

February 4, 2020 Meeting
South West Association of Neighbors (SWAN)

Attendees

Jeanine Stice, Connie Jones, Pat Norman, Becky Miner, Becky Beaman, Kristi Bowman, Jeff Schumacher, Allison Houck, Ted Burney, Judy and Bob Martin, Claire Nettleton, Scott Stice, Len Nelson, Darren Howard, Ron Eachus, Carol Grimwood

Meeting called to order by Jeanine Stice at 6:35pm
Minutes approved

Bylaw Update

Bylaws need to be updated to reflect current needs, i.e. special executive board meetings via email notification and absenteeism of board members. Connie will provide draft of revised Bylaws to board prior to next meeting for discussion.

Email communication - Board agreed that special meetings held outside the regularly scheduled monthly meetings requiring board member attention and or voting may be attended in person or communicated via email as long as members are given 5 days advance notice. The executive board shall be responsible for communication and monitoring of email response.

Absenteeism – discussion concluded that if a board member is unable to attend 3 consecutive regular monthly meetings without prior approval, written notice will be given at or before the third absence to notify board member that their position will be vacated after the fourth month. Board members seeking approval for an absence must provide prior notice to the Board Chair or Secretary.

Officer Report

None in attendance for this meeting

City Councilor, Ward 7 Report – Vanessa Nordyke

Vanessa encourages anyone interested in attending meetings or volunteering on contact her

Updates provided –

Homelessness – various local agencies are providing connectivity for homelessness including Building Relationships, urban development, Taylor House and the YMCA.

Homelessness and tripled in the last 2 years with seniors being the fastest growing group

Multifamily Design – Parking mandate removed from design requirements favoring developers as it is cheaper. No final decisions have been made yet and there is still time for comment

Pioneer Cemetery – Motion has been made by the city to study the issue of the trail through Pioneer Cemetery and the location of a gate as to how it should look and still preserve historical registration.

Pros advocate that the trail/gate through the cemetery on makes their neighborhood more livable and workable.

Cons advocate that the trail/gate would bring more traffic and vandalism.

The city will hold a hearing on this subject on February 24th

Request was made to have a representative from Pioneer Cemetery at next meeting.

For more information on any of the above contact Vanessa @ vnordyke@cityofsalem.

Land Use Report and Update – Ted Burney, Chr.

Ted reviewed letter written to the City on behalf of SWAN regarding the proposed design standard changes for the Salem multifamily design project. In summary, the letter supports a proposed change that no balconies be allowed face single family homes if the building façade is within 50 feet of those properties. Current design standards on 13+ units also require a landscaping buffer between building and single resident homes.

SWAN members in attendance supported the position of this letter and it's submission to the city council. Various other issues regarding development of multi units were mentioned – setbacks, maximum height restrictions and roof line pitch in order to fit into the character of the neighborhood.

Ted and the land Use committee members agree that protecting privacy and upholding the character of neighborhoods is the primary focus in supporting development efforts. Ron would like to coordinate efforts between all Land Use committees from other neighborhoods for cohesiveness and impact on common decisions. Recommendation was made to contact Irma before the next meeting to inquire into creating such a group or see if it already exists and report back at the next meeting.

Salem Reads 2020 – Judy Martin

The Salem Public Library Foundation is featuring “Piecing me Together” by Renee Watson for its Salem Reads: One Book, One Community program. This novel, set in Portland, explores issues of friendship, race and privilege. She will be the guest speaker on Feb 6th at the Grand Theater from 7-9pm. Other exciting events were highlighted including Salem City Club with Willie Richardson and Gwen Carr of OBP discussing “Racing to Change: Oregon’s Civil Rights Years”, Open Mic Nights, Book Club discussions for Teens and Adults. For more information, including dates and times of events go to splfoundation.org or facebook.com/spl.oregon/

Temporary location of Salem Library opens February 18 at 1400 Broadway.

Salem Parks Foundation – Pat Norman

Salem Parks Foundation has grant money available for sprucing up our parks – Bailey Ridge, Nelson and Fircrest. Deadline is April 30. Great time to seek funds for any new equipment needs. Visit your park and bring your request for items you would like to add to your favorite park to the next meeting.

Committees 2020

Parks - Battle Creek Master Plan. Pat will draft a letter of support on behalf of SWAN.

Emergency Preparedness – SWAN CERT submitted their plan for 2020 which outlines helping neighbors prepare for and recover from natural and man-made incidents and disasters in coordination with government officials. CERT plans on meeting every third Thursday of the month. This month the meeting will be February 7th at Westminster Presbyterian.

Neighborhood Engagement/Closing

SWAN goals for 2020 were discussed and will be revisited at next meeting. Suggestions ranged from parks to emergency preparedness.

Any concerns re: code enforcement can be directed to Deb Romano at dromano@cityofsalem.net

Campaign for City Councilor Ward 7 will be launching soon. Candidates Vanessa Nordyke and Reid Sund are currently in contention. SWAN invites both candidates to participate in a forum at our April meeting. Questions relevant to our neighborhood will be formatted at March meeting in preparation for April forum.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25