



Meetings are open to all
Neighbors & Businesses

www.salemswan.org

SWAN Meeting Minutes

May 4th, 2021 6:30pm

Location: [Fircrest park](#)

This event is RAIN or SHINE: NOTE: In Marion County, we are presently in the HIGH RISK category. We are not to exceed 15% of the capacity of the park. We ask that you please maintain social distancing of 6 feet, bring a lawn chair, if you need seating, and remember to wear your mask. We typically do not have more than 25 people in attendance. If a significant crowd gathers, we may need to end the meeting. We will do our best to keep the meeting on schedule. Please address extensive questions with the presenters individually.

<p>Welcome - Jeanine Stice, SWAN Chair nutritionetcetera@gmail.com</p> <p>Jeanine Stice P Allison Houck P Ted Burney P Ron Eachus P Leonard Nelson Pat Norman P Carol Grimwood Darren Howard P John Lattimer Becky Miner Ken Freeman P</p> <p>Guest Speakers: Vanessa Nordyke, City Councilor, District seven. Lt. Jeff Barrett, SPD. Charles Weathers: Developer for Shurman project Geoff James, Architect for forthcoming Shurman project</p> <p>Welcome to SWAN in Fircrest Park</p>	<p>10 min</p>
<p>Minutes Approval - April 2021 SWAN Board presented April 2021 meeting minutes with addendum Minutes offered for approval. Motion made to approve as written. Motion seconded. April Minutes approved.</p>	<p>5 min</p>

<p>Police Report Officer: Jeff Barrett, subbing in for Lt. Jason Van Meter. No new information per se' Question: Any update on local burglaries. A: We are seeing a general uptick in reports, but not to any one specific location. We are seeing crimes of opportunity. Pro tip: Lock your car. Comment: Felton signage is having the desired effect. A: Thank you. Having posted signage helps with enforcement. Comment: May First Riverfront Rally. A: SPD had a presence and were monitoring the situation. We were activated several times to respond to citizen complaints. Comment regarding confidentiality of Citizen complaints and fear of reprisals. A: State law indicates that complaints are public record. You cannot be a victim anonymously.</p>	<p>10 min 5 Min Q+A</p>
<p>City Council Update Ward – Councilor Nordyke (vnordyke@cityofsalem.net) <i>Thank you for attending, Meet Sierra, my four legged friend.</i> <i>May First Rally Notes: 150-200 participant. It is thought that the Proud Boys were hired to provide security at the event. Reports of conflicts with other park guests. We are working up a plan for best practices for the Parks and Rec team regarding gatherings.</i> <i>Guns in the Park: The city cannot pass an ordinance which conflicts with the State law mandate. We cannot restrict open carry in the park as this sits, at the moment. This needs to be brought up at the State level. Deb Patterson is our representative to the body where this decision is made.</i></p> <p><i>Homeless options; We need space. Few landlords want to even discuss this. Old Kmart site looks like an option. City has it right now for parking overflow. It's big enough to support additional build out.</i></p> <p><i>Pass-through pathway in Pioneer Cemetery:</i></p> <p><i>Councilor Nordyke was asked to give an update on the connector trail through Pioneer Cemetery, and the Councilor said that she does not have an update at this time, and did not have the information that she presented to Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association at hand, and did not want to misrepresent it.</i></p> <p><i>Park users Vs. Free speech in the park.</i> <i>Comment: Do we have the capacity to designate a free speech area that would not impact the rest of the park?:</i> <i>A: Maybe. Passing this to Parks and Rec. as a suggestion.</i></p>	<p>10 min 5 Min Q+A</p>

<p>Program: Park plans update (Language?) <i>*Parks- Pat Norman</i> <i>Candalaria Park Project: History.</i> <i>Review of options and other parks experience.</i> <i>Review of Candalara Park Questionnaire and responses.</i></p> <p><i>See Addendum 1 as attachment for details.</i></p> <p><i>Open Comments Summary: "This park is already in use." "This park is fine the way it is." "A garden addition would hinder the ability to use this facility as a playing field." "Who would look after it, should it become a city park?"</i></p>	<p>15 min</p>
<p>Land Use & Watershed Report <i>Ted Burney - SWAN Land use Chair</i></p> <p><i>Thank you for excellent Fircrest park clean up on April 24th. We are looking at dates for the next one.</i></p> <p><i>Annexation of Property at 3880 Croisan Creek Road.</i></p> <p><i>Survey Summary from Investigation of Order adjacent to City View Cemetery. See Addendum 1 for details.</i></p> <p><i>Traffic Control on River road. It has been suggested that we consider reducing the speed limit on a section of River Road between Tayside St. S and Riverdale Road South.</i></p> <p><i>A Motion is made for recommending a reduction of the speed limit on River Road for an additional 500 feet between Tayside St. S and Riverdale Road S.</i> <i>Motion Seconded.</i> <i>Motion Approved.</i></p>	<p>10 min</p>
<p>Committee Updates & Neighborhood Concerns <i>*Parks- Pat Norman (Just Walk update)</i></p> <p><i>We have been on hiatus during the pandemic. We hope to re-start this soon.</i></p> <p><i>*Emergency Preparedness - Rebecca Beaman</i></p> <p><i>No Updates at this time</i></p> <p><i>*Russ Monk. Silver Lane South Residential Parking.</i></p> <p><i>No Updates at this time</i></p> <p><i>*John Lattimer, Traffic advisory committee update.</i></p> <p><i>No Updates at this time</i></p>	<p>15 min</p>

