
South Central Association of Neighbors



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February 14, 2024 - SCAN Monthly Meeting Minutes

Board members present:

Wally Benson, Jon Christenson, Christine Chute, Victor Dodier, Brian Hart, Ariel Loveall, Ron Rubel, Jim Schepke, Roz Shirack, Brian Sund, Lorrie Walker, Evan West, and Mark Wigg

Josh Peterson, John Prohodsky and Jeff Schumacher were 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. He asked for a volunteer to keep minutes in John Prohodsky's absence. Christine Chute volunteered.

1. The January 2024 meeting minutes were accepted.

2. City Councilor Reports

a. Councilor Nordyke reported:

1. She congratulated the Salem Fire Department on its performance. SFD has seen an increase of 13.3% in the number of calls from 2011 to 2023 with no increase in the number of on duty firefighters (43). In that same period, the population of Salem has increased from 156,100 to 176,900. Most firefighter calls are medical, not related to fires.
2. HB 4072 would allocate about \$5 million in state funds to the City of Salem to help pay for police and fire services (in lieu of taxes). The bill has bipartisan support. *[03/03 update: It appears that HB 4072 will remain in the Revenue Committee at the end of the 2024 session, despite strong support from the Salem area delegation.]*
3. The City Council cut 33 positions from the budget, including positions from the library, police, fire, and code enforcement at its February 12th meeting. The 33 positions were vacant; 20 of the 33 had been approved in the 2023-24 budget but were never filled. She emphasized that this was a difficult vote. She expressed her concern about cuts to library staffing. When asked about alternatives, Councilor Nordyke indicated that Council was given a list of positions to cut rather than a menu of options.
4. The City gave Northwest Human Services \$135,000 to help buy an outreach van with which to provide medical services in the field. This van is not a CAHOOTS-style mobile crisis unit, but does provide a partial solution. In its first five months (Feb.1 – Jun. 30), the van served 417 people.
5. Salem is having good success in providing affordable housing thanks primarily to the creativity and hard work of Salem's Housing Authority Staff. 60 new units are opening this week at Sequoia Crossing.
6. The City signed a MOU with Salem Baseball LLC to work toward using Willamette University's baseball fields for a summer league. Councilor Nordyke called this project a "no brainer." Artificial turf extends playing time; baseball can't be played in the mud.

7. In the latest snow/ice storm, city crews treated about 3000 miles of roadway with sand and/or de-icer.
- b. Councilor Nishioka reported on two motions that City Council passed:
1. Councilor Nishioka moved to allow temporary art that will not go into the city's permanent collection and will not need to be maintained by the city. It would open opportunities for art in the parks.
 2. Councilor Stapleton requested that staff study ways to improve pedestrian safety in the downtown core. It is part of the Vision Zero effort. An important part of the study will be looking at ways to give pedestrians a few seconds lead-time to cross the street before the lights turn.

3. Announcements

Brian Sund thanked those who participated or supported the Special Olympics Oregon's Polar Plunge.

Victor Dodier encouraged people who could afford it to consider donating their kicker refunds to the Common School Fund. Christine Chute countered, making the point that government functions should not depend on charity.

Chris D'Arcy noted that there is a boat on a trailer parked on Saginaw Street near Bush School. It has been there for quite a while.

Lorrie Walker reported that the house near Yew and Rural is in the process of being moved back from Yew.

Molly Dinsdale reported that young people are congregating on Winter Street for several hours during the school day. Trash and cigarette butts on the street are increasing. There appears to be drug dealing activity on or near Winter Street. She was given contact information for the appropriate person at South Salem High School. Neighbors complained that SSHS administration has not been responsive to complaints about students in the recent past.

Victor commented that there was another outbreak of graffiti in Bush Park. Graffiti and vandalism in Bush Park, camping, drug use, etc. have been on the increase. We will have an extended discussion at the March meeting. Lynn Takata, chair of the Northeast Neighborhood Association (NEN), will join us to talk about how NEN has dealt with similar problems in and around Englewood Park.

Jim Scheppke commented that Nicole Hendricks, assistant principal at SSHS, had asked that neighbors call when they observe students causing problems. Lorrie Walker made similar comments.

Roz Shirack noted that a white sedan has been seen near the corner of Wilbur and Cottage. It may be used for drug dealing. If you see it, please call the police non-emergency number (503-588-6123) and reference case number 23-18478. We need more eyes on the street.

4. Heritage Neighborhood Designation

Kimberli Fitzgerald and Jake Morris gave an update on SCAN's designation as Salem's fourth Heritage Neighborhood. This is not a regulatory project, but rather an opportunity for the city and neighbors to determine what the neighborhood wants to do to identify what is historically significant in the neighborhood. City staff will work with SCAN for two years to develop whatever products the neighborhood wants. Other historic neighborhoods have added sign toppers identifying the neighborhood, architectural guides, and a photograph-filled calendar. Next, an inventory of SCAN's properties will be conducted, maybe by volunteers, maybe by others. The neighborhood defines what it sees as important; city staff and the Landmarks Commission are working for the neighborhood.

