



December 11, 2019 - SCAN Monthly Meeting
South Salem High School Library

Board Members Present: Jon Christenson, Victor Dodier, Delmy Edwards, Bill Holmstrom, Jesse Irizary, John Prohodsky, Jim Scheppke, Jeff Schumacher, Roz Shirack, Lorrie Walker, Mark Wigg (11). There were a number of guests. *See Exhibit A - Attendance Roster*

President Schumacher called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm with a quorum of board members present.

1. Introductions

President Schumacher welcomed everyone and Board members, neighbors and guests introduced themselves.

2. City and Councilor Reports:

City Council.

Council Nordyke covered a number of topics. **Homelessness:** She attended nine meetings with city staff and partners concerning the ongoing issue. **Garbage Rates:** Salem garbage rates are going up, despite her and other council members' objections. **City Revenue:** The transient occupancy tax (TOT) is to be increased by 2% for a small revenue increase. **Rural-Hoyt Pedestrian Path:** She said she was looking for SCAN support. Such a path would have many benefits and it would be a low cost item. There will be a stakeholder meeting in January. Friends of Pioneer Cemetery position is not clear; some members may support, some may oppose. The SWAN neighborhood association has not taken a position. Mark Wigg noted that SCAN had adopted a resolution of support.

There was an extended discussion of the homeless issue with Kristin Retherford, Salem Urban Development Director. The City supports 140 shelter beds during the winter. More volunteers are needed to staff the shelters. Mark Wigg asked about the City's support for the warming shelters. Resp. The City supports the warming shelters and has increased the amount of support, but it's not enough to fully staff.

There was not enough support on council to allow camping; council members had lots of questions. Allowing car camping is not a solution for homelessness, but it may be a tool for keeping people off the streets. It was noted that the homeless are more visible than ever before. According to the City's survey, Salem residents put homelessness as the top City issue.

The report that the City spends \$5 million on homelessness was discussed. It's an intern's assessment of the amount of time and resources. City staff provided background on what the assessment means. There is no line item; it's an opportunity cost – time and resources devoted to homelessness rather than other City priorities. Councilor Nordyke expressed her hope that a proposed mobile response van may allow the City to focus effort.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 13, 2019 SCAN meeting were approved. There were no abstentions.

4. Announcements and Neighborhood Concerns:

None mentioned.

5. Presentation on Operating Fee and Employee-Paid Payroll Tax:

Mike Niblock, Salem's Fire Chief, began the presentation on the revenue measures with an example of how the City is looking beyond the general fund for resources. Currently, when paramedics respond to a 9-1-1 emergency, they can only take the person(s) to the emergency room. The City is exploring options with the coordinated care organization to see if health services can be provided w/o calling in an emergency.

Chief Niblock referred to the fact sheet (see Exhibit B) on the operating fee and employee-paid payroll tax. The operating fee revenue is intended to support / backfill current services. The payroll tax is intended to pace growth in demand for public safety services. That said, revenue from both the fee and the tax would go into the City's general fund.

Why did City Council restrict the use of the payroll tax revenue? Resp. It was part of the task force recommendation.

6. Our Salem! Comprehensive Plan Update:

Eunice Kim, project manager for the Our Salem project, gave an overview of the comprehensive plan update process. When the Our Salem project has been completed, other supporting plans, like the Transportation System Plan and the Parks Master Plan, will be updated. She also addressed motivation for the update ... growth and lots of it in the Salem area. The Our Salem process is looking toward assembling a vision for the plan by the Fall of 2020. Then, the work of writing the plan will begin.

She responded to questions:

- Would the plan vision include incorporating what are now unincorporated areas? Resp. Not sure.
- Is there anything coming out of the plan that might change how Salem looks? Resp. People support more parks. Trails are also high on the list.

- Would the planning model that separates the land uses from one another change? Resp. There is some support for change.
- Salem is the only major city without a Climate Action Plan. Would Our Salem bring in a Climate Action Plan? Resp. Yes, they are looking at the issue, but bringing the plans together on the timeline is not working out.
- Growth – 60,000 more people by 2030 -- will need to have places to live and jobs. Affordable housing is an issue. How realistic is the projected growth? Resp. We know that we have the land.
- How will the bill that allows multifamily in single-family residential zones affect the plan? Resp. The City has until 2021 to implement. She anticipates a big effort to see how multifamily fits in, but it's recognized that the City cannot be too restrictive.
- What about the early 2000s Salem Futures project? There was a lot of good work there. Resp. Yes, they've reviewed Salem Futures reports.

