



Meetings are open to all  
Neighbors & Businesses  
[www.salemswan.org](http://www.salemswan.org)

**Meeting Notes**  
June 6th 2023, 6:30pm

Location: Westminster  
Presbyterian Church.

## **SWAN June 6th, 2023.**

**Welcome – Ted Burney, SWAN Chair** Introduction of Board members.

*Ted Burney –Chair P*

*Allison Houck -Co-Chair P*

*John Lattimer- Land Use Chair*

*Pat Norman, Parks Committee Chair-P*

*Carol Grimwood -Board Member, Watershed & Land Use Team P*

*Becky Miner-Board Member, Past Chair P*

*Ken Freeman-Secretary/Treasurer P*

*William Dixon-Board member-P*

*Debbie Miller- Board member- P*

### **Announcements: Ted Burney, SWAN Chair**

*Welcome to Westminster Presbyterian Church on Liberty Street South.*

*Welcome to our City Councilors and Guests.*

*Thank you to Robin Dalke, CFM, Development Services Operation Manager, City of Salem, Public Works Department.*

*Chris French, Our invited guest for June, has asked for another time in the future to come and present. September?*

*Our July meeting will be on the 11th, rather than the 4th.*

*Our August meeting will be in conjunction with the Salem Neighborhood Night Out at Nelson Park.*

**Sgt Andrew MacFerron.**

*Salem Neighborhood Night Out in August. Requests for guests are open. Let us know who you might want to hear from.*

*It's Summer: Pedestrian safety. Be aware! Eye contact.*

*Q: Is every corner a crosswalk. A: yes*

*Q: Pedestrian access to park. A: yes*

*Q: Gunfire? Possibly along Homestead Rd. A: we can give some attention to: Please report this as it happens.*

*Q: Graffiti in South Salem? A: no info, but will report back.*

*Q: WSB? A: We are not aware of that.*

*Q: Graffiti cover up paint: A: Lt. Debbie Aguilar. You can pick up paint from PD? WSB: West side boys?*

*Q: High Street and Leslie street bicycle incident between DEA officer and death of a bicyclist: A: The investigation is in the hands of the Keizer Police Department and Marion County. District attorney. We cannot discuss. It is an ongoing investigation.*

### **City Council Update - Councilor Nishioka: Ward Two:**

#### *Overview of Council Priorities*

- *Responding to our sheltering crisis*
- *Planning for our future*
- *Engaging our community*
- *Sustaining Infrastructure*
- *Budget and Revenue*

#### *Updates on Homeless / Housing*

- *The Navigation Center is open. I have not received any updates.*

#### *Committee and Meeting Updates*

- *Airport Advisory and Airport Steering Committee – Things are going well.*
- *Budget Meetings and Work Sessions*
- *Salem In Motion*
- *Salem Public Arts Commission meeting – my motion on allowing murals on 3-dimensional permanent structures pasted.*
- *Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan*
- *I toured the Willow Lake Wastewater treatment facility.*
- *The Sedcor meeting with an economist (soft-landing recession)*
- *Salem, Keizer, and Marion County Joint meeting*
- *Legislative Committee meeting*
- *Code Enforcement meetings*

*Some in our community have received calls asking residents to participate in a Bottled Water or Air Quality Survey with caller ID showing a City of Salem phone number. These calls are not originating from the City of Salem. Please be careful in what you share with unknown people over the phone. If you receive a call like this and are unsure whether it is a legitimate call from the City of Salem:*

- 1. Ask for the caller's name and department.*
- 2. Hang up the phone.*
- 3. Look up the City of Salem's phone number independently or from [www.cityofsalem.net](http://www.cityofsalem.net).*

***Vanessa Nordyke, City Councilor, Ward Seven,***

*Updates on homeless and houseless*

*Services at Yaquina Hall: we have a new partner.*

*Church in the Park. Doing great work.*

*Kate Swann: Riverfront amphitheater manager. We are looking ahead to Riverfront Park being a big draw for the City.*

*Holman Hotel is open*

*The Nordstrom property moving along. Apartments are being built.*

***Nishioka: Youth center housing on Turner Road.***

*City of Salem customer service center: one stop shop for everything.*

*Camping in public spaces.*

*McGilchrist rebuild. It has become a \$50 million, one Mile project. Includes major sewer work and railroad crossing issues.*

*Budget: we have a deficit of about 11 million for the General Fund budget. (A full budget update and summary of recent budget notes can be found in a budget appendix, attached to this document.)*

*Options: Employee tax? The challenges are Oregon measure 5 and 50 restricting property tax revenues.*

*Q: How are we going to see by way of ROI? Q: What would a successful outcome look like? Q: How do we get there?*

***Nishioka: Less people on the streets. A: We can correlate saving lives when the fire department can get to calls in 5.5 minutes: the FD right now does this 60% of the time. We'd live to get that to 80%. That takes money.***

**Nordyke:** 1) A reduction in EDP (Emotionally Distressed Person) calls would help. 2) PIT count. How many people are homeless on a given day. 3) fire department example. If you're not working, you're not paying this tax.

Other options.

For those interested. We hear some Glass Birds are to be hidden in Salem's Parks: Similar to Glass floats hidden at the beach.

- Weathers Street Park from June 1 to 30, at 4188 Weathers St. NE
- Woodmansee Park from July 1-31, at 4629 Sunnyside Rd SE
- Orchard Heights Park from August 1-31, at 1165 Orchard Heights Rd NW
- Northgate Park from September 1-30, at 3575 Fairhaven Ave NE

**May Minutes approval.**

SWAN Board Quorum.