Fitzgerald had examples of materials developed by Grant Neighborhood (an architectural guide) and SESNA (a calendar). Highland is using the process to re-brand the neighborhood: “At Home in Highland”

The first step is to identify someone to be the contact with the city. The chair assigned the Historic Preservation, Parks & Gardens committee to work with the city on this project.

SCAN identified the whole neighborhood as its Heritage Neighborhood. The majority of building stock in SCAN, at least from property records, is more than 50 years old. That will have to be verified.

In Q&A, Fitzgerald indicated there are usually 5-10 volunteers working on Heritage Neighborhood process. As examples, volunteers would divide up the neighborhood for the survey. Other volunteers might be interested in the utility box wraps.

About sign toppers ... the criteria set for sign toppers by the City Engineer. The program pays for up to 10.

Jon Christianson asked about the “At Home in Highland.” Fitzgerald said that Highland, as Grant and SESNA, had initially wanted to do an architectural guide. But, changed direction as part of its re-branding effort.

5. Quiet Clean Salem

Jim Scheppke talked briefly about “Quiet Clean Salem.” It is part of a national movement to phase out gasoline powered tools. There are similar groups in Eugene and Portland. He presented information about the noise and pollution created by gasoline-powered leaf blowers. He noted that these tools do not have the pollution control equipment that is on cars. California Air Resource Board found that one hour of use of a gas powered leaf blower produces as much CO2 emissions as driving a car from Portland to San Diego.

There is a positive return on investment for converting from gasoline-powered to electric tools. Many cities and some states are adopting bans or restrictions on these machines. Some states are providing rebates for electric tools. Portland has restricted sound levels, but the ordinance is not well enforced. Salem Public Works is phasing out gasoline-powered machines. Portland is moving toward a seasonal use restriction ... only fall leaf season.

What can we do individually? Leave the leaves where they fall. There are professional landscape companies in Salem that use electric tools. You can request that companies use only electric tools.

MOTION: Jim Scheppke moved the adoption of a resolution (**Exhibit B - Resolution**) related to gasoline-powered leaf blowers. The motion was seconded by Lorrie Walker. The motion passed: 12 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention.

6. Willamette University’s baseball stadium expansion plan

Luke Emmanuel from Salem Baseball LLC reported on the status of the proposed project to improve / expand Willamette’s baseball stadium into Bush’s Pasture Park and the softball stadium located on 14th Street by adding field turf. Luke provided a concept drawing (**Exhibit C**) and information about an upcoming Open House (Feb. 21st at WU’s Admissions Office) to discuss the project (**Exhibit D**).

The proposal has developed out of conversation with Willamette, with City staff and with neighbors. He talked about reducing the number of light poles from 4 to 3 and locating one of the poles further away from

the tree canopy. The architect is shrinking how far the security fence is from the ballpark from 30 feet to 15 feet.

Emanuel encouraged interested persons to attend the Open House. Salem Baseball LLC has signed the non-binding MOU with the City of Salem and Willamette University. Salem Baseball has selected a general contractor. They have asked the Oregon Legislature for money to fund this project.

Victor noted that he had forwarded the email notice of the Open House to Board members. In addition, he would forward it to Bush Park neighbors.

Question: Is this a done deal? No, it is not. Emanuel emphasized that WU owns the stadium. If it had the resources, it could install field turf on its own.

Question: Each of the Salem High Schools has its own field. How would high schools be scheduled? It would be challenging but the school district could do it. The issue is that the 6 Salem schools do not have turf and the fields cannot be played when it is wet.

Question: Parking? They have been talking to Salem Hospital. There are WU's parking lots.

Question: Doesn't WU's field already have synthetic turf? Only around home plate and on the pitcher's mound. The remainder is dirt and natural grass. It cannot be played on when it is wet.

Question: How would the expansion affect the camas and the oak trees?

Chair Dodier referred the project to the Land Use, HPPG, and Transportation Committees for study.

7. Committee Reports and Chair Report

a. Land Use Committee

The Committee's report (**Exhibit E**) is attached. The Committee asked the SCAN board to endorse their comments to City Council about the city's proposed rule amendments (also contained in Exhibit E).

MOTION: The Board voted 12-0 (no abstentions) to endorse the Committee's comments.

b. Historic Preservation, Parks, and Gardens Committee

The Committee's January and February reports (**Exhibit F**) are attached.

c. Transportation Committee

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

The Transportation Committee recommended advising the city to install a radar speed indicator just north of the intersection of High and Leslie (northwest corner) so that drivers coming down the hill would be advised of their speed.