<p>Neighborhood Concerns:</p> <p>Charles Weathers: Developer for Shurman project Geoff James, Architect for Shurman project Pending proposal for property at 1055 Shurman Dr. S Zoning change to accommodate 42 Residential units on 1.8 acres. Preliminary design work-up is in front of City planning. A traffic study is pending. We will receive a follow up request for a more formal presentation at the June SWAN meeting.</p> <p>HUB: The Salem City has a pending plan which involves zoning changes that may impact SWAN with an Neighborhood Hub, or NH. This will be reviewed and explained in detail in a forthcoming SWAN meeting.</p> <p>In the future, neighborhood hubs will be located in residential neighborhoods throughout the city, particularly those with limited access to services and shops today. These areas will be easily accessed on foot, bike, or bus and will provide access to small-scale businesses and services that help meet the daily needs of residents within existing and new neighborhoods. Please see Addendum 3 for additional Information.</p>	<p>10 min</p>
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NOTE: Please email extensive neighborhood concerns or questions and additional agenda items prior to the meeting so they can be accommodated.

For more information contact Jeanine Stice: nutritionetcetera@gmail.com

Sign up for SWAN emails: www.cityofsalem.net/neighbor

[Fircrest park](#)

Addendum 2: Candalaria Park Community Responses:

4-26-2021 Candalaria Reservoir – thoughts/ideas for possible park. The area surrounding the park was leafleted and responses are compiled below.

Results of input request:

1. Leave as is. Kids/people playing soccer, whiffle ball, football, fetch w/dogs.
2. Remain same. People gather w/kids for sports, dogs, exercise. Not a magnet for undesirable activities. Better use of \$ for other city areas since school and nature areas close.
3. Adamantly opposed. Fairmount park expansion experience – trash, parties, parking, break-ins, theft, vandalism. Currently used by families, kids, dogs. No trash issues. Had one homeless camp but didn't stay.
4. P/c. Large grassy middle, pollinator on outer edge, no need for playground equip as school close
5. Yes to park. Low impact fitness divided into different age areas. Bird zone – feeders. Dog zone. Family zone to rent for gatherings. Trail for bikes, another for walking. Nature zones: pollinator garden. Berms, boulders, various fruit or other trees.
6. Love park idea. Picnic, exercise, play. Pollinator garden, berm and boulders
7. Strongly opposed to park. Space is used now by dog owners, sports, teams.
8. Space underutilized. Compartmentalize: pollinator garden, berms, boulders.
9. Steps/ramp from Boice to reservoir area. Giving up grass space for equipment might not be the best. Trash container beneficial.
10. Park: let's do it
11. Yes, use area, add features – garden, bench. Current dog walking and kids playing sports.
12. Great idea. Berm, boulders, benches on the south side. Large open flat area in middle, sprinklers
13. Great idea – offer to help
14. Would love park. Fitness trail great idea. Natural playground with boulders, wood logs, natural things to climb on. Do not need another playground with school so close.
15. Love to see park. Fitness trail, boulders, spaces feel wild, not too fragile so can climb, explore. Benches, picnic table or two.
16. Support upgrading landscaping – durable, family friendly in low key and low maintenance. Berms closest to my concept. Anything probably better than vacant lot.
17. Appreciates the open space. Strongly support investing in area. Low impact would make improvement. Fitness trail great option. Shade pavilion, picnic table. Pollinator garden possibly on north side.
18. Fitness trail could be used by adults and kids. Boulders, logs to climb and jump from, path to run around. Anything that gets people moving.
19. Westmoreland Park, Portland, a natural style park. Don't need plastic play structures. Environment where kids imaginations can run wild, and legs running.
20. Love park at water tower
21. Very much support park, use it now and call it "running park'. Berms, boulders, pollinator garden, logs, stumps will keep kids busy for hours. Suggest edible landscaping(perennial herbs, fruit trees)

Addendum 2: Report for the SWAN meeting minutes: Land Use.

Summary of site visit to 2525 Birdhill Drive on April 6, 2021 to check on odor complaint

The Southwest Association of Neighbors (SWAN) had received input from Brian and Angela Feiring, 2525 Birdhill Road, regarding concerns with foul smells drifting on to their property. Per the Feiring's, these odors were assumed to be originating from the City View Cemetery Crematorium which is due north of their property.

