

August 4, 2020 Meeting – Fircrest Park  
Southwest Association of Neighbors (SWAN)

**Attendees**

Board Members - Jeanine Stice, Allison Houck, Connie Jones, Ted Burney, Pat Norman, Becky Miner. Judy Omalia. Excused Board Members – Darren Warren, Carol Grimwood  
Neighbors – Rob Thrasher, Russel Fauss, Karen and Ken Freeman, Henry Neugrass

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

**Intro and Neighborhood Highlights**

Renewal of SWAN’s website along with \$99.00 fee was unanimously approved by board in attendance.

**Minutes Approval**

July minutes approved and seconded.

**City Council Update – Councilor Nordyke**

Salem Vision Update - City Council and city planners will be reviewing the plan at the September 23 meeting discussing neighborhood hub survey, how we want our city to look as we grow and position on infill.

Police Performance Audit – August 10<sup>th</sup> is deadline for audit bids. There will be a public advisory group created for oversight. Public input welcomed – contact Vanessa for more information.

Pioneer Cemetery Update – Motion made and approved on August 10 for further study involving a City View option and Option #5 presented by city staff. Vanessa was very appreciative of Pioneer Cemetery tour given to her by Elizabeth Potter and Pat Norman.

Ted Burney cited various ODOT grants that may be pursued for pathway funding as well as a “Keep Oregon Moving 2019”, which offers funding for intermodal projects.

Open vacancies and low contingencies have kept dollars flowing in Salem during the pandemic.

“Cash for Trash” received \$50,000 in funding which may allow for expansion to other uses.

**Land Use Report and Update – Ted Burney**

Tree Removal appeal - Board voted unanimously to support Wren Heights tree removal appeal and approved payment of \$283 for the appeal fee from SWAN funds.

The city cited “confusion” when allowing 5 trees to be cut down by a developer along Salem Heights Ave. without a permit and then granted an “after the fact” permit. The appeal will contend that there was a “denial of process” by which residents were denied their right to pursue alternatives that may have protected the trees. It will seek remedy through penalties which could be as much as \$100,000 owed the city and a stay on construction until the fines are paid.

The appeal goes before the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on September 10<sup>th</sup> and any and all SWAN neighbors are encouraged to participate.

For more information or how you can help contact Ted Burney at

[burney.ted.tb@gmail.com](mailto:burney.ted.tb@gmail.com)

Pioneer Cemetery Update – A special shout out to Elizabeth Potter and Pat Norman for their efforts in supporting the preservation of the historic cemetery with tours, volunteering and community involvement.

As the city determines the necessity of a pathway through the cemetery, SWAN is focused on ensuring that such a path, if approved, is pursued slowly and methodically with high and consistent standards, no “doggie gate” and that it commemorates the discovery of history as it provides neighborhood connectivity.

### **Kurth Development - Henry Neugass, Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association**

Henry reached out to SWAN to share his neighbors’ concerns and seek advice in opposing a 36 unit, 3 story development being planned at Kurth and Browning which neighbors feel will greatly impact the Browning corridor with excessive traffic. Henry stated his neighbors are concerned about not knowing what will happen and when, what notifications/legislation are required, how to focus comments, how to prepare for an appeal. Efforts have been started to stop the zoning change and possibly considering selling shares to preserve property.

Recommendations were made by Jeanine who cited the Salem Heights Advisory Board which was instituted to oversee the Wren Heights development, provide a conduit between neighbors and city planners to address infrastructure issues and to move big decisions forward. Ted stressed emphasis on zoning laws which will need to be changed, working on a cost basis for water runoff, offering up alternative design options such as green space, balconies and redesigned townhomes.

Additional recommendations included reviewing the Salem Heights Advisory website, getting a “developer” lawyer, designating a point person, reviewing Bill Dixon’s minutes on the Salem Heights development, staying informed through materials that the city sends to all NA chairmen, keeping open lines of communication with city planner assigned to project.

### **Committee Updates**

Parks – Pat Norman stated that Woodmansee Park will be getting a Master Plan update which will consider adding new uses and features and review drinking water improvements. For more information visit the Woodmansee Park Master Plan Update website or send your thoughts to Woodmansee Input@cityofsalem.net

### **Program Planning Going Forward and Venue**

As the current SWAN meeting site at Salem Heights school is no longer being provided free of charge and is currently not available due to the virus, other options and locations need to be considered. Becky suggested Pringle Hall Park which is currently being used for quarterly board meetings, or other city locations. Connie will pursue with Irma.

In the immediate future, our September meeting will be conducted virtually on Zoom with Rob Thrasher as host who has a pro account. Concerns regarding “waiting room” policy and procedure, cyber bullying and city policy for public meetings were mentioned which will be discussed with Irma by Connie.

### **Neighborhood Concerns and Closing**

Rob Thrasher brought up pocket parks in Candalaria. Pat Norman, parks chair, will pursue with Eunice Kim, Salem Vision spokesperson, and report back at September meeting.

Neighbors would like to have a crime report presented at the next meeting which is also available on city website.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00pm

