
South Central Association of Neighbors



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March 13, 2024 - SCAN Monthly Meeting Minutes

Board members present:

Wally Benson, Jon Christenson, Victor Dodier, Brian Hart, Ariel Loveall, John Prohodsky, Ron Rubel, Jim Schepke, Jeff Schumacher, Roz Shirack, Brian Sund, Lorrie Walker, Evan West

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

President Victor Dodier called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm with a quorum present.

1. The February 2024 meeting minutes were accepted without corrections.
2. City and County Reports:

Given recent events, Councilors Nishioka and Nordyke graciously decided not to give their presentations.

3. Community dialog about the March 7th shooting in Bush's Pasture Park and the pre-dawn arrest at 760 Rural Avenue SE on March 12th.

Deputy Chief Agular, Deputy Chief for Investigations, said she would provide an update on the Rural Ave. investigation and shooting at Bush's Pasture Park.

Based upon many months of reports of drug activity and suspects with prior criminal history, Salem's SWAT Team executed warrants at 5:00 am on March 12th out of concern for students at SSSHS which is across the street. This was the culmination of a long, many months investigation. Wilson E. Voorhis was arrested on 27 counts, including parole violations, drug related offences, possessing stolen property, and weapons violations. His parole officer said the parole violations will result in a minimum of 60 months in prison. Other charges are expected to result in additional prison time.

Since the investigation of the shooting in Bush Park in ongoing investigation, additional information beyond what is in press releases cannot be shared. Once a person is arrested, the case belongs to the District Attorney. Questions about the shootings in Bush's Park cannot be answered in order to preserve the integrity of the case.

Deputy Chief Agular took questions from the audience.

Note: The comments, questions, and answers below capture are not a word-for-word transcription of what was said.

Q: A person said she knows of two gang beat downs in the Park. Then the person asked, "are you aware of them?"

A: No.

Q: A person asked how can we prevent future violence in the Park? Why don't we have a gang team or SROs (School; Resource Officers)?

A: Salem's [Police Department](#) has a strong relationship with the schools, shares information, and coordinates with them. Salem's Strategic Investigations Unit (SIU) is working with the DEA, FBI, ATF, Marshalls, and others to solve crimes. The SIU's focus is on identifying the next and future shooters and victims.

Salem has a [Community Violence Reduction Initiative](#) (CVRI) which has a community component and is looking to partner with community organizations. Data has shown that 18- to 34-year-old males are most like to be the shooters, and the victims of, gun violence. Ben McBride of Oakland, CA, who has worked on several violence reduction initiatives, is assisting the police with the Community Violence Reduction Initiative. The police department wants to be proactive in reducing violence.

Q: Are you concerned about retaliation?

A: The police hear about real and imagined threats. We work with the school district, FBI, and others to investigate threats. We are not aware of any threats.

Q: I have heard about text messages, etc. saying something was going to happen last Thursday (March 7th). Was the police department aware of them?

A: Yes. We thought it was going to happen downtown where we positioned resources, including 9 officers. The school district's safety manager, Chris Baldrige, started to hear rumblings but lacked good, viable information about location.

Q: What will happen to house on Rural?

A: Salem's code compliance officers are aware of the house. Since the house is owned, not rented, it is more difficult to resolve compliance issues. An option is to declare it a nuisance property. Several complaints in 30 days are needed to start the process. The legal process to force the sale of the house or cleanup and repair it is long. If neighbors see suspected illegal activity, they should report to Salem police department.

Q: There are green tags on the house's front door. What do the green tags say (don't want to walk up the front door to read them) and how long do they need to stay up?

A: Red tags on a property indicate it is uninhabitable. A red tag on a vehicle indicates that the vehicle will be towed. They have 5 days to remove a vehicle before it is towed. I (DC Agular) don't know what a green tag is for.

Q: How can a felon live across from a school?

A: The only restrictions are for sex offenders. Parole officers may place restrictions on where a parolee may live. Child abusers and people who sell drugs to minors may have conditions imposed by judges on where they may live.

