

December 1, 2020 – Virtual  
Southwest Association of Neighbors (SWAN)

**Attendees**

Board Members - Jeanine Stice, Pat Norman, Carol Grimwood, Allison Houck, Connie Jones, Ted Burney, Ron Eachus, Darren Howard, Rob Thrasher  
Neighbors- Karen and Ken Freeman, Becky Beaman, Yuliana Kenfield

Meeting called to order by Jeanine Stice at approximately 6:36pm

**Minutes Approval**

November minutes approved and seconded with correction to add Rob Thrasher as Board member.

**Introduction and Neighborhood Highlights**

Ted Burney noted his appreciation to community service code enforcement for their quick response in removing car and trailer eyesore on Felton Ave.

Jeanine announced that Connie Jones will be resigning as Secretary/Treasurer effective January 1<sup>st</sup> and thanked her for her contribution over the last year in assisting two SWAN Presidents, numerous communiqués to city council on behalf of SWAN and updating the bylaws among other duties. Ron Thrasher was nominated and seconded as her replacement.

**City Council Update – Councilor Nordyke**

Councilor Nordyke hoped all had enjoyed their Thanksgiving and indicated that perhaps good news was coming soon with the rollout of the virus vaccine.

Homelessness – City has received a grant to hire a case manager for “Housing First”. This program provides rental assistance to help the homeless find transitional and permanent housing. Many other community agencies are involved in helping the homeless find shelter including Catholic Community Services, Head Start, and foster programs. United Way is assisting in funding the Mobile Response Unit that would take care of minor medical and mental health calls allowing for law enforcement to be freed up to focus on community relations. Currently there are over 1000 homeless people including teenagers and seniors in Salem. 300 have been placed through the Homeless Rental Assistance and Salem Housing Authority Section 8 programs. Low income housing or beds are being provided by the following organizations – State Hospital has 50 low income housing units, Tanner Project offers 13 beds to male only veterans, UGM offers 150+ beds, GED instruction and transitional housing. Becky noted that Wilson House has also been instrumental in providing low income housing options but has had to close unless there is support from Salem Housing which has not been forthcoming to date. There is a statewide budget shortfall of 35 million for addressing homeless services. Land use litigation is currently in review for potential homeless shelter but the councilor is unable to comment due to conflict of interest.

Police Chief – Jerry Moore, outgoing Police Chief was honored for his 4 decades of service to the community.

Support local business – Councilor Nordyke encouraged all to support the hard hit businesses in Salem due to the pandemic by making donations or buying gift cards this season

### **Police Report – Jason Van Meter**

Lt. Van Meter commented on the sad departure of his favorite and beloved outgoing chief, Jerry Moore, and welcomed the new chief from Stockton CA who will bring his urban expertise to the force. The move into the new police building is complete and everyone loves the new space which is triple the previous location.

Criminal updates – property crimes continue to be a concern esp. car theft although most crime is down from last year even though social media sites such as Next Door make it seem like there is more. The past crime statistic report by neighborhood is no longer available as the analytics are being changed.

Public Safety on Homestead Rd. – Motorcycle enforcement has been giving some citations for reckless driving to hopefully curb the road racing that takes place on this road.

### **Land Use Report and Update - Ted Burney**

The urban forester has been engaged in the Wren Heights development on Salem Heights Rd. and is netting protected trees. Hand digging is taking place around utility areas and straw bales are being used to protect against erosion. Any concerns regarding this project should be directed to [planning@cityofsalem.net](mailto:planning@cityofsalem.net).

Kurth St. – nothing new to report – no new permits issued.

Sherman Dr. – Possible single family developments but no permits issued at this time.

Salem Vision still in planning process - input can be sent to Eunice Kim with City planning.

### **Committee Updates**

#### **Parks – Pat Norman**

Park bench for Nelson Park was ordered November 5<sup>th</sup> but has been delayed.

Candalaria park would be considered a neighborhood park and not a pocket park although it has not yet been designated. Any design options for a park would need to be low impact. Suggestions so far include picnic tables, benches, small play equipment, boulders or berms for climbing, butterfly garden and/or community garden that may benefit nearby school but as yet there are no guarantees for a park at all. For this reason, Pat is requesting support from SWAN for a communication campaign via flyers, website and social media to solicit interest and input from the Candalaria neighbors to begin sometime after the holidays. Attending board members were in support of this request and suggested January 15<sup>th</sup> as a possible target date pending Pat's research.

#### **CERT- Becky Beaman**

Recent house fire on Camelia Dr. underscored the need for more CERT volunteers as there are neighborhoods without any coverage to assist in emergency situations. Becky is reaching out to SWAN to brainstorm how to outreach at our next meeting in January.

#### **Watershed – Carol Grimwood**

Carol is watching the Croisen Creek watershed and possible soil erosion as heavy rains can easily flood this area.

### **Neighborhood Concerns and Closing**

Jeanine is asking for more participation and board membership moving forward.

Rob Thrasher is a member of the Climate Action Group Task Force for Salem and is open for input.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:49pm