Darren Howard and I, Ted Burney, visited with the Feiring's outside of their home and obtained background information on the problem. They described the odor as so strong it often prevented them or their children from participating in use of their outdoor patio and play area. We originally met the Feiring's outside in the front yard/driveway area of their home and there was no perceived odor initially.

Darren and I then began a slow walk about on the property with the Feiring's while listening, learning and looking at the situation. The Feiring's property is close to the crematorium, perhaps 100 feet away and at higher elevation. It was easy to see from the Feiring's yard that both burner stacks on the roof of the crematorium were emitting visible heat waves. It was obvious to us that the burners were in operation or had been in very recent operation.

As we walked from the driveway to the back yard patio the air quality shifted from what could be called "normal" to pungent. An odor that can only be described as "acrid" was very obviously in the air. We literally walked from "good air" into an area of an astringent odor. The smell seemed to create a copper like taste on the roof of the mouth and was not easily bearable.

Interesting points to note:

The wind generally blows from the West or Southwest but in the garden area of the Feiring's home, near their patio, where the odor suddenly became intense, the slight breeze in the late afternoon air was coming from the North seemingly directly from the crematorium stacks to the Feiring's property. This breeze seemed to bring the acrid odor directly into their back yard airspace.

We noted that by walking close to the crematorium (within 20 feet while the stacks on the crematorium were still emitting heat waves) the odor was not present near the crematorium. However, as one walked away from the crematorium towards the Feiring's property the odor began to rise in intensity.

It was almost as if an air/wind vortex was carrying the smell South of the crematorium - directly to the mid and backyard portions of the Feiring's property.

An alleyway connects Alvarado Terrace to the back gate area of the Feiring's property. Walking down the alleyway to Alvarado, the odor disappeared approximately ten to twenty feet beyond the Feiring's property line. Walking from Alvarado Terrace up the alley to the Feiring's property, blooming plants and recently cut wood were aromas in the air but upon entering the Feiring's yard near their back gate and children's tree house, the odor was once again strong and created an awful taste on the roof of a person's mouth.

The odor is strong and very local to parts of the Feiring property, specifically the garden, patio and backyard of the Feiring's home. The Feiring's mentioned the smell is worse when the air is completely still, as in the summer months, and when the crematorium burners are in the cool down process. We looked for other possible sources of the odor but could not find any. The Feiring's said that as the crematorium stacks cool down the odor becomes increasingly bad. This is what we experienced after 5:00 when the burners seemed to be off and the chimney stacks were cooling down.

Very small, grit-like particles were also found in the crevices of older palm tree leaves in the Feiring's garden/patio area. These particles were as small or smaller than sand grains, but did not feel like sand and did not seem to be pollen. The particles were not present on more recently planted bamboo. These particles did not seem to have an odor and are of unknown origin to us but are interesting to note and may bear sourcing by air quality technicians.

On a different day, two weeks prior to this site visit with Darren, I had walked past the North side of the crematorium when both burners were obviously in use with blasting heat waves rising from both chimneys. There was no noticeable odor or ash fall to the north side of the crematorium building on that day.

In short, in our opinion, the Feiring's seem to have a very definite, possibly somewhat localized problem with air quality on their property. The odor is truly pungent and creates a very unpleasant, acrid taste in the mouth.

We do not have access to air quality monitors or air sampling equipment but are very interested in how far this problem may range in the neighborhood. We were not able to "smell" a problem in the front area of the neighbors property to the south but the source should be identified and remedies presented.

We believe this situation bears further investigation by trained public health professionals or those the state may deem responsible for checking and monitoring air quality.

Respectfully submitted by:
Ted Burney and Darren Howard
SWAN Land Use Committee Members

Addendum 3: Neighborhood Hub:

REF: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/CityDocuments/our-salem-vision-2021.pdf>

Properties shown as “Neighborhood Hub” would be redesignated to Mixed Use on the Comprehensive Plan Map. They would be rezoned to a new zone that would reflect the neighborhood hub concept – small-scale shops and services within residential neighborhoods that would help meet the daily needs of nearby residents. (Any rezoning of properties outside of city limits would be coordinated with Marion and Polk counties.)

The properties shown as “Neighborhood Hub” would not be required to be redeveloped into a business or other nonresidential use. They could remain a single-family home.

The properties, however, would be allowed in the future to be reused or redeveloped into a business or nonresidential use. Those uses would be limited to retail shops, small cafes and restaurants, personal services, day care centers, and other neighborhood- serving uses. All of the uses already allowed in the [Single-Family Residential \(RS\)](#) zone would continue to be allowed.

Any business or nonresidential use would be limited in size and height to promote compatibility with the scale of the surrounding neighborhood and to encourage orientation to the local neighborhood. Design standards would promote pedestrian- oriented development. Spacing requirements and overall restrictions on the size of neighborhood hubs would ensure that the hubs would not spread across residential neighborhoods.