Q: Were charges filed on "shots fired" incident on February 26th?

A: No charges were filed on that. There was no evidence (bullets, casings, etc) to help identify who fired the shots. Sometimes, shooters are not smart and put photos of themselves in the act on social media. We can charge them based on the photos.

Q: Can the house be seized by federal civil forfeiture?

A: No. There is no evidence that the house was bought with illegally generated funds.

Q: How many stolen cars were located around the house?

A: I do not know.

Q: Is there an uptick in graffiti at Bush Park?

A: Not known. Graffiti is a symptom. We want to get rid of graffiti as soon as possible. Salem has a two person graffiti (removal) team which is down one person. Volunteers help remove graffiti.

SKSD Superintendent Andrea Castañeda took a number of questions related to South Salem High School and its students.

Q: Can we close the South Salem High School campus for lunch? Are you aware of a fight between students on Church Street the day before?

A: She said she is sorry that people had to go through the shooting and murder at Bush Park. She felt a change after the shooting.

An open campus lunch is not an open campus. South Salem High School (SSHS) has lots of doors which are not locked. Students come and go through the day. And, students will sneak out. The district will not close doors or campus. A tiny fraction of students causes most of the problems. Schools do a lot, but can't do everything.

Q: Will we eventually learn that not all of those who were involved in the shooting are SSHS students?

A: Students from other schools may be involved. I want to draw a distinction between open campus lunch and leaving school.

Q: When do students frequent Bush Park?

A: Mostly around the lunch.

Q: Why are students not in school?

A: We do not know. It is a question across the whole country.

Q: Can the park be closed to SSHS students during school hours?

A: We can set very clear expectations about the park.

Q: Can truant students be picked up?

A: Yes. But, our focus is teaching. We can't run a shuttle; we lack the resources.

Q: Are there consequences for truant students?

A: Yes.

Q: Once there was staff that encouraged students to leave Bush Park. Why isn't that being done today?

A: Lack of staff.

Q: Why can't campus be closed?

A: There is no school in my experience that students cannot leave. The school district is looking for positive actions that benefit students and the community. On Friday, I dealt with hoaxes, and Monday I met with the community.

Iton Udosenata, Deputy Superintendent, Secondary, made the following comments and answered questions.

Q: Have you done anything?

A: We are considering a different version of open campus during lunch. The district has an expectation that students who can be in school will be in class. Most schools allow a certain number of students to leave campus for lunch. 90-99.5% of students make good choices. Administrators observe, listen, and make adjustments. The SSHS Principal has announced to SSHS students that Bush Park is off limits. High school is the last stop before they become adults. What they learn in high school helps kids become responsible adults.

Trauma informed care is practiced in the school district. It helps us meet the needs of students. Social-emotional learning and mental health is critical to student wellbeing and future success. The Friday after the shooting the goal was to be there for students. The Monday after the shooting SSHS classes started late. Before classes started there were workshops with staff to ensure their needs are taken care of and how to take care of students. SSHS has a quiet room and mental health support for students.

Q: Were there preceding events that led up to the shooting?

A: Deputy Chief Aguilar responded. Don't know. Information came out of the school. We were watching for students flowing out of the school toward downtown. We should have been watching all high schools. A valuable lesson was learned.

Q: A parent said they moved into the area in 2022. Their son skipped school on the second and third day of class. The fourth day he said he was never going back to SSHS. No one at school reached out to them. Her son is living with family elsewhere. She also said she had heard that students had started a sex ring in Bush Park.

A: None. The above was a comment.

Q: Why doesn't the superintendent take charge? Park officials went above and beyond helping students. I live next to Bush Park and have seen what has happened at the park. Graffiti and park destruction has increased in the past 6 months. There are a lot of troubled kids. Called district and was referred to SSHS, which is understaffed.

A: None. This was a comment.

Q: A person who was a counselor at SSHS in 1977 said they walked and talked with kids at Bush Park. Wants staff to work with kids.