MOTION: A motion to adopt the committee's recommended placement of the speed indicator passed 11-1 (with no abstentions).

d. Chair's report

Victor encouraged SCAN board members and neighbors to attend the presentation on community violence reduction sponsored by the Salem Reporter on February 15. He noted that Chief Womack appears to be putting more emphasis on community assistance than he did in his presentation to the earlier work session.

Victor said there was lots of discussion of Salem's noise ordinance at the Neighborhood Chairs meeting, which is not being enforced. The chairs expressed concerns about fireworks, leaf blowers, and cars that are specifically altered to backfire to sound like gunfire. These types of offenses must be observed by an officer before the offenders can be cited; this happens only rarely.

Victor commented that board members have suggested a number of projects. To summarize:

- *Another street mural within SCAN boundary. There's definite interest esp. one located in the Fairmount Hill neighborhood.*
- *Arbor Day work party. The city is celebrating April as Arbor month. We will need to scout for sites for new trees or shrubs.*
- *A public mural ... similar to those in other communities highlighted in John's presentation.*
- *SCAN-wide garage sale*
- *One or two more cleanups*
- *Ice cream social on Neighborhood Night*
- *A SCAN booth at some of the plant sales coming up at Deepwood and Bush*
- *"Adopt a Street" ... maybe some part of High Street*

8. Website payment

Victor reported that payment for SCANSalem.org is \$192/year and that payment is due. It is paid out of SCAN's Communications Fund. He asked for a motion.

MOTION: Lorrie Walker moved to pay the bill; Wally Benson seconded the motion. Motion passed 12-0 (with no abstentions).

Meeting adjourned at 8:40.

South Central Association of Neighbors



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EXHIBIT B

South Central Association of Neighbors Endorsement of Quiet Clean Salem Mission to Phase Out Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

Adopted: February 14, 2024

Whereas the South Central Salem neighborhood is an area prized for its natural areas and gardens, quiet streets, and walkability as well as a thriving, family-friendly business district,

And whereas the South Central Association of Neighbors is dedicated to enhancing livability and quality of life in the neighborhood,

And whereas the use of gas-powered leaf blowers is antithetical to these qualities by:

1. Creating high intensity, intrusive noise that disturbs residents, passersby, and business patrons often violating Salem's noise ordinance, and can lead to permanent hearing loss for the operator.
2. Creating health risks by the emission of air pollutants including formaldehyde, smog-forming chemicals, and benzines which can cause cancer, heart and lung disease.
3. Requiring fossil fuels (gas and oil) for operation and thereby emitting carbon dioxide, which contributes to climate change.

Therefore, be it resolved that the South Central Association of Neighbors endorses the mission of Quiet Clean Salem, a group that is working to promote alternatives to gas-powered leaf blowers, including battery-operated blowers and manual tools, as well as encouraging a healthier and simpler approach to lawn and garden care that reduces the need for gas-powered equipment.

Victor Dodier, President
South Central Association of Neighbors



February 14, 2024

**RE: Willamette University
Baseball and Softball Facility Improvements
Applicant Neighborhood Meeting**

BACKGROUND

Willamette University is planning upgrades to its existing baseball and softball facilities. The baseball facility is Spec Keene Stadium and John Lewis Field, constructed in 1989. The softball facility is Willamette University Softball Field, constructed in 1999.

THE PROJECT

Willamette University plans to replace the baseball field's existing synthetic turf infield, field underdrainage, and stormwater conveyance as well as improve fencing, lighting, protective netting, pedestrian circulation, and viewing areas. The university also plans to replace the softball field's existing natural grass field with synthetic turf, update the field's drainage system and stormwater conveyance, and add lighting, protective netting, plaza hardscaping, and fencing.

THE SITES

The baseball facility is south of campus, within Bush's Pasture Park, and extends to Mission Street SE. The facility is at 730 Mission St. SE and on tax lot 073W27D000200. The softball facility is east of campus near Bush Elementary School and Aldrich Park and is bounded by 14th Street SE to the east and a railroad to the west. The facility is at 605 14th St. SE and on tax lots 073W26CB02300 and 073W26CB02403. Both properties are within the Salem city limits and urban growth boundary, and the project includes land use approvals in advance of development.

Meeting Date: February 21, 2024
Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Location: Office of Admissions / WISH House
Willamette University
970 Mill St.
Salem, OR 97301
Directions: In Central Salem east of Winter Street on Mill Street. See attached map.

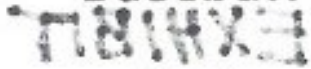
Light refreshments will be provided, and a preliminary site plan will be available for your review. Willamette University representatives will be available to answer questions about the project. We look forward to seeing you on February 21, 2024, at the Office of Admissions Building / WISH House.

