



Meetings are open to all
Neighbors & Businesses
www.salemswan.org

Meeting Notes
April 2nd, 2024, 6:30pm

Location: Westminster
Presbyterian Church.
Hybrid Zoom

SWAN April 2nd. Meeting Notes.

Welcome –Becky Miner-Board Member, Past Chair P

Ted Burney –Chair

Allison Houck -Co-Chair P

John Lattimer- Land Use Chair P

Pat Norman, Parks Co-Chair

Carol Grimwood -Board Member, Watershed & Land Use Team

Becky Miner-Board Member, Past Chair P

Ken Freeman-Secretary/Treasurer P

William Dixon-Board member

Debbie Miller- Board member P

Karen Freeman, Parks Co-Chair P

Announcements: Becky Miner.

- Thank you to Marissa Theve for her presentation last month on Clean, Quiet(er) Salem.
- Welcome to Councilor Nordyke, this evening's presenter, Sean Nikkas and Officer McFerron.
- Councilor Nishioka will not be able to be with us this evening.
- Earth Day is Monday, April 22. Events will be happening throughout the city - Choose the one you wish to support

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- The usual April Earth Day clean up and ivy pull at Fircrest Park will be focused on individual efforts to clean ivy from trees this April.
- Adopt a tree at Fircrest Park.
- Remove the ivy from the tree and around the tree base at your own pace and schedule.
- In lieu of our annual group event at Fircrest Park, SWAN is showing its support for another park in the SWAN boundary - Pioneer Cemetery.
- This year we are helping at Pioneer Cemetery on May 11- combining forces with SOLV, Friends of Pioneer Cemetery and Friends of Fircrest Park for
- A morning clean up at the cemetery featuring raking, pruning and ivy removal. 9:00-12:00 Details from Parks Committee Chair - Pat Norman

Police Report, Salem Police Department. Sgt. McFerron, SPD

Mail Theft: We have apprehended a suspect. SPD found mail, keys and the tools to copy and create more keys. An arrest has been made.

Graffiti and Vandalism. Its on the uptick. Please report it when you see it.

City Council Update - Councilor Nordyke

We are facing budget cuts.

We have informed our ambulance contractor that their contract will not be renewed. The Salem city contract with Falk will end in 2025. They have not been fulfilling service time deliverable/staffing obligations. The Salem Fire Department will be looking after these duties. As it is, the Fire Department has expended millions in unreimbursed overtime and we have devoted the resources for this.

Revenue Town Halls; Apri; 10, 16 and 19th. We have some work to do.

Block 50: a new chapter in downtown housing. 230 units, possible retail embedded in an Urban renewal project.

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Q: Do they pay taxes? A: We are not there yet. We have an MOU right now and that get the conversation started.

Q: This is exciting: Do we have a timeline? A: Years.

Tax exemption for a property on the corner of Commercial and Grove, 41 units of low cost housing.

Commercial Air Service: Adding new flights. The first three months have been great.

SPIF Funds; Parks are a big part of the reason people come to Salem.

SOS team: We are back at it.

Softball is big business and coming our way.

We had 315,000 library visits in 2023.

Our Fire department: We are receiving double the number of calls and have the same number of staff doing the work. Much of the call volume is medical in nature.

Program: Sean Nikkas from the Revenue Task Force:

We are about 26 million in the hole right now, but that gets worse: That will grow to 52 million in 2030. These are structural problems with how we collect and distribute tax dollars. Many cities are in this predicament. We are looking at revenue options. We are not doing small stuff. We have eliminated things that are not required in accordance with state law.

Q: TOT tax? Yes, but it is small.

Q: Cannabis tax: yes, but we can't access this. It's not legal.

Ideas: new income tax. We could do that, but it takes time.

franchise fee? On your water bill?

Urban. Renewal fee: We could withdraw some of these zones.

Library levy and Center 50 plus. These go on the ballot.

Fire safety and business license option.

Q: State government fee. We pitched, but did not make it out of committee.

Q: Does it have to be a plan?

Q: Can the city apply a fee to the state? No.

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Q: Gas tax...could help. This would end up on the ballot?

Q: Charging station fees? A: It was on our list, but was small potatoes.

Q: Regarding this what's the plan? A: That's why we are here.

Q: Water franchise fee: per hook up? A: Maybe an equity issue.

Q: Gas tax? A: On the list, but the state gets this.

Q: Rental car fees? A: Maybe

We have three sources of revenue: property tax, income tax, sales tax.

Q: Short term rentals? A: yes, and no. They pay TOT through Airbnb.

Q: Tourism improvement funds? A: yes, but it's in the same bucket.

Thank you.

John Lattimer. Land use.

What's the plan on these homes? How is the permit process, Building out front of a house.

Trees: cutting of significant white oak trees. Developing a lot

A lot on Croisan Mountain Road. It's full of trees. Owner has Applied for a variance:

3924 Croisan Mountain South.

That's the process. SWAN will make a formal comment. The plan is cutting eight significant trees. 20" or more diameter. Oregon white oaks.

Tree replacement is a possible solution.

Restoration. We are showing the esri map.

20 acre lot River Road is for sale.

Parks: Karen Freeman. Park co-chair.

Our request for SPIF funds approved.

Other: idea #1: Nelson Park. Can we replace the tables? Ask for 3 tables.

Salem Parks Improvement.

Free walking tour. Trees in the landscape talk and tour, Saturday. 10 AM. 3 hours.

Clean up date on May 11th in Pioneer Cemetery.

Nelson Park tennis court fence. Basketball fence. Concrete wall.

Dog mitt dispenser.

Community input:

Salem City Club. Coming up this week. Conversation as part of short legislative session.

SWAN newsletter.

Salem Seekers. Blown glass items are hidden in the park throughout the summer. Four neighborhood associations have been approached to host hiding in their neighborhood parks.. We need to come up with \$250.00. Do our communications funds meet this criteria? Possibly no. Donations suggested.

No additional items for discussion were brought to the table.

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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 kfreeman@salemneighbors.org Sign up for SWAN emails: www.cityofsalem.net/neighbor