A: None. This was a comment.

School Superintendent Andrea Castañeda made the comment below and answered more questions.

More is happening in schools than resources can handle. 1% (60 people) of school district's 6000 employees are the district's top administrators. They are tremendously dedicated to students. The State does not provide the needed resources. Citizens voted down taxes needed for schools to operate at needed levels.

Q: A neighbor commented that, in the past, neighbors were polled about open campus for lunch. The poll has not been done recently in their experience. Trouble spots, e.g. intersection of Winter and Wilbur streets, are not monitored.

A: Not answered.

Q: Will the school have a neighborhood patrol?

A: Our focus is what happens in the classroom. The school district and the police do not have the needed resources. Our focus is students, not the neighborhood.

Q: People want to be part of the solution; how can we help? What programs are out there?
Can we develop them?

A: I was on the phone with community leaders for most of the afternoon with community, faith, and other leaders about filling gaps.

A person acknowledged the tremendous job done by the school district's leaders and thanked the leaders and educators for their actions. We were asked to believe in each other and the school district.

Victor Dodier, SCAN President, said the meeting agenda was changed to talk about recent violence and crime in the neighborhood. He said that some SCAN members had expressed the opinion that SCAN should focus on this issue. However, the City has begun the Community Violence Reduction Initiative. The first meeting was on March 6th, the day before the shooting. It is a broad-based issue. SCAN's and other neighborhood associations' roles have yet to be defined.

4. Lynn Takata, chair of the Northeast Neighbors neighborhood association

In 2019, a young man was shot and killed in Englewood Park. The case has not been solved and there is ongoing gang retribution. In 2020, there was a fight with a shooting; the victim did not press charges and nothing happened.

Lynn said she often walks through the park between 1 and 3 am with her 130-pound dog. There have been no incidents of people shooting at each other since 2020. The memorial to the person that was killed has been shot at and gang colors have been placed at the memorial. Neighbors spending time in Englewood Park to discourage criminal activity resulted in them getting to know each other. Lynn, with her dog, often sits down and talks with youth in the park.

When drug dealers see people in the park they leave. Knowing this, events such as the Forest Festival in Englewood Park brings music and art to the park which introduces the park to people who does not know about it. Hopefully, they will visit the park in the future.

There is a drug house one block from where Lynn lives. Neighbors send information, including pictures of license plates to the police.

Graffiti threats are very clear, not ambiguous. Lynn tries to remove graffiti within 2 to 4 hours after it is applied. She can spend several hours a day removing graffiti. Before the shooting in 2019, there was a particular gang graffiti in the park.

After Lynn Takata's comments, there were additional questions and comments.

Q: Where are kids supposed to go after school?

A: Deputy Superintendent Iton Udosenata responded. North and McNary have closed campuses for freshman. Schools have after school activities such as band, music, etc. to engage kids. Often these activities involve adults that the kids look up to. The school district is dedicated to expanding opportunities for high school and middle school students. We want to keep kids connected.

Q: Was the gun used in the shooting found on school property?

A: Deputy Chief Aguilar responded. I can't answer the question.

Q: Why can't neighbors paint over graffiti?

A: Victor Dodier, SCAN President, responded. A Bush Park graffiti removal team is in the early stages of being formed. Ros Shirack said the [application to volunteer in a park](#) is on the city website. Sidewalks can be pressure washed. However, statues require special tools and techniques to clean. Contact the Public Works department's volunteer coordinator Andrea Sitter at asitter@cityofsalem.net or 503-589-2197.

Q: When was the Gang Task Force dissolved?

A: Deputy Chief Agular: 2019. The Gang Task Force was intelligence driven. What it learned it passed on to detectives.

Q: Will the police engage the community to help reduce violence?

A: Deputy Chief Agular: Officers are working to engage community members in their efforts to reduce violence. Police don't have street cred; community members do. We are focusing on the central area and a 5 square mile area in NE Salem.

