

July 7, 2020 – Fircrest Park

Southwest Association of Neighbors (SWAN)

Attendees

Board Members: Jeanine Stice, Alison Houck, Ron Eachus, Ted Burney, Carol Grimwood, Becky Miner, Judy O'Malia, Pat Norman. Darren Howard, Leonard Nelson and John Lattimer were excused.

Neighbors: Karen and Ken Freeman, Lyle Misbach, Robert Dombrosia, Danielle and Rob Hoffman, Bill Dixon, Mariah Forrest, Darwin Frankenhoff, Rob Thrasher.

Geoffrey James was in attendance to present on Kurth/Browning land use development.

Meeting called to order at approximately 6:30 PM.

Minutes Approval and Bylaw Changes

Allison Houck moved to approve June minutes, Pat Norman seconded and all approved.

Ron Eachus moved to approve Bylaw changes, Allison Houck seconded and all approved.

City Council Update – Councilor Nordyke

She is scheduling a meeting next week with constituents. Don't get many people at the NA meetings so she is inviting all to meet with her on Tuesday, July 14 at 5:30 PM at Fircrest Park. Councilor Nordyke mentioned there is a utility rate relief program.

Council passed the full budget.

Ted requested clarification of "trash for cash" program. Residents of homeless camps can fill a trash bag and receive a Walmart \$10 gift card paid for by city. Councilor is following up with Walmart, requesting donations. The camps are clean.

Ron asked if anything is being done to assist families who are unable to pay their property taxes, and are there city budget concerns for non-payment. Councilor does not know but can find out.

Councilor is leaving meeting during land use discussion and will return for Pioneer trail discussion.

Police and Code Compliance Officer were unavailable for reports and updates.

Land Use Report and Update

Geoffrey James is the architect for a 1 ½ acre apartment development at Kurth and Browning owned by John Wulf. It is in Sunnyslope NA, with Browning as the border between it and SWAN. Apartments are allowed if at the joining of collector streets, which Kurth and Browning are designated. This is a single family residential area and apartments have to be as far as possible from houses, and as close to street as possible. That is the plan: close to Kurth, and about 80 feet from homes. City staff will write report, then it goes to planning commission which will hold a public hearing. Plan is for 24 two bedroom apartments, and 12 single bedroom = 36 total. The project is in the application stage, not finished yet.

Ron's concern: traffic increase will be an increase of approximately 300 cars. Geoffrey states a traffic study was completed and it can be accessed. There are 3 requirements to be met: a change in zoning to

RM2, change in comprehensive plan, and change in the neighborhood plan. Parking spaces are required at 1 ½ per unit, but they are working on 2. They will be adding width to road next to apartments.

Lyle Misbach shared his plans to build a second family home on his ½ acre at 2880 Doughton. He has petitioned to split the property and will be using an existing drive that has an entrance/exit on Doughton.

Ted Burney brought forward a Salem Heights tree issue. SWAN had received a letter from the city that more trees were to be cut by July 28. Concerns/appeal on the issue were due July 27. Ted went to check out the trees effected and found them already gone. He notified the city and did receive a letter confirming the trees were cut as a result of “layers of confusion”. Ted is asking if we want to ask for remediation. There were many suggestions: donation to Salem Parks, or Friends of Trees, or numerous organizations. We agreed to appeal and see what happens. All supported use of SWAN funds for appeal if allowed.

Ted read a letter of support for the City of Salem to apply for a grant from Transportation Growth Management (TGM) of ODOT. The grant will pay for planning by establishing rules/regulations for urban trails, and assisting in prioritizing trails throughout Salem. It also states we, SWAN, look forward to participating in this planning. Excellent letter! Thank you, Ted.

Pioneer Cemetery Connecting Community

Julie Warncke, Transportation Planning Manager, states City Council requested an informational report on options for a possible trail between Rural to Hoyt Streets. The report was completed prior to the June 23 council meeting and can be accessed via the city council agenda. There are 6 options. She and her unit are waiting to hear from council on how to proceed. If decision is to go through either cemeteries, they will need to look at all issues. There are concerns for vandalism and security. ADA does not require pavement but trail needs to be firm and flat. And there are minimum requirements about the width of trail, with more width every 200 feet where people have room to pass. Alison Houck has a relative buried in Pioneer and the burial site has been vandalized, so she is concerned about further vandalism. Julie was asked about funding, which she states is probably general funds.

Councilor Nordyke encouraged all to tour Pioneer Cemetery. She states when attended SWAN’s January meeting, she asked for our thoughts on trail. SWAN needs to make a decision soon. She has slowed the process to allow time for all parties to review the options. Councilor Nordyke does not consider it “hallowed ground” where vehicles drive in, where the compost is stored, etc. She was given an estimate from the city of less than \$25,000 for the project of a trail through Pioneer. There was talk of raising private money but she believes the city can pay, possibly through grants.

Julie states this is a process that needs to proceed slowly and methodically, and that a public process would be involved if directed by council to go forward with options for developing a path.

Emergency Preparedness – CERT

Becky was not present and Mariah Forrest reports they are doing neighborhood mapping: what people need in an emergency, do they have an escape plan, and do they need help leaving their residence. Jennifer Carley had reported on this project at SWAN’s June meeting. Jeanine is suggesting we bring CERT in as a partner.

Neighborhood

Jeanine asked attendees how they want to meet in August. Options include Zoom, in person, and a combination of both. We will try both. Thanks to Rob Thrasher for offering his technical expertise and tools! Thank you, Ken Freeman, for the audio equipment and set up!

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM.

Thanks to the 7 neighbors who moved the heavy ADA picnic table from the woody trail area back near the playground! You are appreciated!