meets bi-monthly. The January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting's topic is Gen Z and the American Dream.

Victor attended consultant's presentation on the new Fairview park by Zoom in the Fairview development. He reported that he was disappointed by the attendance; there were only three members of the public attending, including himself.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16

**Exhibit A**

**Attendees for December 13, 2023 SCAN Meeting**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>Present</b>
Benson, Wally	<a href="mailto:wkbenson4@gmail.com">wkbenson4@gmail.com</a>	X	Schepcke, Jim	<a href="mailto:jschepcke@comcast.net">jschepcke@comcast.net</a>	X
Christenson, Jon	<a href="mailto:scan.50yrs.1973.2023@gmail.com">scan.50yrs.1973.2023@gmail.com</a>	X	Schumacher, Jeff	<a href="mailto:jeff.schumacher@gmail.com">jeff.schumacher@gmail.com</a>	E
Chute, Christine	<a href="mailto:cachute@gmail.com">cachute@gmail.com</a>	X	Shirack, Roz	<a href="mailto:rozshirack7@gmail.com">rozshirack7@gmail.com</a>	E
Dodier, Victor	<a href="mailto:vidodier@teleport.com">vidodier@teleport.com</a>	X	Sund, Brian	<a href="mailto:sund60@icloud.com">sund60@icloud.com</a>	X
Hart, Brian		X	Snyder, Carol	<a href="mailto:snyder2858@comcast.net">snyder2858@comcast.net</a>	E
Loveall, Ariel	<a href="mailto:oversunoversky@hotmail.com">oversunoversky@hotmail.com</a>	X	Walker, Lorrie	<a href="mailto:dakotalor@msn.com">dakotalor@msn.com</a>	X
Peterson, Josh	<a href="mailto:joshua.g.peterson@gmail.com">joshua.g.peterson@gmail.com</a>	X	West, Evan	<a href="mailto:evanwest714@gmail.com">evanwest714@gmail.com</a>	X
Prohodsky, John	<a href="mailto:johnmpro@gmail.com">johnmpro@gmail.com</a>	X	Wigg, Mark	<a href="mailto:mark_wigg@hotmail.com">mark_wigg@hotmail.com</a>	X
Rubel, Ron	<a href="mailto:ronrubel@comcast.net">ronrubel@comcast.net</a>	X			

**Other Attendees**

Vanessa Nordyke, City Councilor Ward 7
Wally Benson
Carlene Benson
Marcia Kelly
Andy Evans
Yvonne Putze
Ben Froback
Mellisa Bacho
Sue Wells
Jeremy Greenwood
Karen Freeman
Anfrew Hull
L.J. Anderson
Charlie Espatza
Rob Kimmich
Len Lingo
Kathy Lingo
Patti Sieg
Tom Sieg

**Exhibit B**  
**Land Use Committee Report**

The Land Use Committee did not meet in person in November. The only issue the Committee considered was for proposed work at Minto Brown Park.

On Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> the Land Use Committee received a notice from the City of an application for a Class 3 Site Plan Review and Class 2 Adjustment at 2200 Minto Brown Island Road South (Minto Brown Park). The site plan review covered parking lot resurfacing of the existing paved and gravel parking areas and construction of additional paved parking stalls and pedestrian paths to connect to existing park paths, and the adjustment would eliminate the lighting requirement for on-site pedestrian paths to be lighted to a certain level.

Committee members had some concerns about eliminating the lighting requirement and questioned the timing of paving the dog park parking lot. City staff informed us that the dog park lot is slated for paving in 2024 but there was no specific date provided. We also had some communication with the Southwest Association of Neighbors (SWAN) to share our respective comments. On November 22<sup>nd</sup> we email the planner in charge of this land use application with the following comments:

*Hello Bryce,*

*I'm filling in for Roz as chair of SCAN's Land Use Committee. The Committee members are generally in favor of the proposed paving of lots two and three at Minto. I've heard from a few people who are happy to hear the dog park (lot two) is slated for paving sometime in 2024.*

*The Committee does have one general comment about lighting. We would not be opposed to the City installing some non-intrusive lighting around the parking areas and adjacent paths (i.e., light that is directed downward and that does not "pollute" other areas unnecessarily). If there were to be lighting we would like to see it on a timer or other sensor so that it is turning off when the park is closing. There is some concern that the park is open during daylight hours but, as we can see from today's weather, it can still be quite dark out during those hours and we think some lighting could offer safer conditions.*

*Thanks,*

*Jeff Schumacher*

There are no new development applications to discuss.

## Exhibit C

### Historic Preservation, Parks, and Gardens Committee Report

On July 12, 2023, our Board voted to formally request the South Central Association of Neighbors (SCAN) neighborhood be considered for designation as a SALEM HERITAGE NEIGHBORHOOD.

This is an honor and a non-regulatory recognition to celebrate a neighborhood's architectural, cultural and historic contribution to the heritage of the city, Oregon's state capital.

Three neighborhoods in Salem have already received this honor and recognition: SESNA, Grant and Highland.

A minimum threshold is 51% of structures be a half-century or older.

I estimate 75%-82% of the SCAN Neighborhood is within this threshold marker, a neighborhood of significant landmarks, a National Register Historic District, homes of local, state and national significance.

In October 2023, SCAN Historic Preservation, Parks & Gardens Committee reaffirmed this designation should be inclusive, not inclusive to a sector of the SCAN Neighborhood. SCAN is a neighborhood with a diverse heritage of development eras.