Mathew Maceira of Be Bold Street Ministries said that he would like to be a resource. He has 27 years of relevant experience with gang violence. His father was a gang leader in the Latin Kings.

A neighbor who lives on the north side of Bush Park said that they had started a neighborhood watch program because of breaking and entering, a park bench being burned, people sleeping under the Pringle Creek bridge on Church St. One neighbor even put up a 6 ft. fence around his property to keep homeless out.

Victor said we would have Salem's neighborhood watch coordinator (Officer Mark Jantz) at a SCAN meeting to encourage the formation of neighborhood watches in SCAN.

Q: Will Mr. Voorhis be out on bail?

A: Deputy Chief Agular: There is no bail for parole violations.

Q: Will the next SCAN meeting revisit what neighbors can do to help?

A: Victor Dodier: We can do what has worked – creating a presence in Bush Park by encouraging dog walkers in the park and other things that discourage drug dealers, etc. If you need to paint over graffiti, Marion County blends recycled paint that is free. *[Note: This information may be incorrect. Recycled paint can be tinted. BUT, it is not free. It can be purchased at ReStore and at Building Materials Bargain Center for \$18 per gallon, according to the Marion County Solid Waste Paint Recycling web page.]*

Lorrie Walker provided a Howard Court update. There is a problem house on Howard Court. That rental house has many visitors and is suspected of dealing drugs, A homeless person is living in their car at Berry St. and Howard St.

Victor closed the meeting with a pitch for people to attend SCAN meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37.

Exhibit A

Attendees for Month Day, 2023 SCAN Meeting

Board Member	Email Address	Present	Board Member	Email Address	Present
Benson, Wally	wkbenson4@gmail.com	X	Rubel, Ron	ronrubel@comcast.net	X
Christenson, Jon	scan.50yrs.1973.2023@gmail.com	X	Scheppke, Jim	jscheppke@comcast.net	X
Chute, Christine	cachute@gmail.com	Exc	Schumacher, Jeff	jeff.schumacher@gmail.com	X
Dodier, Victor	vi@dodier.com	X	Shirack, Roz	rozshirack7@gmail.com	X
Hart, Brian	brianhart@gmail.com	X	Sund, Brian	sund60@icloud.com	X
Loveall, Ariel	oversunoversky@hotmail.com	X	Walker, Lorrie	dakotalor@msn.com	X
Peterson, Josh	joshua.g.peterson@gmail.com		West, Evan	evanwest714@gmail.com	X
Prohodsky, John	johnpro@gmail.com	X	Wigg, Mark	mark_wigg@hotmail.com	

Other Attendees

Linda Nishioka, City Councilor Ward 2	Lynn Takata, Northeast Neighbor Assn Chair
Vanessa Nordyke, City Councilor Ward 7	Melaney Moisan
Jason and Jessica Ramey	Sandy Wiscarson
Reverend C.K. Steck	Mary Beth Hustoles
Kat Hills	Karen Freeman
Brian Leslie	Mary Nonamaker
Chris Clarke	Sigrid Olsen
Janice Sorensen	John Slagle
Heather O'Brien	Mawngt & Angeloni Greg
Susanne Riley	Jason La Due
Megan Grimshaw	Lisa Logan
Andrew Grimshaw	Keith, Trinad, and Kallan Sorensen
Ariel Grimshaw	Patrick and Libby Spenser
Julie Hoy	Dan Simmins
Chis D'Arcy	Meredith Carina
Molly Dinsdale	Yvonne Putze
Kelly and Brenda Lawsons	Joy Wann
Crista and Jason Keesler	Kathy and Len Lingo
Pat and Bob Monson	Chelsea Rony
David Heusdens	Jeanette Keating
Cristopher Ahdams	Michael Webber
Richard Berger	Cynthia Sicilia
Julie DeMarco	Pamela and Brandon Filbert
Suzanne and Casey Giu	Chris Young
David Indest	Frank Brucloleri
Kellye Scott	Gail Kelch Steck
John Potts	Jonathan Scott
Kayley Scottlind	Adair Heard
Eileen Collins	Paul Ridgway
Laurie Sequeira	Benjahmin Boschee
Rob Passage	Marci Cooper

