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# *South Central Association of Neighbors*



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January 10, 2024 - SCAN Monthly Meeting Minutes

Board members present:

Wally Benson, Jon Christenson, Christine Chute, Victor Dodier, Ariel Loveall, Josh Peterson, John Prohodsky, Ron Rubel, Jim Scheppke, Jeff Schumacher, Roz Shirack, Brian Sund, Lorrie Walker, Evan West, Mark Wigg

Brian Hart'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 December 2023 meeting minutes were accepted with corrections:
  - a. Josh Peterson was not present at the December meeting.
  - b. Charlie Escondido from "Super Casual Saturday Salem Bike Ride" was incorrectly identified as "Charlie Espatza."

2. City and County Reports:

- a. Deb Romano, Code Enforcement

Deb said she has been working for two months with the owner of the house across from SSHS that has motorcycles parked in front of it to resolve code issues.

A neighbor said a construction vehicle has been parked at the intersection of Saginaw and Meyers streets for a long time. Deb said she would investigate it.

She was asked about the status of the triplex at the corner of Yew and Rural streets whose construction was stopped due to a significant noncompliance with Salem's development code. The front of the house is 1 foot from the property line when it should be 12 feet. The owner is looking at lifting the house off the foundation and moving it back 11 feet. Deb will check on its status.

Deb said leaves should not be raked into the street. Raking leaves in the street causes problems for Public Works. Disposing of leaves is the property owners responsibility.

The hot line for graffiti is 503-371-4264. It can also be reported by sending an email to [graffiti@cityofsalem.net](mailto:graffiti@cityofsalem.net). **HOW TO REPORT SOMETHING TO THE CITY IS AT <https://www.cityofsalem.net/i-want-to/report>.**

### 3. South Salem High School Update

South Salem High School Principal Tara Romine introduced Assistant Principal Nicole Hendricks. In addition to being responsible for discipline, Nicole does neighborhood outreach. She organized a neighborhood outreach activity on Winter Street and at the high school. She mentioned the Link Crew which paired 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade students with 9<sup>th</sup> graders to help them adapt to high school. Nicole can be contacted at (503) 399-3252 or [hendricks\\_nicole\\_l@salemkeiz.k12.or.us](mailto:hendricks_nicole_l@salemkeiz.k12.or.us).

Jim Schepcke ask about traffic around SSSH. Tara said she phoned the school district's facility director and he didn't return her call. Options to improve pedestrian safety around SSSH were grouped in three general categories according to cost designated as \$, \$\$, and \$\$\$ with \$ being the least expensive. They selected the least expensive options which included painting curbs at intersections yellow to indicate a no parking area and placing signs in crosswalks. Lorrie Walker said there is no stop sign where the parking lot exits on to Howard St. and there is no stop sign on Church St. where it intersects with Howard St.

It was mentioned that there is trash on the streets between SSSH and Bush Park.

### 4. Announcements

Victor Dodier said that the day after the meeting there will be a focus group on environmental policy that was looking for people to participate. People will be paid \$50 for participating. Flyers with details were available.

Brian Sund said the Polar Plunge fund raiser for the Special Olympics will be February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Illahee Golf Course swimming pool. Contact Brian on how to donate to the Special Olympics.

Ron Rubel mentioned that there will be a free breakfast at the Convention Center. It's the Center 50+ Cup of Joe fund raiser. Center 50+ gets 40% of its operating budget from the City.

Chris D'Arcy said an [exhibit of John Van Dreal's paintings](#), a SCAN resident, will open Friday January 12<sup>th</sup> at the Salem Art Association's Art Barn.

Lorrie said volunteers are needed for Salem's warming shelters. Below freezing weather is expected Friday through Monday nights. If you want to volunteer at a warming center, you can [volunteer on the ARCHES website](#). She also said hats, gloves, socks, etc. are needed.

Evan West mentioned the SCAN Instagram account is looking for content. He introduced a neighbor, Jared Rogers who works for [Neighbor-to-Neighbor Inc.](#), a free mediation service. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer mediator, there is a training at the end of February.

With curbs at the intersections near SSHS being painted yellow to prevent parking that obscures vision, expect more parking on the streets farther away from SSHS. Roz said neighbors can paint the curb yellow next to their driveway to prevent cars from blocking their driveway. Information on doing this is can be obtained by calling Public Works at (503) 588-6255. Chris D'Arcy said the City provides free paint to people who want to paint the curbs at intersections.

Evan said Ariel has an idea to spruce up SCAN meetings, a canned food drive. Information will be forthcoming in an email. John said we should ask food banks what they need. Lorrie said we should support the [St. Francis shelter](#) which is in SCAN.