Motion Made to approve May 2nd SWAN board meeting minutes as is.

Motion seconded.

All in Favor; (8)

Against; (0)

Motion Carried,

SWAN May minutes approved.

**Land Use: John Lattimer, chair:** (reported by Ted Burney) Updates on Land Use and project status.

- Elimination of Minimum Off street parking requirements. It's here.
- Salem Keizer Area Transit Study - SKATS five year plan. We are looking forward to hearing from Cherriots as to what public transit looks like in the years ahead.

**Parks update: Pat Norman, Chair**

- Parks update

Candelaria Reservoir. We have a new boss in the city. The city is interested. Parks and rec is in support. Parks planning has rejected the consultant plan. Parks plans to do this internally. The plan is to use the south end of the park. We are thinking nature stuff.

Q: Who keeps it up? A: joint venture. A: We are open for ideas:

Concerns about it being a mess.

**Community updates:**

Newsletter: We want stories. What is happening in your area?

Concern for Croisan Creek Road, traffic, possible overweight vehicles and road erosion.

Traffic speed data. Acquisition via mobile radar. Radar - we maintain a list to place it.

We have about a years worth of requests.

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Q: Traffic electronic speed signs: How much are they? A: \$2,500-3,000 per unit.

Q: Any possibility of posting a wildlife crossing/awareness sign? A: Let's ask.

Debbie Miller: Swan logo. New logo. We have two possible logos. We will share in July.

In Freedom's footsteps: Juneteenth. Balis family. We will walk from Willamette Heritage Center. 10-12 noon.

Q: Question about Resuming remote meeting capability: A: (Secretary Freeman) We have asked the city for a city managed, neighborhood association e-mail address so we can have a means for a succession plan. The SWAN Zoom account and any SWAN social media accounts would then be attached to this, so we can have a long term, sustainable solution.

Q: SWAN. Facebook page. A: Yes.

Q: Nextdoor. A: Yes.

Drill down on the Salem PD. Lexisnexis. Community crime map.

<https://www.communitycrimemap.com/?address=salem,OR>

We have Eight new turkey chicks in the neighborhood!

The possibility of an Employee payroll tax is a conversation we are having right now.

Planning department suggestions for Salem Heights Road. The recommendations and plan goes to the city council on the 24th of July to have the Salem Heights Rd. plan placed on the City Transportation System Plan.

Meeting adjourned.

**NOTE: Please E-mail extensive neighborhood concerns or questions and additional agenda items prior to the meeting so they can be accommodated. For more information contact**

**Ken Freeman, SWAN Sec/Treas at [kkfreeman.489@gmail.com](mailto:kkfreeman.489@gmail.com)**

Sign up for SWAN emails: [www.cityofsalem.net/neighbor](http://www.cityofsalem.net/neighbor)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84699949764?pwd=Y0pBdmRZVm5XS2VQZVBqT1VqU2Rqdz09>

Budget Appendix: (Submitted to SWAN by Councilor Nishioka)

The General Fund supports services such as fire, police, parks, recreation, library, land use planning and zoning, enforcement of codes or rules to maintain neighborhood

*livability, social services that help those in need, municipal court, and other services that provide a general citywide benefit.*

*Budget Deficit - How We Got Here:*

- *State Measures 5 and 50 have limited tax revenue for all Oregon cities.*
- *Salem has grown by 26,000—the size of a small town over the last decade.*
- *The need for and cost of services has increased, but revenue to provide services has not kept up.*
- *The city has been cutting services and staff since 2008.*
- *Oregon State Government properties do not provide property tax revenue.*

*Is the City Doing All It Can?*

- *Our independent consulting team, Moss Adams, reviewed the city services, our 2024 budget, and the five-year projected budget. They confirmed we have done an extraordinary job maintaining City services with the decreased funding.*
- *They compared Salem with similar cities and determined that Salem is severely understaffed.*
- *They reviewed what other Oregon cities have done or will do for their needed revenue.*

*The Options Before Us:*

- *Increase the Operations fee by \$5.50 for residential customers, \$4.40 for each multi-family unit, and \$26.51 for each industrial, commercial, or institutional customer beginning with the August 2023 invoice.*
  - *With the new software, there will be opportunities to improve the equity of operation fees for industrial, commercial, and institutional customers. (Current software is 23 years old)*
  - *Council has asked that low-income people apply for a waiver of the Operations Fee. Currently, one must meet two of three, Senior, Handicapped, and Low-Income.*
- *Employee-Paid Payroll Tax*
  - *69,000 people come to Salem to work. They utilize City services, such as police, fire, and parks.*
  - *Employee Payroll Tax is not subject to compression as a levy would.*
  - *Minimum wage earners would not be subject to the tax. This would continue as the minimum wage goes up.*

*What Will Happen If We Don't Do Anything:*

- *If the City cannot raise money within the next two years, then the City will need to reduce services.*
- *My analogy is: The City is a skeleton; there is nothing to cut, and the only option is amputation. This amputation would include the following.*
- *A \$19 million reduction to services in the General Fund would be the equivalent of decreasing services by the following:*
  - *Reduce 15-20 police officers.*
  - *Reducing the SOS team.*
  - *Closing of two fire stations.*
  - *Closing the West Salem library.*
  - *Reducing hours of operation at the main facility.*
  - *Reducing our long-range planning capacity.*
  - *Reducing communications capacity.*
  - *Reducing code enforcement and general government support.*
  - *Scaling back our municipal court operations.*
  - *Eliminating any general fund support for housing and homeless response programs.*
  - *Eliminating general fund support for the Navigation Center.*