For more information, contact Willamette University Athletics at 503-370-6420 or athletics@willamette.edu.

EXHIBIT
D

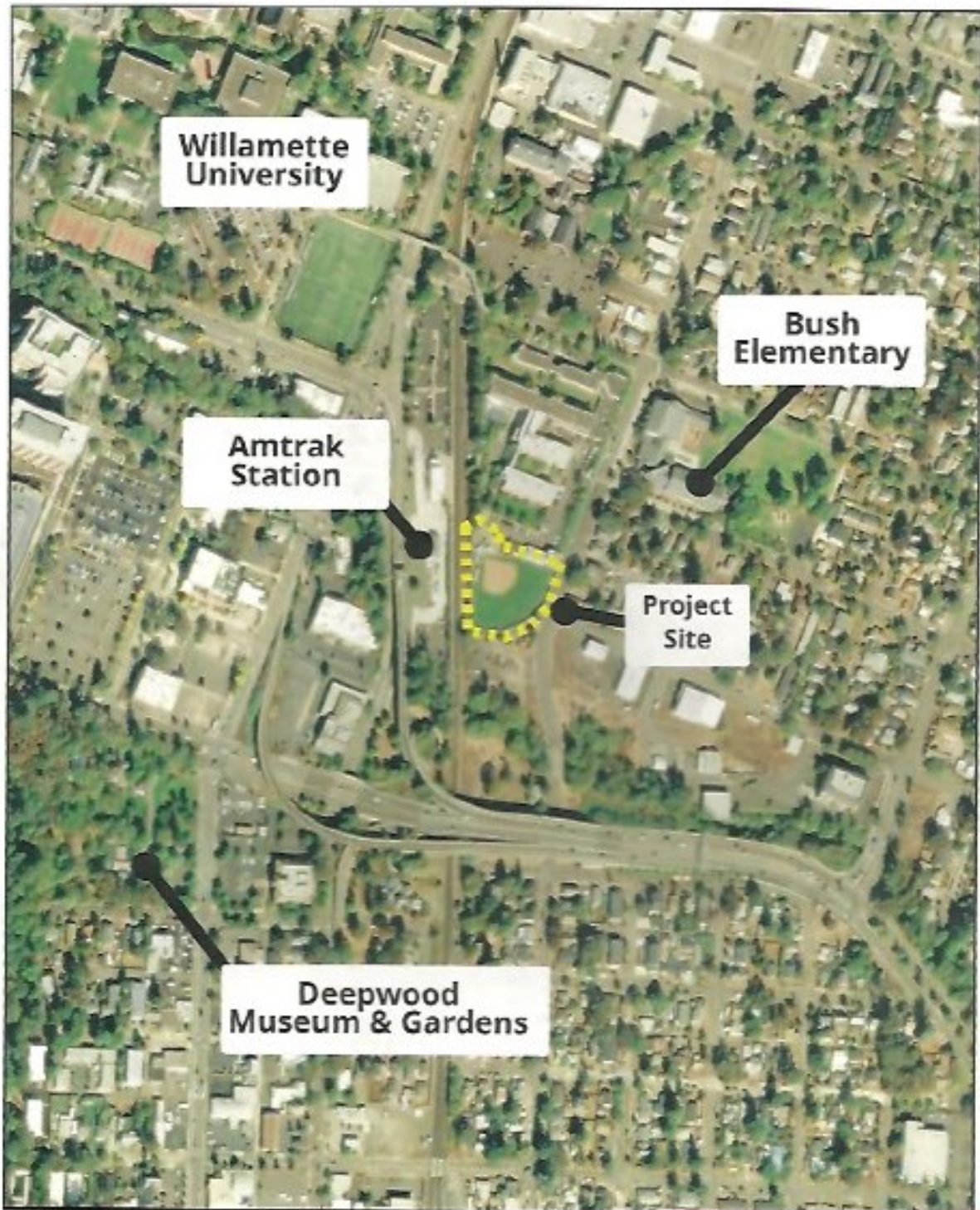


Baseball Location



GCS:WGS 1983 UTM
PCS: StatePlane Oregon South FIPS 3507 feet Int'l 0



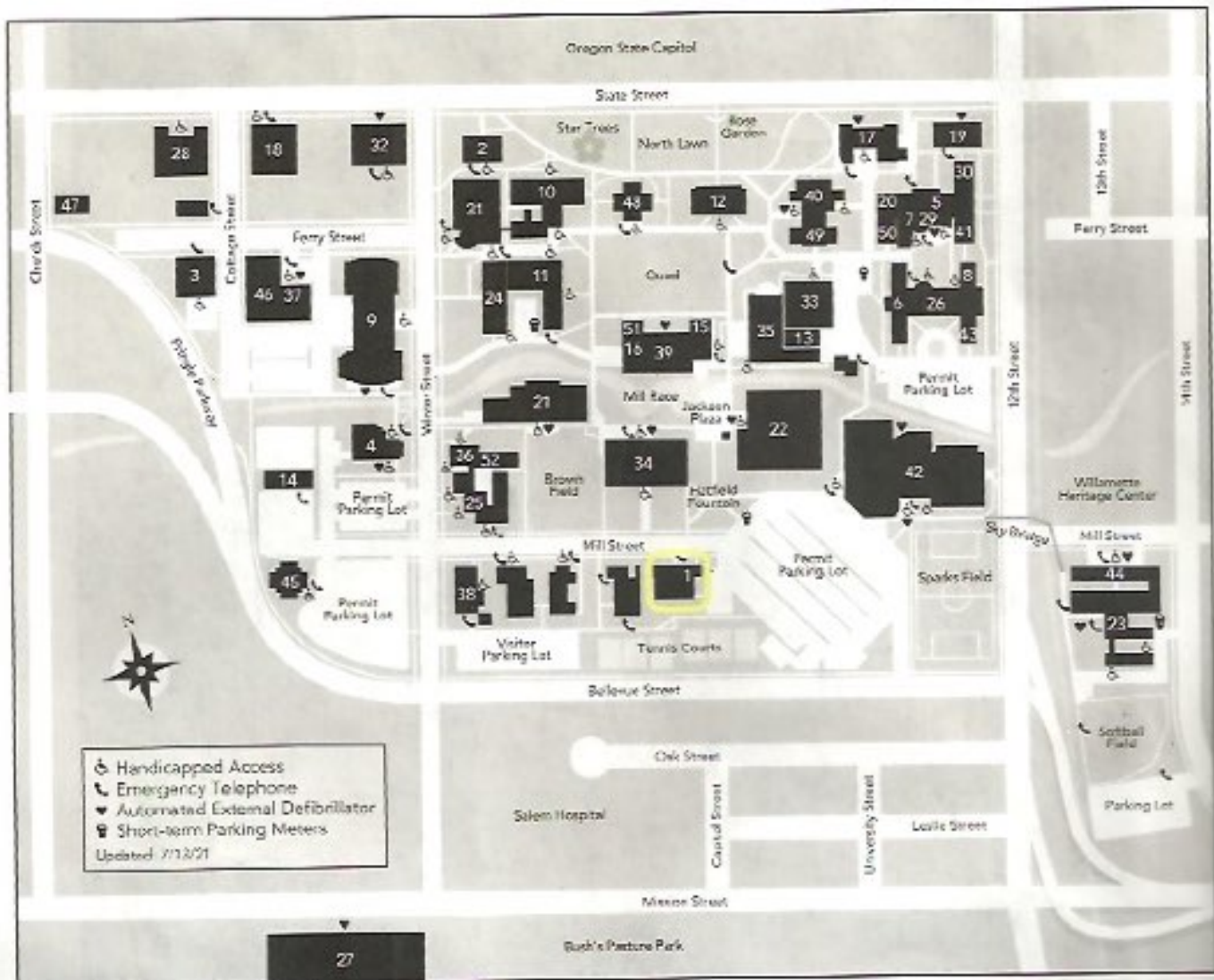


Softball Location

GCS: NAD 1983 NAD
PCS: StatePlane Oregon South FIPS 2002 Feet Int



WILLAMETTE BEARCATS



- 1 Admission Office (undergraduate)
- 2 Art Building
- 3 Atkinson Annex
- 4 Atkinson Graduate School of Management (Seeley O. Mudd Building)
- 5 Baxter Hall
- 6 Belknap Hall
- 7 Bishop Wellness Center (Student Health)
- 8 Cascadia House
- 9 College of Law (Truman Wesley Collins Legal Center)
- 10 Collins Science Center
- 11 Doney Hall
- 12 Eaton Hall
- 13 Events and Facilities Maintenance Annex
- 14 Facilities Maintenance
- 15 Fine Arts East
- 16 Fine Arts West
- 17 Ford Hall
- 18 Halle Ford Museum of Art
- 19 Gatke Hall

- 20 Global Learning Center (including International Education)
- 21 Goudy Commons
- 22 Mark O. Hatfield Library
- 23 Kaneko Commons
- 24 Lausanne Hall
- 25 Lee House
- 26 Matthews Hall
- 27 McCulloch Stadium and Athletics Complex
- 28 Micah Building
- 29 Montag Center
- 30 Northwood Hall
- 31 Olin Science Center
- 32 Oregon Civic Justice Center
- 33 M. Lee Pelton Theatre
- 34 Putnam University Center
- 35 Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center (including Hudson Hall)
- 36 Renjan Center (Student Center for Equity and Empowerment)
- 37 Service Center (including Campus Safety)

