



WSNA General Meeting Minutes Thursday March 7, 2024

Location: Roth's at 1130 Wallace Road NW, Salem OR 97304
(New Room please look for sign indicating the room we are in)

Meeting Called to Order: 6:30 PM
Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 PM

Board Members Present: Chair–Mike Freitas, Vice-Chair– Sara Campos, Secretary– Drew Strayer, Treasurer Beverly Frietas, EM Easterly, Nick Fortey, Pamela Garland, Steve Anderson
Residents Present: 17

AGENDA

Call meeting to order: Mike.
Reading of equity statement > Sara:
Any additions to agenda from the body: None
Approval of agenda: Mike
Minutes: Mike Reviewed onscreen
Any corrections or additions to minutes: None
Approval of minutes: Approved

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Salem Police Department:** Not Present
- **Guest: DJ Vincent, Church at the Park (C@P) – Micro shelter Communities**
Slide Presentation with copies of newsletter provided.
C@P exists to create a community of love for all members of community especially unsheltered members of the community.
Collaborative, relationship-driven navigation.
Team members in West Salem 5 days a week – trained as community health workers.
Encouraging people in the dignity of work and 50% of those working for C@P have experience being houseless and can serve as real peer mentors.

Families average 5 months and single adults' approach 8-10 months.
Providing and learning more about Safe Parking sites.
Micro shelters (3 sites) "safe, sanitary & supportive" - lots of neighbor responses surprised by the cleanliness and quiet.
Village of Hope supported by OHCS – Oregon Housing & Community Services – recommended them for funding in the housing bill – it passed and headed to the Governor's desk. Seeking \$2mil for sustainability through June 2025.
CCS is a family site – including multi-generational households.
Case management support at all micro shelter sites.

Funds provided by Homeless Alliance and contracted/budgeted by MWVHA through June 2025.
Turner Rd Youth Micro shelter site.
More challenging to find public support for permanent housing, so encourage reconnection with family and working relationships.
Looking ahead to a 40-person village for people 55+ (It will take another 3-5yrs to get a new site like Sequoia Crossings). Public-private partnership, Medicaid funding makes it cheaper to operate by C@P.

C@P Q&A

Site for 55+: Yes, under contract and pre-application in place with City.

Data on returning from permanent housing back to C@P sites/unsheltered? data is fresh as it has just started being tracked by the Homeless Alliance. Early results are hard to tell.

Are they tracking where people are coming from? Moss-Adams just did a study for the city. It is fascinating. Report suggests City needs to coordinate with Homeless Alliance with a data dashboard on outcomes including last stable zip code before entering unsheltered status...and where are they getting placed in positive settings.

How do all the pieces work together? (C@P, Homeless Alliance, MWVHA, MWVCAP): increased communications and stable interactions and work at different locations and involvement of partners coordinated around the table instead of in isolation.

Re: Wallace Marine Park populations – has there been a change over the years in whether that population has improved?: During sweeps and disruptions, (interrupting unsanitary and unsafe conditions and crime need interrupted) That movement does cause changes for the populations there – I don't know how to compare as we are moving people out of parks as we provide interventions.

What organizations are serving more often at Wallace Marine Park: Everyday C@P team is present, Community Action Agency and UGM play significant parts as individuals walk across bridge to obtain services.

How do businesses engage in this work? The businesses that support C@P are indicative of community support, but not the only ones – though the chamber did not support the payroll task.

- **Councilor**

- o Ward 1: Councilor Varney:

Gun violence presentation last night.

Shooter at Bush Park today. Locked down S Salem HS.

Closures on McGilcrest coming, Paving at Minto-Brown Parking areas, Bond Project on buffered bike lanes on 12th in 2027, Marine Drive ROW purchases in prep and work to begin in 2029, Wallace Internal Workgroup (internal workgroup) to conclude or end sheltering and camping at Wallace Marine Park – 3rd mtg tomorrow (Councilor Gwynn, Hoy, Stapleton, Varney, City employees), Successes in recent weeks: 25 camps had moved to another sustainable option, SOS team from Public Works and HST team from Police Dept have communicated options and provide referrals and connections with other services. Redwood, Sequoia and *** are providing supported housing though that transition can be challenging – they find greater success with those who spent time at micro shelter communities first. Fed funded housing is a great resource for those who qualify, Council work session on 2/20. Resources for upload provided.

City Council 2/20 mtg: Councilor Varney proposed study on bicycle and pedestrian safety following another pedestrian death downtown – funded by urban renewal funds. Supplemental Budget voted on – eliminates vacant positions to save \$4.6 million. Next budget will be voted on end of June. Will vote on ambulance operator model for emergency services – designating and funding Salem Fire Dept. instead of private contractors. This would enable Medicaid and other federal funding as cost savings, but other costs will be incurred. Counselor will come back with additional information at next mtg. (Staffing costs, liability, ambulance cost and degrade, waiting times, which funds for this,)

Cuts to West Salem Library hours already in effect, and positions unfilled.

Anything from the State of Oregon on funding to city. Councilor heard it did not move forward.

Any word on adding a 3rd lane to Center St. Bridge during seismic upgrades?