Victor congratulated Ariel for her appointment to Salem's [Revenue Task Force](#) and Cheryl Hummon for her appointment to the Citizens Traffic Advisory Commission (CATC).

## 5. Neighborhood Concerns

Reduced public library hours: Jim Schepke said the library has lost 20% of its staff and instead of hiring staff, library hours have been reduced. Salem has the only main library in Oregon that is not open 7 days a week. It's open 5 days a week.

Lack of a left turn signal for traffic on Commercial St. at its intersection with Rural Ave: Brian Sund said neighbors would like to have a left turn signal for traffic on Commercial St. at its intersection with Rural Ave. He also said the duration of the crosswalk signal to cross Commercial St. at Rural Ave. has increased.

People living their car: Susan Harvey, who lives on Howard Court, said there are visitors who live in their cars on Howard Court. This has resulted in increased drug use, garbage in the street, and domestic disputes that degraded into fighting in the street.

A house at the corner of Howard and Yew streets is becoming unsafe. Neighborhood watch, police, and code compliance are aware of the situation. A person was seen in their car passed out with drug paraphernalia visible.

Street unsafe for Seniors: The west side of Fairmont Avenue between Rural Ave. and Luther St. is unsafe for seniors. Its unevenness has caused them to trip and do a face plant. The cause is tree roots buckling the pavement.

## 6. 2024 City of Salem Safer Street Update

Julie Hanson, Salem's Transportation Planning Manager, responded to an issue raised as a neighborhood concern. She said that the City of Salem has grant funding from the State of Oregon to upgrade the traffic signal at Commercial and Rural for a left turn signal. The new signal will be installed in the either 2025-26 or 2026-27 fiscal year.

Salem's [Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan](#) is a residential traffic planning tool. In September the [Safer Streets webpage](#) was launched. It has links that allows anyone to submit a neighborhood traffic safety concern or a pedestrian crossing safety concern. There is minimal funding for projects that increase traffic and pedestrian safety in neighborhoods. Projects are prioritized using criteria in the [Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan](#). The

plan also includes a list of traffic calming measures. Steve Williams, a transportation planner, scores requests. Known problems will be addressed in 2023-24. In 2024-25 citizen-submitted requests will be evaluated and selected projects will be implemented. Criteria for prioritization of requests include speed, traffic volume, and proximity to schools, parks, and apartments, and if the requested improvement is on a family friendly bikeway. \$125,000 has been allocated for Safer Streets projects. The breakdown of 2023-24 speeding is \$40,000 for radar speed monitoring signs (\$10,000 each), \$25,000 for stop signs, and \$60,000 for speedbumps.

Drivers tend to speed down the steep hill between Mission St. and Pringle Creek on High St. The hill's peak is close to where Oak St. intersects High St. Julie said the average speed was 26 mph and the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 30 mph. The City will be installing a radar speed monitoring sign that provides feedback to drivers. Julie provided attendees with two pictures of High Street showing three proposed locations for the speed monitors. She asked for feedback on which of the three proposed locations would be the best location for the sign. Ascertaining which location would be best was delegated to the Transportation Committee.

Julie commented that STOP signs are not a speed control device. If STOP signs don't comply with standards for their location, Salem could be liable when accidents occur at non-conforming STOP signs.

Jim Schepcke asked about lower cost alternatives to asphalt speed bumps. He mentioned speed cushions and rubber speed bumps. Julie said that, over time, they are just as expensive – they don't last as long and will need to be replaced. On collector streets speed cushions are the only way to control speed – they allow emergency vehicles, by spanning the bumps in the road, to travel at speed.

John Prohodsky asked about the ranking of intersections by insurance companies using accidents reported to them. Julie said ODOT has that data because accidents are also reported to ODOT. She said an intersection is ranked by the number of crashes and deaths that occur at it.

Salem will be implementing "20 is Plenty" throughout the city. In addition to changing speed limit signs, there will be an education campaign. She said speed limit signs are posted at the beginning and end of a street. Salem has about 3400 speed limit signs that need to be changed to show the speed limit is 20 mph.

Salem doesn't have funds to support red light speed cameras. The mobile radar speed monitoring signs are showing their age and the City is looking for funds to replace them.

There is \$17 million in the 2022 bond measure for pedestrian safety (safer crossing) improvements. There are three categories for pedestrian safety:

- Pedestrian crossing improvements - \$3.5 million
- Sidewalk replacement / repair - \$7.5 million
- Sidewalk infill (adding sidewalks) - \$6.0 million

The bond measure included funds for six or seven new pedestrian crossings. Selection of projects will be coordinated with Cherriots as will sidewalk infill projects.