- 38 Shepard House (Claremont School of Theology)
- 39 Smith Auditorium
- 40 Smullin Hall
- 41 Southwood Hall
- 42 Lestle J. Sparks Center
- 43 Terra House
- 44 Tokyo International University of America
- 45 University Apartments
- 46 University Services Building
- 47 University Services Annex
- 48 Waller Hall
- 49 Walton Hall
- 50 Westwood Hall
- 51 Willamette Academy
- 53 York House

900 State Street, Salem, OR 97301
 University Information 503-370-6300
 willamette.edu

EXHIBIT E

SCAN Land Use Committee Report

For SCAN meeting February 14, 2024

The Land Use Committee met January 18, 2024. Present were Ariel, Lorrie, Evan, John P., Mark, and Roz.

Agenda included:

City Council's Proposed Rule Changes

The Committee did not have concerns about most of the proposed rule changes, except for removing Council's authority to call-up or to conduct a requested public hearing of an administrative quasi-judicial land use decision. The Committee unanimously approved sending comments to Council for its January 22 meeting. See attached comments dated January 19.

Next step: Council public hearing on proposed changes at its March 25, 2024, meeting.

Note: The Committee requests SCAN Board adoption of the attached comments at its March 13 meeting for submittal to the public hearing.

Safe Street Projects

The Committee made several recommendations to the SCAN Transportation Committee for Safe Street Projects. These needs came to our attention when we reviewed multi-housing site plans on these blocks:

1) 1100 block of Howard St SE. This block of Howard St between Berry St and its dead-end at Pringle Creek has no sidewalks, curbs or storm water drainage on either side of the street. The street is paved with asphalt in poor condition. This block has several multi-family buildings on each side of the street, including St. Francis Shelter apartments with its recent addition of a stand-alone 5-unit apartment building.

2) 1900 block of Yew St SE. This block of Yew St between Rural Ave SE and Oxford St SE has no sidewalks, curbs or storm water drainage on either side of the street. The street is paved with asphalt in poor condition. There are two multi-family buildings on this block. This is one block east of South Salem High School and gets school-generated traffic, both vehicle and pedestrian.

3) Flashing lights at new pedestrian crossings on Commercial St SE. Both sides of Commercial St have been rezoned as mixed-use to encourage residential and commercial development. As more multi-family dwellings are added along Commercial St, it will be necessary to provide safe pedestrian crossings more frequently along Commercial St. A new 45-unit multi-family building (named Cozy Residential) has already gone in at Commercial and Bush St.; and the 3-story (32,000 sq ft) Hunsaker office building will soon be built at Commercial and Kearney St, both of which will generate more pedestrian traffic.

Given the added densification from Cozy Residential and the Hunsaker office building south of Mission St, a flashing light pedestrian crossing may be needed now at Commercial St and Bush St. Also, Bush St is the logical pedestrian access into Bush Park from the west side of Commercial St.

Currently there are traffic signals on Commercial St every 3 blocks from Mission St south to Myers St, *but no traffic signals for 6 blocks from Myers St to Rural Ave*. From Rural Ave south to Vista Ave, there are traffic signals about every 3 blocks. If and when more multi-family is located along Commercial St, we would like to see flashing light pedestrian crossings added at 2-block intervals along that 6-block stretch of Commercial St that has no traffic lights, ie at Lincoln St and at Superior St.

We are awaiting feedback from the Transportation Committee.

Submitted by Roz Shirack, Chair

SCAN Land Use Committee

Attached: 1/19/24 email to Council with bcc to SCAN Board

To: City Council

The SCAN Land Use Committee opposes changes to Council's authority to call-up or hear appeals of quasi-judicial land use decisions. We request Council pull those changes from the package of proposed rule changes at its January 22, 2024, meeting (agenda item 5.b.). Instead of eliminating all call-ups, Council can decline a call-up, which requires a majority vote, if Council feels the administrative decision was truly nondiscretionary and Council has no legal ability to change it.

Reasons for retaining call-up and hearing authorities:

- Retain citizens' ability to appeal to its elected representatives before needing to appeal to LUBA.

Eliminating call ups and appeals removes all citizen access to Council to discuss a quasi-judicial issue. Currently councilors are advised to not listen to or discuss development applications because it risks ex parte contact and their impartiality, if the issue goes to Council later on a call-up, appeal, or LUBA remand. If Council removes its call-up or appeals authority, a LUBA remand is still a possibility. Therefore, citizens would have no means to communicate with Council about a development application either before or after an administrative decision is made. Earlier Council oversight *on some cases* can save time and money for everyone.

