

October 6, 2020 Meeting – Virtual  
Southwest Association of Neighbors (SWAN)

**Attendees**

Board Members - Jeanine Stice, Pat Norman, John Lattimer, Carol Grimwood, Connie Jones  
Excused Board Members – Darren Warren, Becky Miner, Ted Burney  
Neighbors – Claire Nettleton, Cynthia Donald, Ron Eachus, Mike Morrow, Bill Dixon

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

**Intro and Neighborhood Highlights**

Jeanine welcomed all to our first virtual Zoom meeting and discussed a few procedural pointers to make the meeting run more smoothly despite a rough start!

**Minutes Approval**

August minutes approved and seconded.

**Police Offer Report – Lt. Van Teter**

Police Chief Selection – 2 candidates have been selected to interview for the current retiring police Chief vacancy. A virtual public forum will be held on October 30 from 3:30-4:30 to offer residents an opportunity to ask questions.

Road Racing – Neighbors expressed a concern about noise and safety resulting from an uptick in road racing both day and night on Homestead and River roads. Officer Teter was aware of this issue and would look into the situation and report back.

**City Council Update – Councilor Nordyke**

Fire Update – Councilor Nordyke commented on the tragic fires that recently devastated the communities of Mill City and Gates and yet miraculously spared the Gates Community Church. Legal assistance is being provided to help those residents impacted by the fire with their insurance policy entitlements.

Monthly Meetings with the Councilor – Ward 7 Zoom meetings will be conducted by Councilor Nordyke on a monthly basis. Last month's guest speaker was Milan Davis, Salem Urban Forester. The next meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup> will feature Dylan McDowell, chair of the Parks Advisory Board from 5:30-6:30pm.

Climate Action Task Force – The City of Salem has started a community-wide effort to develop a Climate Action Plan for Salem to set guidelines for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increased resilience to climate change through community partnerships. Visit their website at <https://salemclimateactionplan.com/> to get involved and/or provide input.

Police Performance Audit – A steering committee has been assigned to review the police performance audit results. The Council had voted unanimously for an outside performance audit of the Salem Police Department to examine the agency's policies and training in light of recent national events.

Homelessness and COVID – Awareness of concern continues as more people are at risk of losing their homes in the coming months. The summer program to shelter the homeless at Cascade and Wallace Park seems to be going well and has been extended though Jan. 12, 2021 under the emergency declaration act due to the COVID pandemic.

Saturday Market – The Market will be held at its new location in the Chemeketa Parking Garage by JC Penneys in a continuing effort to support local downtown businesses.

### **Land Use Report and Update**

In Ted Burney's absence, Ron Eachus from the Land Use committee provided a summary of the action taken by the committee to appeal the excessive tree cutting at the proposed Wren Heights development site on Salem Heights Rd. citing negligence in enforcement and lack of reasonable alternatives. The appeal was sadly lost in a 5-3 vote by the Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, upholding the public works director's decision to approve the removal of the trees. However, penalties for removal of the protected trees are still being assessed and SWAN will be updated as soon as they are known. City Council, perhaps as a result of this appeal, is holding a tree workshop on October 19<sup>th</sup> and will be seeking public input. SWAN will submit a letter and invites neighbors to provide individual comments.

Jeannine provided additional land use updates on the following topics –

Kurth/Browning rezone – the application for a change in zoning from single family to residential multiple, allowing for the development of a 35 unit apartment complex, has been withdrawn with no reason given. Updates will be provided as they become known on any progress of this project in support of our neighboring Sunnyslope association.

Doughton St. Partition – partition has advanced for council approval with no objections from either SWAN or SCAN NA's.

Salem Heights Advisory Update – Bill Dixon

Bill provided an update on the Salem Heights Advisory group which consists of 10 people made up of neighbors and city transportation employees and focuses on 3 main goals with regard to the development of Salem Heights Rd: safety, maintaining and reflecting the current integrity of the neighborhood and fitting into the city's TSP. The meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup> discussed topics concerning road design, sidewalks and a bicycle lane among other concerns. The website

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/salem-heights-ave-street-refinement-plan.aspx> is available to follow their progress and provide input.

### **City Park Update – Toni Whitler, Woodmansee Park**

Woodmansee Park currently has 4 wells and an aquifer storage and recovery system this is being improved to include a new treatment building and additional wells. A master plan for Woodmansee is available online featuring virtual Open Houses to encourage public participation in the planning process and to submit their recreational preferences. Two virtual Open Houses have already been held. The Third Open House is scheduled for some time this winter and will reveal a preferred design option based on public feedback. To participate in this last Open House and the planning process please go to the following link: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/woodmansee-park-master-plan-update.aspx>

### **City Planning Update – Salem Vision, Eunice Kim**

Our Salem Vision draft is part of a multi-year project to update the Salem Area Comprehensive Plan and is still a year out from being finalized. It includes goals and interactive maps that reflect priorities from public input. Community outreach will continue through the fall and winter with plans to present to City Council late in 2021. Follow along and participate at <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/our-salem-releases-draft-vision-for-salems-future.aspx>

### **Committee Updates**

#### **Parks – Pat Norman**

Candalaria Reservoir Pocket Park update – Pat met with Patricia Farrell and Jennifer Kellar from City of Salem Parks and Recreation and learned that the reservoir is in the 2013 Comprehensive Parks system Master Plan as a “proposed facility” for a neighborhood park but has never been finalized. The reservoir is only ¼ of the 5 acre parcel and according to Jason Pulley from the city Water Department, it may be

increased in size over the next 10 years but there are no definite plans. Ideas for the park have been a pollinator park or exercise stations. To move this issue forward, Pat suggests further research on the Master plan and ultimately submitting a plan although there are no guarantees this would be approved. Further discussion is warranted.

The SPIF grant request for the purchase of a drinking fountain at Fircrest Park must be submitted by the end of October.

**Watershed – Carol Grimwood**

Carol spoke to Mr. Easterley, an advocate for the Salem Watershed, about the addition of adding a citizen oversight committee (much like that for Planning) that he proposed being added to the master waste water/storm water plan. Council felt the Master Plan was the wrong place to put this and deferred for the time being. His goal is more citizen involvement and he encourages the public to contact the Council to support such a committee.

**CERT - Cynthia Donald**

Red Cross packets with information on Cascadia preparedness were distributed to 67 homes from Salem Heights to Crestview and Holiday to Hanson. It was stressed that knowing your neighbor is critical for emergency preparedness as there will be no outside help available should a catastrophic event occur.

**Neighborhood Concerns and Closing**

Due to the national elections being held on our next regularly scheduled meeting, the date for our meeting in November has been changed to the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00pm