Lynne Percevay	Gary and Jinx Brandt
Elizabeth Ledt	Gailin Brown
Tad Schmidt	Bobby Mauger
Cesie Delve Schumann	Matthew Maciera
Deputy Chief Debra Agular	SKSD Superintendent Andrea Castañeda
Deputy Superintendent Iton Udosenata	Chris Baldrige, SKSD director of security and risk management
Rep. Tom Andersen	

Exhibit B
Land Use Committee Report

The Land Use Committee did not meet in February.

Short-Term Rentals

Council discussed potential changes in the current short-term rental policy and code at its March 11, 2024, meeting. Unfortunately, there was no Council motion to initiate a code amendment to prohibit full time short-term rentals in residential zones. The default decision was take no action and wait a year until a 3rd party vendor provides data on the number and location of short-term rentals operating in Salem. Preliminary data from a vendor show there are 225 dwellings offered for short-term rental. Only 16 of those are licensed with the city, either as a hosted accessory short-term rental (12) or a full-time commercial short-term rental (4). Obviously, Salem has a big enforcement problem that Council does not want to address now.

Partition of 995 Fairview Ave SE

The Committee is reviewing a partition application for 995 Fairview Ave SE. It would partition the long, narrow 20,520 sq ft lot into parcel #1, a 4,600 sq ft lot with an existing dwelling; and parcel #2, a “flag lot” of 13,300 sq ft at the back. A new dwelling is intended for parcel #2, but a site plan for the use of that parcel is not required for the partitioning decision. Comments are due to staff by March 25.

City Council’s Proposed Rule Changes, including call-ups and appeals, are on the March 25 Council agenda for a staff update, but not for a public hearing. There is no public hearing scheduled at this time.

Submitted by Roz Shirack, Chair

SCAN Land Use Committee

Exhibit C

Historic Preservation, Parks, and Gardens Committee Report

HPPG Committee met on Monday Feb.5. There has been no action items, pending applications or case reviews for historic properties in SCAN.

The general discussion included SCAN Heritage Neighborhood designation and monitoring activities in Bush's Pasture Park. The historic preservation staff has a new hire, RR Jake Morris, Planner III.

There is an opportunity also to see high quality mid-century (1963) architecture, First Church of Christ Scientist, 935 High St, SE, in the Gaiety Hill Bush's Pasture Park National Historic District.

HPPG has a second meeting and produced a report, Review of Salem Baseball Proposal February 2024:

"Love is the important thing in the world, but baseball is pretty good, too."

- Yogi Berra, New York Yankees.

The Historic Preservation Parks and Gardens Committee is honored to have been given the opportunity to carefully consider the proposal to bring Collegiate Summer League Baseball to Bush's Pasture Park. While not all members of the committee value baseball to the extent of Mr. Berra, we find ourselves in agreement that we no more object to the sport in principle than we would to apple pie. Instead, it is our steadfast commitment to the responsible stewardship called for by the Bush's Pasture Park Cultural Landscape Management Plan that leads us to suggest, in the strongest possible terms, that the commercial enterprise which is summer league baseball is very likely antithetical to the terms of the Deed that govern the park. We urge our colleagues to recognize that our understanding of the project proposal has evolved rapidly and significantly. After receiving committee consideration, adverse effects have been identified, and we advise that immediate and persistent action be undertaken to mitigate them.

Whereas Bush's Pasture Park is directed to be operated "solely for public park and playground purposes, and for such uses incidental thereto as are public in their nature" our committee has identified the following concerns:

1. The desired attendance of 1,600 ticket holders per game for 30 home games in the summer season has not been evaluated by subject matter experts in traffic and transportation, or biology and ecology, and as such it is likely to impede other public access to the lower pasture area and may cause irreversible damage to the already threatened cultural landscape of Bush's Pasture Park.
2. Residential neighbors have expressed to SCAN that nighttime noise, light pollution, vandalism, and other impacts inherent to commercial activity in Bush's Pasture Park outside of its public operating hours are of grievous concern. Our committee finds the claim that stadium lighting will be "night sky compliant" to be suspect and is concerned that if the sundown park closing time is waived for commercial business, it likely cannot be enforced for the general public without claims of discrimination.