One of the most critical reasons for the City Council to retain its call up ability is the necessity of the Council to correct code discrepancy. When SCAN was engaged in the question of a proposed short-term rental at 795 Church Street, a discrepancy between the utilized code (SRC 240) and the appropriate and applicable code (SRC 231) was identified by SCAN. Because the case was not called up to Council, this discrepancy has yet to be remedied. If call up ability is eliminated, it may never be rectified outside of LUBA.

- Even "clear and objective" approval criteria have elements of discretion, especially when a developer is arguing for a variance to those criteria. The majority of quasi-judicial applications that SCAN reviews are Class III Site Plan Reviews, many of which include housing. Those approval criteria do allow a degree of discretion by staff.
- "Needed Housing" is ALL housing (per ORS 197A.018: "housing by affordability level"... "type, characteristics and location that is necessary to accommodate the city's allocated housing need over the 20-year planning period...") That is an overly broad category to exclude from Council oversight.
- Call up authority is still needed. A call up can be an attempt by one party to obstruct a development or get a more favorable decision; or it can be to correct an error in a decision. They are not the same. Council needs to retain the ability to learn about errors in decisions, misapplication of policy, and unintended impacts of policy in a manner that is not filtered.

Thank you for your consideration.

Roz Shirack, Chair

SCAN Land Use Committee

JANUARY 2024

HISTORIC PRESERVATION, PARKS & GARDENS UPDATES

* NO PENDING APPLICATIONS FOR HISTORIC PROPERTY DESIGN REVIEWS IN DECEMBER 2023 OR JANUARY 2024

* BUSH PASTURE'S PARK: NO DAMAGE TO TREES OR TREE CANOPY FROM THE SNOW/ICE STORM.

SPIF.



* FUNDING UNDER CONSIDERATION BY PARK OPERATIONS FOR A MUTT MITT DISPENSER FOR FAIRMOUNT PARK AND ASSISTANCE TO REMOVE INVASIVE SPECIES ON THE PARK'S WEST EDGE. MUTT MITT SUGGESTED BY BONNIE HEITSH, B.L.ARCH; CONTINUATION OF INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL WORK SUGGESTED BY SCAN BOARD MEMBER MARK WIGG.

[Handwritten signature]

JON CHRISTENSON, MURP CHR., HPPG COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 2024

→ HISTORIC PRESERVATION, PARKS & GARDENS
[UPDATES]

* HPPG COMMITTEE MEETING ON MONDAY FEB 5. NO ACTION ITEMS: NO PENDING APPLICATIONS OR CASE REVIEWS FOR HISTORIC PROPERTIES IN SCAN. | GENERAL DISCUSSION: SCAN HERITAGE NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGNATION; MONITORING ACTIVITIES IN BUSH'S PASTURE PARK; PERSONNEL ADDITION AT CITY IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION: PR. JAKE MORRIS, PLANNER III OPPORTUNITY ALSO TO SEE: HIGH QUALITY MID-CENTURY (1963) ARCHITECTURE. FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, 935 HIGH ST. SE., IN GAILEY HILL/BPP NHD.

* SPIF FUNDING APPROVED. FEB 7. FOR A MUTTMITT IN FAIRMOUNT PARK (NEAR RESTROOMS) \$3500. AND ASSISTANCE FOR INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL \$5000. TOTAL \$8500.



JON CHRISTENSON, MURP
CHR., HPPG COMMITTEE
CELL TEXT: 503-400-4731

Exhibit G

Transportation Committee Report

The SCAN Transportation Committee met at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, January 17, 2023 by Zoom due to the freezing weather. Attendees: Victor Dodier, Jim Scheppeke, Cheryl Hummon, John Prohodsky, Brian Sund and Mark Wigg.

The agenda was:

- Review the 3 optional sites for a speed feedback sign on High Street in the vicinity of Leslie Street and make a recommendation to the board.
- Followup on the concept of a left-turn signal at Rural and Commercial.
- Discuss potential pedestrian safety projects that SCAN might recommend to the City for funding from the Safety/Livability portion of the 2022 bonds.
- Other items suggested by committee members

Radar speed feedback sign. Julie Hanson attended the January 10 SCAN Board meeting to discuss the City's safer street implementation, including a speed feedback sign slated for High Street. She had presented three options for the sign's location shown in the pictures below and asked for feed back.

Neighborhood Traffic Management, 2024 Proposed Projects – High Street SE, Southbound

Possible Speed Radar Feedback Sign location (2 of 3 possible locations): High Street SE, southbound near Leslie Street SE



Note: Staff needs to confirm that there is sufficient room to install sign on southwest corner of intersection with Leslie St. SE

Neighborhood Traffic Management, 2024 Proposed Projects – High Street SE, Southbound

Possible Speed Radar Feedback Sign location (1 of 3 possible locations): High Street SE, southbound south of Oak St. SE



The location at the top of the hill (red "X" in the picture immediately above) made no sense to committee members. Drivers tend to travel most slowly at the top of the hill and to speed up as they go down it.