7. Committee Reports and Chair Report

A. Land Use Committee

Roz Shirack, Land Use Chair, asked that board members review the Committee's report on the Planning Commission's proposed multifamily housing amendments that was distributed by email. She will ask the board to support forwarding the Committee's comments to the City Council at the January meeting.

B. Transportation Committee

Victor Dodier, Transportation Chair, made a brief report of the lightly attended Nov. 20 meeting. Staff of District 24J could not attend that meeting, but would attend the Dec. 18 meeting. He indicated that he might find a different location to handle the anticipated turnout for the meeting.

C. Chair's Report

Jeff reported that he, Jon Christenson and Gaiety Hill HD residents had compiled responses to the Historic District survey. The compilation was distributed by email. We will vote on whether to forward the compilation to the City by email since board members may not have had time to review.

Jon added his report on the Historic District Open House at the Dye House. 40-50 people attended, with perhaps 1/3 coming from SCAN. He indicated that he wanted to bring the compiled responses and material from the Open House back to SCAN.

On another matter, he reported that he'd mentioned the Rural-Hoyt pedestrian path to Elizabeth Potter of Friends of Pioneer Cemetery. She did not respond.

Jeff reported the board's vote to support inclusion of the mural at 1201 S. Commercial in the public mural program for the record. There were 9 in favor and 6 against.

7. Homelessness (not on agenda)

Mark Wigg suggested that SCAN ask City Council to change the goals of the Fairview Urban Renewal Area to include housing rather than the current proposal: spend \$2 million in Urban Renewal funds for airport development. Discussion ensued. Kristen Retherford, Urban Development Director, indicated that staff had looked into how the Hillcrest property could be used. The property does not have access to water; the water rights used when Hillcrest was in operation have been sold. Developing the property would require water line expansion. In addition, the \$2 million available in the Fairview Urban Renewal Area would not be enough to remediate the existing buildings to make them useable.

Mark took a different approach, suggesting addition of housing to another open Urban Renewal Area. Roz indicated her concerns about the proposed motion. Other board members wanted to see the motion in writing.

Kristen Retherford provided additional background on the Fairview Urban Renewal Area and that the \$2 million could be spent on infrastructure within the URA. The proposal would change the boundaries to include the airport. She pointed out that the City makes money from development at the airport, not airplane landings. In addition, the City is obligated to keep the airport in operation as a condition of grants from the Federal Aviation Administration.

8. Adjournment

Jeff adjourned the meeting about 8:30 pm.

Submitted by Victor Dodier, SCAN Secretary

Attendees for SCAN Meeting

12/11/2019

Board Members	Email Address	Present?	Board Member	Email Address	Present?
Christenson, Jon	edscannewsletter@gmail.com	✓	Rubel, Ron	ronrubel@comcast.net	
DeWinkel, Carel	cdewinkel@comcast.net	Exc	Scheppke, Jim	jscheppke@comcast.net	✓
Dodier, Victor	vjdodier@teleport.com	✓	Schumacher, Jeff	jeff.schumacher@gmail.com	✓
Edwards, Delmy	ride2myhouse@yahoo.com	✓	Shirack, Roz	rozshirack7@gmail.com	✓
Holmstrom, Bill	williamh@gmail.com	✓	Sund, Brian	sund60@icloud.com	Exc
Irizary, Jesse	irizaryj@gmail.com	✓	Walker, Lorrie	dakotalor@msn.com	✓
Judy, Joyce	pacajoyce@sbcglobal.net		Wigg, Mark	mark_wigg@hotmail.com	X
Prohodsky, John	johnmpro@gmail.com	✓			

All Other Attendees	Email Address (not required)
Michael Miller	
Mike Niblock SFD	
Christine Chute	
Ellen Stevens	etstevens@comcast
Donna Irizary	
Tom Schumacher	
Vanessa Nordyke	

Exhibit B

New Funds Needed for Valued City Services

Our community is growing, but our funding isn't growing enough to keep up. To keep pace, we need a more balanced way to pay for services.

To maintain current City services and keep pace with our growing community's needs, the City must raise \$16.2 million more per year. This money will pay for public safety needs, and much-needed additional support for parks, our library, and other community services.

Without more funding, the City will struggle to provide services our community has come to expect. In the 1990s, Oregon tax limitation measures capped property tax revenue. As a result, the City's budget has not kept pace with inflation and property taxes are no longer enough to support existing services. After considering options and community input, the Salem City Council proposed to raise this much-needed money in two ways.

Together, these funding sources will help support valued City services. An operations fee will help as soon as February 2020. An employee-paid payroll tax offers a longer-term solution and will be on the ballot in May 2020 for voter input. By sharing the cost, we will be able to do things like add firefighters, police officers, library hours, and parks maintenance.