It will take 12 to 18 months to revise Salem's Transportation System Plan.

7. Proposed City Council rule changes

The proposed changes to Council rules were mentioned. Several people did not like the proposed rule changes that would prevent a Councilor from bringing up a land use decision. Many land use actions that can be called up by a Councilor today would not be able to be called up if the proposed Council rule changes are adopted. These changes were seen as taking away the voice of the people and giving City planning staff more power while reducing their accountability.

The proposed City Council rule changes were referred to the Land Use Committee for review.

8. Murals in SCAN

John Prohodsky showed several public art (murals) that are in Sacramento, CA and Boise, ID. Several people commented Salem's sign code lacked flexibility and treating murals and other public art as a sign discourages public art projects, i.e. Salem's bureaucracy kills public art projects. Ron Rubel said the Salem Art Association is forming a subsidiary whose mission is to fundraise for public art projects.

Many Fairmont Hill residents would like to have a street mural on Fairmont Hill.

9. Committee Reports and Chair Report

a. Land Use Committee

The Land Use Committee did not meet in December. 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 December. Jon Christenson said SCAN is the fourth heritage neighborhood in Salem and explained the next steps. John Prohodsky asked Jon now that SCAN is recognized as a Heritage Neighborhood, what will be done with the designation and how can we make it work for SCAN. Jon said an inventory of houses will create a foundation that can be springboard to other actions. A review of physical structures will help SCAN create a neighborhood plan.

c. Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee met in December. The Committee Chair's report (**Exhibit C**) is attached.

The Transportation Committee discussed trail connections within SCAN. The trail connections discussed are in the Transportation Committee report.

d. Chair's report

Victor said that SCAN should be looking at projects that can be done in 2024. SCAN's 2023 projects were:

- Tree planting
- Trash pickup
- The street mural

Whenever possible SCAN should coordinate its efforts with neighbors, the City, Friends of Trees, and other organizations.

Salem's quarterly neighborhood association chair's meeting hosted by the City is January 25<sup>th</sup>. Victor said he plans to mention the need for a fireworks ban and an ordinance limiting noise from leaf blowers. A straw vote was taken on a Salem fireworks ban. There were 9 yes votes, 1 no vote and 3 abstentions.

Evan West said he could do a presentation on historic preservation with Kimberly Fitzgerald, Salem's historic preservation manager.

Jim Scheppeke said Quiet Clean Salem is working on a resolution to present to neighborhood associations.

Victor mentioned that Oregon Rep. Tom Andersen and State Sen. Deb Patterson will be having a town hall meeting on Thursday January 25<sup>th</sup> at Loucks Auditorium at the public library between 5 and 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

**Exhibit A**

**Attendees for January 10, 2024 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	Rubel, Ron	<a href="mailto:ronrubel@comcast.net">ronrubel@comcast.net</a>	X
Christenson, Jon	<a href="mailto:scan.50yrs.1973.2023@gmail.com">scan.50yrs.1973.2023@gmail.com</a>	X	Schepcke, Jim	<a href="mailto:jschepcke@comcast.net">jschepcke@comcast.net</a>	X
Chute, Christine	<a href="mailto:cachute@gmail.com">cachute@gmail.com</a>	X	Schumacher, Jeff	<a href="mailto:jeff.schumacher@gmail.com">jeff.schumacher@gmail.com</a>	X
Dodier, Victor	<a href="mailto:vi@dodier.com">vi@dodier.com</a>	X	Shirack, Roz	<a href="mailto:rozshirack7@gmail.com">rozshirack7@gmail.com</a>	X
Hart, Brian	<a href="mailto:brianhart@gmail.com">brianhart@gmail.com</a>	Excused	Sund, Brian	<a href="mailto:sund60@icloud.com">sund60@icloud.com</a>	X
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

**Other Attendees**

Steve Williams, City of Salem Public Works
Deb Romano, Code Enforcement
Kathy Lingo
Len Lingo
Julie Hanson, City of Salem Public Works
Paige Stone
Rachel Scheuermann
Jared Rogers
Patti Seig
Christine Young
Chris D'Arcy
James Leybo
Tara Romine, SSHS
Nicole Hendricks, SSHS

## **Exhibit B**

### **Land Use Committee Report**

The Land Use Committee did not meet in December.

**Partition Application.** An application to divide a 0.47 acre (20,520 sq ft) lot at 995 Fairview Ave SE into two parcels has been submitted, but the City has not yet deemed it complete. The size of the requested two parcels was not stated in the application. The lot is in a single family zone, which now permits duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, townhouses, and cluster housing in addition to single family houses. The Committee will review the application once it is complete.