The location south of the High/Leslie intersection (red "X" at the corner) was not desirable either. This section of High is often congested. There is parking on both sides of the street, many driveways and, frequently, cars queued for the High/Mission traffic light.

The location just north of the High/Leslie intersection (red "X" pointed to by arrow) would be the best one of the three presented. Drivers would be traveling the fastest down the hill. Committee members thought that the sign should be moved farther north and up the hill, but how far it could be moved is limited by the tree canopy because the sign is solar powered. Members were also concerned that the shrubs on the west side of High might obscure the sign. Visibility did not seem to be a problem when seen in Google street view. Members wanted to check in person, though.

Several committee members (Cheryl, Jim, John, Victor) subsequently checked the committee's choice in person. They confirmed it.

Motion: The SCAN Board recommends that the radar speed feedback sign be located north of the High / Leslie intersection.

Left turn signal at Commercial / Rural intersection. Several neighbors were concerned about left turns into the Fairmount Hill neighborhood against southbound traffic on Commercial. The turn is especially problematic during the PM peak travel time. Julie Hanson had indicated that the City had a project to upgrade the traffic signal at Commercial and Rural.

Victor looked up the project. It is project key number 22697 in the SKATS Transportation Improvement Plan. The project is budgeted at about \$1.5 million. Julie Hanson had confirmed by email that the City has requested an additional \$800,000. Preliminary engineering work is scheduled for 2024 with construction scheduled in 2027.

Would the improvement include the left turns from Rural onto Commercial? It is not clear from the project description. The ensuing discussion made it clear that there is interest having protected left turns in all four directions.

Our option at this point is to keep an eye on this project.

Projects for the Safety/Livability portion of the 2022 bonds. Victor introduced the topic by referencing the dot maps of sidewalk improvement projects. There are a number of dots within the SCAN neighborhood.

The pedestrian crossing dot map has a little information about each of the requests. Some were added by Anthony Gamallo, the City staffer who presented the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan to the SCAN board last year. He has since left City employment.

Victor shared his thought that we add the project identified by the DKS study of traffic around SSHS. There was general agreement. However, Brian objected to the bike lanes project that was included in the DKS study. There would be a lot of push back due to the number of parking places removed.

We discussed missing segments of sidewalk within SCAN. Mark noted that neighborhood streets could be designed for slow moving traffic where sidewalks might not be needed.

Brian and Jim commented that we have plenty of sidewalk projects within SCAN. Cheryl noted that the some of the "blue dots" on the sidewalk project map have more information; otherwise, it appears that the dots represent issues identified on some other system GIS layer.

The submission form for the sidewalk / pedestrian crossing does not have provision for NA endorsement. We will simply add project requests to the list.

Our homework assignment was to be out and about to identify potential projects to be added to the map.

After the Jan. 17th meeting, Victor noted that the segments of Summer, Winter, Capitol and Church between Fairview and Vista do not have sidewalks. He asked Cheryl if there was an interest in that neighborhood. She responded that there is not.

The Land Use committee noted that the 1100 block of Howard by the St. Francis Family Shelter does not have sidewalks on either side of the street. Victor added the request for sidewalk infill to the map.

The Land Use committee also noted a request for an infill request in the 1900 block of Yew. There are two multi-family buildings on this block. This is one block east of South Salem High School and gets school-generated traffic. There is an infill project requested for this location.

Further, the Land Use committee thought that a crossing was needed at Commercial / Bush. The Cozy Residential, a new 45-unit multi-family building, will be built at this location. In addition, the 32,000 sq. ft. Hunsaker building is slated for the block north. Both developments will generate more pedestrian traffic. Bush St is the logical pedestrian access into Bush Park from the west side of Commercial St. In addition, ped crossing at this location will support further mixed use development in this corridor.

Victor added this request plus a request for a crossing at Commercial and Kearney where there are already problems with pedestrians walking through stopped traffic.

Other Matters

We talked briefly about speed cushions. Mark proposed that we team with the Safe Routes to Schools program to install a speed cushion or two in the area around SSSHS. Victor commented that speed cushions are a possible solution listed in the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan. The usual City response is that there is no money to install them. Mark's proposal would set that response aside.

Cheryl wanted to clarify what is meant by a "speed cushion." Sometimes the term is applied to asphalt humps that are much too expensive. Jim said that rubber speed cushions could be purchased inexpensively.

Mark will get together with Beth S. (?) from the Safe Routes to Schools program to nail down a proposal.

Submitted

Victor Dodier

Chair, SCAN Transportation Committee