Operations fee

The operations fee will be used to continue current services and staffing levels in the near term.

A City operations fee is a separate fee to continue existing emergency, library, park maintenance, social, and other essential services. In Oregon, 50 cities use an operations fee to help pay for city services. This flat fee will be collected through City utility bills based on the type of account (a single family home pays a different rate than an apartment building, for example), not based on property value. Those who qualify for the Utility Rate Relief Program will not pay this fee.

When: As soon as February 2020.

New funds: \$7.1 million in 2020 at \$8/month for single family home accounts, \$6.40/month for multi-family home accounts, and \$38.56/month for public, commercial and institutional accounts.

Employee-paid payroll tax

The employee-paid payroll tax will be used to increase public safety staffing to help prevent crime, prepare for emergencies, respond faster and be there when you need us.

The City Council referred the proposed employee-paid payroll tax to the voters in the May 2020 election. If passed, the employee-paid payroll tax will be dedicated to keeping pace with our community's growing public safety needs.



Based on a percent of total wages, this tax will be paid by all employees in Salem's private and public sectors, with the exception of minimum wage earners. By including the more than 60,000 workers who commute to Salem, the cost of public safety services will be shared by people who live and work in Salem alike. As our economy and jobs grow, funds from this source will grow. Retirement and disability income will not be taxed.

When: The employee-paid payroll tax will be referred to voters in the May 2020 election. If approved by voters, funds will be dedicated to public safety and could be available as early as July 2022.

New funds for public safety: \$9.1 million, using a tiered rate structure with most workers paying a rate of 0.39% on income earned within the City limits. At 0.39%, a person working in Salem earning \$50,000 annually would pay \$195 per year. Employees earning minimum wage would be exempt and those earning a wage up to \$15 per hour would pay a lower rate of 0.266%.

Why ask for more money now?

The City has restored services cut during the recession. Changes in the economy forced us to make big changes in 2009 and 2013 to the services we were able to provide. We closed two fire stations, and reduced library hours, recreation services, and support to neighborhoods. Since then, we've re-opened the two fire stations and made improvements to services the community expects and values.

We have stepped in where our community has asked the City to fill gaps. For example, launched in 2017 with \$1.4 million from the City, the Homeless Rental Assistance Program has led to permanent housing for more than 240 chronically unsheltered people in our community. Traditionally, this valuable work has been outside the City's core service areas. Continuing this commitment, in addition to costs of ongoing services, outpaces available funding.

We must align our services with available funding within the next two years. Without reducing services

we provide our community or investing in new funding sources, the City will not have enough money to fund services in the year beginning July 1, 2022.

- These are hard choices. If we are unable to raise money within the next two years, we will not be able to continue doing all we do. The City Council, in conversation with our community, would provide direction for reducing City services. An \$8 million reduction would be the equivalent of decreasing services by 65 police officers, or five fire stations, or all park maintenance and all the library services.

Being more efficient helps but is not enough. We are always looking for ways to be more efficient while providing high-quality services. To be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us, we are using technology in new ways and changing how we provide services, using more energy-efficient products, charging for services that make sense, and engaging support of volunteers and foundations.

Revenue isn't keeping pace with community need.

As we continue to grow, the need for essential services grows. In the past ten years, Salem population has grown by more than 9%. City services rely on people. Our staffing today is lower than it was in 2008.

- One measure of public safety is officers per 1,000 people in a community. In Salem, officers per 1,000 people is 8% less than 10 years ago. During this same time, crime rates have increased almost 22%.
- Salem has grown park lands by 25% and has 68% more miles of walkways and trails within our parks. As of 2018, Salem has 14.13 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. Staffing for needed parks maintenance has not kept pace, increasing by three positions (or 8%) and some of the park land is not yet ready for community use.
- Code enforcement officers respond to neighbor complaints of dangerous properties, trash, and debris, and concerns about public health, safety, and welfare. Calls for help are increasing, but there are 7% fewer staff than 12 years ago.

Rev. 11/27/2019



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Revenue to Fund Essential City Services

The City of Salem is working on long-term funding options to maintain support for essential City services as our community continues to grow, and invites comments and questions from Salem residents and businesses.

Participant profile (check any that apply):

- Salem resident
- Salem business owner
- Work in Salem
- Other: _____

What would you like to learn more about (check any that apply):

- Operations fee: supports continuation of existing library, park maintenance, police, fire, emergency and social services, and other essential services
- Employee-paid payroll tax: dedicated to keeping pace with our community's growing public safety needs
- Another funding for essential services topic: _____

What do you most value about Salem services?

Would you like us to keep you up to date on the City of Salem's efforts to fund essential services?
Please provide contact information:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Thank you!