#### BEFORE HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

City Staff and the **City Historic Preservation Officer & City Archaeologist Kimberli Fitzgerald AICP/RPA** are recommending to the Salem Landmarks Commission that SCAN be so designated, worthy, following a preliminary review.

Attached is a preliminary draft map of the building age of structures in the SCAN community. Not included in the survey are the Gaiety Hill/Bush's Pasture National Historic District, surveyed in the early 1980s, and a number of individual sites being studied, still to be identified as Heritage contributing.

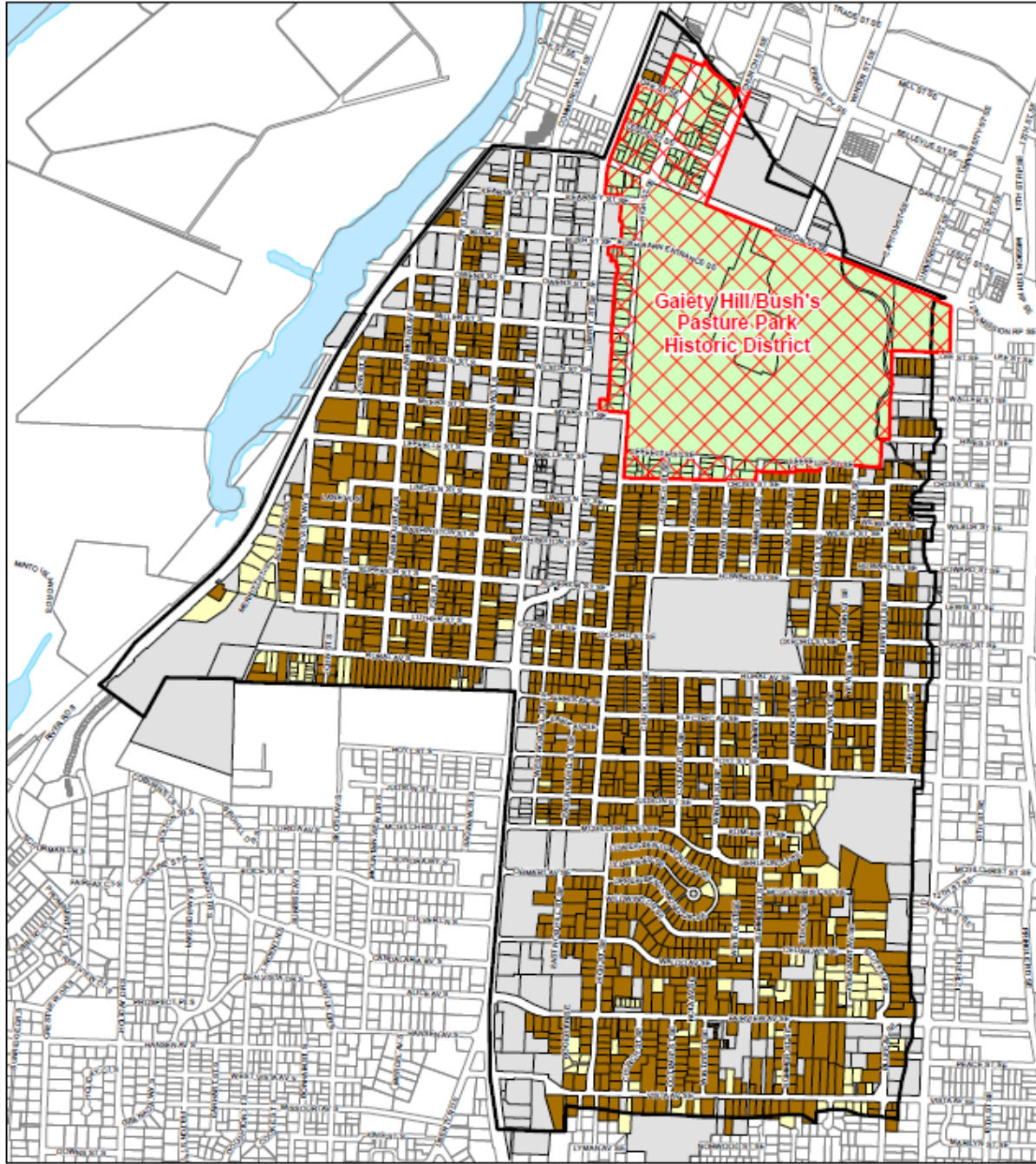
A word of appreciation to Victor Dodier, Evan West, Roz Shirack (Land Use Chair), and the HPPG discussion on October 9, and Ms. Fitzgerald, our City HPO/Archaeologist.

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*Jon Christenson MURP  
Chair, HPPG*



## South Central Association of Neighbors (SCAN) Neighborhood Building Age Summary Information\*



### Legend

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>SCAN Taxlots Not Within Historic District *</b>   | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #d9ead3;"></span> SCAN Taxlots Within Historic District (excluded from analysis totals) |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #808080;"></span> 50 Years Old or Older (1666 taxlots - 73%)    | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 2px solid red; background-color: #ffffcc;"></span> Gaiety Hill/Bush's Pasture Park Historic District                       |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ffffcc;"></span> Less Than 50 Years Old (179 taxlots - 8%)     | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"></span> South Central Association of Neighbors (SCAN) Neighborhood                                       |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Year Constructed - No Value (444 taxlots - 19%) | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffffff;"></span> Taxlots   |

\* Note: Building Age Summary Information is based on "Year Constructed" values within the current Assessor taxlot data and those taxlots within the Historic District are excluded. Some multi-part and single-part taxlots extend beyond the SCAN Neighborhood boundary and are included within the analysis totals.

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