



**SALEM PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
SALEM PUBLIC LIBRARY – ANDERSON ROOM
MARCH 14, 2019
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tony Caito
Diana Dickey
Woody Dukes
Dylan McDowell
Kasia Quillinan
Paul Rice
Patty Tipton
Micki Varney

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dave Fridenmaker

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Bellshaw
Tom Cupani
Allen Dannen
Patricia Farrell
Luke Gmazel
Jennifer Kellar
Kristin Retherford
Toni Whitler

The audio for this meeting is available at the following link under *Agendas and Meeting Minutes*:
<https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/parks-and-recreation-advisory-board.aspx>

1. ROLL

David Fridenmaker marked absent.

2. STAFF PRESENTATION

Following Chair Quillinan's introduction and finding of no conflicts of interest, Allen Dannen, P.E., Assistant City Engineer and Project Manager presented the staff report for the tree removal on the 400 Block of Division St. NE. Steve Bellshaw, Deputy Chief of Police, also spoke on behalf of the new police station on the importance of lighting and safety near the facility.

Mr. Dannen closed his presentation by respectfully requesting the Board make its decision that evening due to the timing of the new police facility move-in next year. He added that if there is a decision to retain some or all of the trees, they will go back and look at how to meet some of the design objectives, but the most likely scenario is they will remove the 400 Block from the project due to timing constraints. Lastly, he asked, whatever decision is made, to please preserve the ability for Public Works' crews to conduct maintenance and hazard mitigation as necessary.

Chair Quillinan asked how many visitor parking spaces are available on the street. Mr. Dannen replied 31. Chair Quillinan asked how the removal of the trees on Division Street NE affects safety concerns. Mr. Dannen replied that trees and lighting in appropriate spacing can provide safety when walking.

Member Dukes suggested that the darkness of the area is due to the cyclone fence with slats. Mr. Dannen replied that the zoning in the area is Commercial/Retail, requiring that buildings be pushed to the property line frontage at street level. The cyclone fence will be replaced by building fronts. Member Dukes suggested increasing lighting with the existing trees.

Member McDowell asked whether there are lighting standards that will work if some trees are removed. Dannen said there is a concern regarding trenching for lighting and how that might affect the trees. Timing is the other piece of the decision.

Member Dickey asked whether this project is part of the police station or an add-on. Mr. Dannen replied that the initial project included a signal at Division and Liberty. When the bond passed, they sat down with staff at Urban Development to see what enhancements could be made. The angled parking came about as they developed a solution to meet zoning requirements and address safety and security concerns.

Chair Quillinan said that one of the ideas is for some trees to be removed. Could some be taken out with spacing to achieve the purpose? Allen replied, the short answer is yes, but the issue with the trees in their existing location is that they don't fit relative to the proposed new curbs and street construction.

Former Member Fujii asked what the parking length of time is for the angled parking. Dannen said 3-hour time limit. Fujii said there is an employment office in that area that serves people who would need parking availability.

3. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Speaking in Opposition to Removal (in order of testimony):

- a. Laura Buell, Representing Northeast Neighbors and Wards 1&2
- b. Gary Pullman, D Street NE
- c. Ray Quisenberry, Ward 1
- d. Ellen Stevens, Ward 2
- e. Bill Fujii, Holiday Drive S.
- f. Leslie Polson, Ward 2
- g. Kim Davis, Oakridge Court SE
- h. EM Easterly, Ward 8
- i. Sara Parkinson, Ward 5
- j. Michael Slater, Ward 7
- k. Joan Lloyd, Ward 1
- l. Barbara Moore, South Salem
- m. Jon Christenson, Ward 2

Speaking in Support of Removal: None.

Lengthy discussion ensued and Chair Quillinan called up Jamos Velarde, Certified Arborist, Mountain View Tree Service, who was contracted by the City to assess the condition of the trees on the 400 block of Division Street NE. Chair Quillinan asked what the statement "3-7 years" means on the assessment. Velarde said it is the estimate of time when failure might occur. Chair Quillinan asked whether this is assuming no mitigation has taken place. Velarde replied, yes, as of the date of inspection. Chair Quillinan asked if he had an estimate of longevity with pruning. Velarde replied, if proposed mitigation followed, and trees are 60-70 years old, a realistic life expectancy is 150 years, but there are a lot of variables. Tree 20 is declining at an accelerated rate due to congestion.

Chair Quillinan asked Velarde whether the tree canopy being intertwined would affect the trees. He replied that since the trees are mature, the rubbing of limbs isn't much of a problem. He added that the roots are fairly intertwined so removing one tree would detrimentally affect the other. (Mr. Cupani noted that the trees referenced by the arborist as declining are noted in the report as trees 2, 5, 8, and 20.)

Member Rice to Velarde: Member Rice noted that the trees have been neglected but surviving on their own may be due to the wide planting strip. If the trees were maintained maybe they are good for another 50-60 years. Velarde confirmed that was in alignment with his assessment.

After additional discussion, there was motion to close the evidence by Member Rice and seconded by Member Dickey. Motion passed.

4. BOARD DELIBERATIONS AND DECISION

The Board began deliberations and decreased the number of trees to be removed, per the arborist's recommendation, to three trees: 8, 12, and 20 as identified in the arborist's report.

Assistant City Attorney Cupani made a clarification as the Board came to a decision. He stated that if, in the future, the City had a different project in the same location, the City would not be able to remove the trees unless they came to the Board and requested permission.

Two final motions from the Board:

1. Motion by Chair Quillinan and seconded by Member Dickey: The City has not met its burden as to trees 1-7, 9-11, 13-19; to preserve and protect them to the maximum extent possible, and therefore did not meet its burden under Salem Administrative Rule 109-500-002-2.3(f) and Salem Revised Code Chapter 86.050(b).
All in favor.

2. Motion by Chair Quillinan and seconded by Member Rice: Regarding trees on Division Street: Retain all of the trees on [400 block] Division Street NE with the exception of 20, 8, 12 which, the Board directs, should be replanted if at all feasible.
All in favor.

5. NEXT MEETING

April 11, 2019

6. ADJOURN

8:20 p.m.