Wallace Marine Park Master Plan – what happens to the “camping area” that is undeveloped after people move out. September 2003 may be the most recent plan. (Includes discussion of camping there 100-150 people at that time.) Councilor Varney suggested walking

trails and a bike path. A full plan would require investment in grand plan for the park in addition to the full City master plan. Report on Electronic Traffic Enforcement Plan will be submitted for website, as well.

o Ward 1: Not Present

• **Revenue Committee Update: Katie Ciancetta**

Shared about resource committee is using for discussions, ideas people have provided. (Bicycle reg., gas tax, etc.) The packet is on the City of Salem website. Meetings are open – town halls beginning in April – on location and virtual. The aim is to provide solutions to the City in June. Town Halls will share info with Public on progress and options. Q-how will the proposals support increased infrastructure in West Salem? How can residents engage in the process? How will proposals be decided upon?

• **Cherriots: Joaquin Lara Midkiff**

Appreciate the agency supported by access to public transportation.

Cherriots is electrifying its fleet. Charging stations in the ground at various locations. Security at Transportation Centers being improved – cameras and personnel. Para-transit fleet, door-to-door, van service is increasing serving elderly community and people with disabilities. Prospecting for a south Salem transportation center.

Youth ridership - under 18 ride free and has increased 160% (not sure of numbers – based on hourly ridership). Physical confrontations with Cherriots employees and security are most typically involving youth. The City determines where stops are sited and funded.

The map of services in West Salem has been redrawn numerous times – I'd like to hear from residents where they think service should be extended. Joaquin invites residents to reach out with questions and conversations. Electric buses cost more but are cheaper to operate over the lifespan of the bus. 20 buses will cover about 16% of the fleet. Encouraged to engage equity measures and access to grocery stores, and how long to wait for the bus. Wait times in West Salem are shorter than in other parts of the city.

• **Salem Seekers: Pamela Garland (as individual)**

(insert slide)

Seeking support for program this year: \$450 (\$405 pays the production costs, \$45 advertising; Last year supported by Salem Leadership Foundation) Proposal discussed at Executive Board Mtg with Pamela recused from mtg.

Aiming for accessible West Salem Parks: Eola Ridge Park, West Salem High School, Orchard Heights (site last year)

Salem Seekers presented a request to sponsor their program in West Salem and asked for a donation of 450\$.

Motion: \$450 should be spent on this project with NA voting support. (EM Easterly Moved, Seconded, unanimous approval) Funds can come out of City fund for NA.

• **Proposed Changes to testimony on land use issues: Steve Anderson (Delayed fill next mtg)**

• **Chair Announcements:** None

• **Committee Reports:** Will be uploaded to website.
Does anyone have any questions for a committee chair? None

• **Welcoming** > Robert Garcia:

• **Communication** > Maureen Zwicker: (Suggestion from floor to cite WSNA website in each article)

• **Houseless** > Drew Strayer: Updates from the City:

- We've been grateful to Salem Housing Authority, who opened the Sequoia Crossing supportive housing complex and are drawing residents from emergency shelters. People are more stable to enter housing because of the emergency shelter, staff report, and their opening is freeing up spaces at the emergency shelters. By the end of it, 60 people will have been housed.
- We've been at work at Wallace Marine Park – we have been working person by person having conversations about alternative options, and concluding sheltering along the berm, most recently, and this week, over by Courthouse Athletic Club. Some of the people relocated to other unsheltered outdoor places, and we had a couple of people that reunified with family after a long time, and others who went into emergency shelter. Our next area of focus is the drive up toward the softball complex. I can't remember if I told you – Salem Housing Authority held a resource fair at Wallace called "share the love" that brought in several community partners, and we plan to do that quarterly. One partnership we are looking for is a veterinarian who might be interested in providing pet services such as spaying and neutering or quick in the field checkups – if anyone has a relationship or this ability

I would love to connect them to Salem Housing Authority. We are finding a decent number of dogs and cats accompanying people experiencing homelessness.

- If the Governor signs the housing and homelessness bill from the short legislative session, we are optimistic that funds will be provided to the Village of Hope micro-shelter for an additional year; the city didn't have any more funds for operations, and we had been concerned it would close June 30. With this, then, the three micro-shelters now would all have state funds to extend their operations another year.
- Warming activated the last two nights, with the Salem Warming Network.

▪ **Transportation** > Nick Fortey:

▪ **Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed** > E.M Easterly:

▪ **Parks** > Pamela Garland:

▪ **Treasurer** > Beverly Frietas: Report presented with comments about how the City funds civic participation.

▪ **Land Use** > Steve Anderson:

Next Meeting

Next scheduled meeting will be held on April 4, 2024 at 6:30 PM at Capitol Manor.

Go to main entrance under portico – straight into auditorium. Use “Event Parking”.

Equity Statement

The WSNA (West Salem Neighborhood Association) is committed to reducing equity gaps, increasing access for all, and creating a safe community for everyone.

Safety and belonging for all West Salem residents is vital. We must be inclusive in conducting business and promoting policies that protect age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, religion, and other individual identities.

The association commits to integrating equity into the fabric of our association and the delivery of public services in pursuit of equal, fair, and just outcomes for all.