**Follow-up on Paving Minto Brown Park Parking Lots.** City approved paving parking lot #2 (now gravel) and parking lot #3 (now part gravel). The approval included an adjustment to not provide lights in the parking lots, which are otherwise required for parking lots, because the park closes at sundown. There are currently no lights in any of the three parking lots.

In November the Committee sent comments to staff in favor of the proposed paving and not opposed to some non-intrusive lighting around the parking areas and adjacent paths, if it is on a sensor to turn off when the park closes.

**Potential Council Rule Changes.** At its January 8, 2024, meeting Council has an information-only recommendation for Council rule changes. Proposed changes include removing Council's authority to call-up certain administrative quasi-judicial land use decisions, such as development site plan reviews; and its authority to hear appeals of those types of administrative land use decisions. Proposed changes to not remove call-up or appeal authority for all types of administrative decision.

If Council's call-up and hearing of appeals authority is removed for quasi-judicial land use decisions, the only remedy for neighborhood associations and individuals would be to appeal to LUBA.

This information-only item is the first step in a process that will require Council to adopt a resolution to make rule changes. I'm not sure if a public hearing is required before adopting that resolution.

Submitted by Roz Shirack, Chair

SCAN Land Use Committee



## Exhibit C

### Transportation Committee Report

The SCAN Transportation Committee met in the Fairmount Cottages community room at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, December 20, 2023. Attendees: Victor Dodier, Jim Scheppke, Cheryl Hummon, Lorrie Walker and Mark Wigg

The agenda was:

- City proposal to place radar speed feedback sign on High Street
- "20 is Plenty" generally
- Trails

**Radar speed feedback sign.** Julie Hanson will be at the January 10 SCAN Board meeting to discuss the City's safer street implementation, including a speed feedback sign slated for High Street. It is being funded by the Vision Zero grant that was announced on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

We discussed some questions about the relationship between the Vision Zero grant and the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan (NTMP) and the map tool for submitting traffic safety concerns:

- Traffic safety concerns have been submitted in SCAN for High Street, Cross Street, and Rural Avenue. Most concern traffic speed and suggest speed humps / bumps / tables. None have been evaluated by the City.
- There are at least two STOP sign requests, including the intersection of High and Leslie. These have not been evaluated either.
- No suggested solution involved a speed feedback sign.
- How did the Vision Zero grant fit with the NTMP.

We noted that the NTMP does not mention either Vision Zero or "20 is Plenty".

Cheryl Hummon observed that traffic count tubes were out on High Street at the foot of the hill. Did we know the results?

*[After the meeting, Victor emailed Kevin Hottmann, Salem's Traffic Engineer. The City conducted traffic count / speed study from Oct. 30 through Nov. 3 on High Street just north of the intersection with Leslie Street. The posted speed is 25 mph; the average speed was between 26 mph and 27 mph; the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was just over 30 mph.]*

**Trails.** We discussed trail connections within SCAN. These included:

- **John-Hoyt multiuse path** through the cemeteries. You may recall that this project was discussed at length when it was thought that a connection could be made inexpensively. However, the City determined a low cost connection through Pioneer Cemetery could be made. Lorrie noted that there was, and may still be, strong opposition from residents on the one block section of John St. to any connection that would increase foot traffic on John St.

- **Connection between corner of Mission & High** and the walking path in Bush's Pasture Park that runs diagonally from Bush Street through the trees to the sidewalk along Mission.
- **A multiuse path to Minto Brown** from downtown along the sewer access road west of the railroad tracks.
- **A path / connection** on the private road (apartment driveway) from Ratcliff to Fred Meyer on Commercial S.
- **Change the routing of bike lane** on Pringle Rd. from Pringle north of McGilchrist to McGilchrist west to the intersection with 13<sup>th</sup> Street. This would avoid the undeveloped section (no curb, gutter, sidewalk) along the garages on this section of Pringle Rd. Note that this project is outside SCAN in Morningside and SESNA.

The list of trail connections should be discussed further by SCAN Board members.

#### **Other Matters.**

Cheryl Hummon has been appointed to the Citizens Traffic Advisory Committee (CTAC). CTAC meetings overlap SCAN Board meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. However, CTAC has not met in several months.

Lorrie mentioned that the east parking lot on the Howard Street side of SSSH does not have a STOP sign. Most drivers stop before proceeding from the parking lot onto Howard Street. However, some zip out at speed. Perhaps, the parking lot should have a STOP sign, like the STOP signs from the parking lot onto Winter and from the parking lot on the south side of the school onto Rural.

Submitted

Victor Dodier

Chair, SCAN Transportation Committee