3. Significant elements of the plans to make improvements within, and expansions of, the existing Willamette University baseball facility have either not been finalized or not made available to the public. These include but are not limited to: The locations and nature of ground disturbing activity, staging locations of heavy equipment and construction material, and the necessity to acquire new easements from the City of Salem.

4. Willamette University has entered into a 10-year agreement with Salem Baseball, but has made no covenant to evaluate its ongoing impact to Bush's Pasture Park or its residential and commercial neighbors.

Our committee believes that Bush's Pasture Park is a world-class example of an historic natural area preserved within an urban environment for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. As with

the greater Gaiety Hill and Bush's Pasture Park National Historic District, we take great care to ensure that this' community is able to thrive within and in coordination with the expressed limitations of its foundational directives. Under this modus operandi, we strongly urge SCAN to take the following actions"

A. The City of Salem should be asked to provide a written statement of its evaluation regarding the legality of commercial activity under the public park purpose of the transfer deed.

B" Salem Baseball LLC should be asked to provide a written statement explaining why they are unable to use the Volcanoes Stadium facility in Keizer.

C. Surveys should be completed, or known information released by, Willamette University demonstrating the exact nature of the baseball stadium's projected encroachment into land currently owned by the City as Bush Park, including what new easements or other arrangements will need to be entered into with the City of Salem.

Our committee finds that transparency from all parties is of immediate necessity. We would like to thank our colleagues for their support, and we recommend that in the event that the above conditions cannot be met, SCAN should withhold support of the expansion of baseball in Bush Park.

Sincerely,

Members of the Parks, Gardens and Historic Preservation Committee

Exhibit D
Transportation Committee Report

The SCAN Transportation Committee met at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 by Zoom. Attendees: Victor Dodier, Jim Scheppke, Cheryl Hummon, Carlene Benson, John Prohodsky, Lorrie Walker. Brian Sund joined during the meeting.

The agenda was:

- Discussion of possible traffic impacts of the WU baseball stadium upgrade proposal
- Other items suggested by committee members

The meeting was initially set up to talk with Salem Bike Vision representatives. However, Victor had emailed to the Bike Vision email address, but did not receive a response. Jim said that he would send Victor their personal emails for a more direct connection. We will try again in March.

John mentioned concern about the location of the speed feedback sign on Liberty Street.

Traffic Impact of Baseball Proposal

Victor reported Jon Christianson’s concern that Mission Street is close to gridlock. He said that he did not see it that way based on his experience.

Victor put together the traffic data for Mission Street within SCAN based (below) on the Salem traffic counts web page. He noted that the data is inconsistent and extremely incomplete.

	Mission Street Traffic Counts			
	West of High Street	West of Church Street	West of Winter Street	West of 12th Street
1990				13,835
1991		10,750		
1992				
1993	14,740	13915	14,155	14,480
1994				
1995				
1996	12,640	14,905	15,195	14,715
1997				
1998			20,700	
1999			13,515	19,500
2000	13,239	14,571		

2001

2002

2003

Mission Street Traffic Counts

	West of High Street	West of Church Street	West of Winter Street	West of 12th Street
2004				
2005				15,660
2006				
2007	15,560	16,250	15,700	
2008				
...				
2021				
2022		12,709		

The most recent count, 12,709 vehicles, was done on a particular day in April 2022. The data shows that in the past, more than 20 years ago, Mission Street carried almost 20,000 vehicles.

Kevin Hottman provided more detailed information about the traffic count data in April 2022. It shows how traffic is distributed over the 24 hours of the day and in each direction. The table on the next page shows traffic for the day with the highest count within the week data was collected: