



Meeting Minutes September 14, 2023
SOUTH GATEWAY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SGNA met via Zoom due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Board Members

Present

Dynee Medlock Chair

Vice chair

Dave McKenna Secretary

Treasurer

Kathleen Lempka

Absent

Jackie Leung

Jerry Sachtjen

Mike Hughes

John Ledger

Glenn Baly

Community members:

Becky Ray

Greg MacDonald

Trenda's iPhone

Guests

Deanna Gwyn, City Councilor, Ward 4

Vanessa Nordyke, City Councilor, Ward 7

Dean McDowell, Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Jim Schepke, Community Leader, Dolly Parton Imagination Library

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dynee Medlock. There were technical difficulties due to the link from the agenda not working. There was not a quorum of the board.

2. Vanessa Nordyke - City Councilor Report

Councilor Nordyke gave a report. Welcomed kids and facility back to school.

September 15th is "Buck for Kids" day at Dutch Brothers. \$1 from each drink ordered goes to CASA of Marion County.

City Snapshot:

- Voter concern over Payroll Tax prompts successful petition to place Payroll Tax on the ballot [If it doesn't pass in November Council will need to make some cuts.]
- Council votes down staff support for South Salem Townhall; Councilors to organize one without staff support
- YMCA Veterans Housing Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony
- Navigation Center Update
- West Salem 436 Units of Multifamily Housing Development Approved
- Salem Heights Avenue Refinement Plan Moves Forward
- City Council Work Session - Revised FY 2024 Budget - Sept 18
- Running for Reelection!

SEPTEMBER 18 WORK SESSION ON BUDGET

The City Council adopted the FY 2024 budget on June 26, 2023. The budget was adopted with the understanding that if new revenues did not materialize, it would need to be amended. This work session is to discuss potential reduction scenarios for during the forecast period. City Council will hold discussion regarding the General Fund including: fund balance after the closing of FY 2023, proposed service cuts, and direction to staff on preparation of a FY 2024 supplemental budget.

YMCA VETERANS HOUSING RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

In 2019, with the leadership of Senator Peter Courtney, we secured funds through the Oregon legislature to build a 34-unit Veterans Housing complex to support Veterans with a permanent affordable housing option.

Apartment options offer one-and two-bedroom units which range from 400 square feet to 750 square feet. Each unit comes equipped with a washer/dryer, and the building has an elevator for full access to every floor for those with physical disabilities.

This apartment complex is owned by the Withnell Family YMCA (I'm a proud member of their Board of Directors) and is overseen by Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs.

CITY OF SALEM NAVIGATION CENTER UPDATE

Of the 60 program beds, we have 40 filled, with a plan to continue to add 5 a week until we get to 60.

We will be close to full occupancy by September.

The other 15 beds are "diversion beds," which are designed for short-term stays (day or two for law enforcement referrals).

Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA) is not activating those until we get the program beds full.

Congratulations on the SCAN Street Mural Project!

City is working with 10 Neighborhood Associations for new street mural sites.

The City's Public Art Commission has volunteered to help connect neighbors to artists.

Interested? Let me connect you!

SOUTH SALEM TOWNHALL

Voted down [staff support] by City Council by a 6-3 margin

Goals:

Increase transparency

Build trust

Increase community engagement

Discuss transportation and development coming to South Salem

Discuss latest efforts to address homelessness

Q & A with South Salem City Councilors

Connect residents with South Salem Neighborhood

WILL NOT OCCUR ON SEPTEMBER 21st. Hoping for date in October.

Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams

The Fairmont Hill Neighborhood Association has created a template and tool-kit for neighborhood emergency response teams to build resiliency and community. If you are interested in creating this for SGNA please contact me.

Tools to Help Stop Unsafe Driving

SUBMIT A TRAFFIC REPORT

Report traffic violations you have witnessed on our citizen traffic report form. We will send the owner of the vehicle a letter saying a violation was witnessed.

REQUEST A READER BOARD

Radar reader boards can be placed in locations where speeding complaints are reported. The reader boards show drivers how fast they are going and what the speed limit is.

CONTACT THE TRAFFIC TEAM

Send an email message about the traffic problem occurring. Include the location and description of the traffic issue happening.

DETAILS ON CITY WEBSITE

More info on these options on-line.

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/community/safety/police/crime-and-other-police-reports/tools-to-help-stop-unsafe-driving>

Tickets on Sale Now - COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY GALA - The Roaring 20's - October 14, 2023 6:30 PM @ The Salem Convention Center, 200 Commercial Street SE, Salem, OR

Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action will be hosting our second annual Community Action Gala! Join us for a night of twenties-themed revelry to support a good cause. Proceeds will support families facing poverty in Marion and Polk counties.

MWVCAA is one of the leading supportive services providers within the Willamette Valley. Our programs are producing real change. Together, with our community partners, we're addressing the root causes of poverty and helping thousands of people lead better lives. The Community Action Gala is just one-way MWVCAA can partner with you in continuing this change.

To sign up for community alerts go to:

<https://member.everbridge.net/892807736721950/new>

3. City Councilor Report

Councilor Gwyn gave a report. There will be Open House for City of Salem's Floodplain Management Plan Update on September 28th from 4:30 - 6:30 PM at the Anderson Room of the Salem Library.

4. Dylan McDowell - Salem Parks and Recreation Board (SPRAB)

Organization & Duties of SPRAB

- Nine Members
 - One expert in urban forestry, horticulture, or arboriculture
- Advisory Board to Salem City Council
 - Council Liaison: Councilor Micki Varney, Ward 8
- Advocates and makes recommendations on:
 - Park Policies
 - Park Planning and Development
 - Park Maintenance and Operations
 - Recreation Programming
- Issues decisions on appeals to tree removal permits for city-owned trees
- Recommends nominations for Heritage Tree designations
- Meetings held monthly
 - Second Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m.
 - All meetings are public
- Online viewing and participation
 - View at the 'City of Salem Public Meetings' YouTube Channel

- Join us on Zoom to participate
- Meetings are scheduled on City website calendar (on the homepage)
- Comment opportunities
 - On items on the agenda
 - On items not on the agenda, typically Agenda Item 3
 - Public hearings

Please provide written comment by 5 p.m. or earlier one day prior to the day of the meeting. Send to salemparks@cityofsalem.net.

Salem's Park System

Park Land: Approximately 2,350 acres

Park Units: 91 parks

- 48 Neighborhood Parks
- 11 Community Parks
- 11 Natural Areas
- 7 Urban Parks
- 6 Linear Parks and Connector Trails
- 4 Special Use Facilities
- 4 Historical Areas

Developed Parks: 61

Trails: 66 miles of soft and hard surface trails

Parks In Your Neighborhood

Neighborhood Parks

- Bryan Johnston Park
- Rees Park
- Sumpter School Park
- Wes Bennett Park
- Sunnyside Garden (Undeveloped)
- Wiltsey Road Property (Undeveloped)

Community Park

- Rees Hill Property (Undeveloped/Closed)

Urban Park

- Battle Creek Park (Undeveloped)

Linear Park

- Woodscape Park

Park System Funding Streams

- General Fund
- State Highway Funds (Gas Tax)
- Interfund Transfers

- Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)
- Other Revenue (Donations, Endowments, Permit Fees, Direct Program Fees)
- General Obligation (GO) Bond

Salem Park Improvement Fund (SPIF)

Funding opportunity for Salem's neighborhood associations (NAs)

City Council typically provides \$60,000 in SPIF funds each year

Projects must be approved by City staff and consistent with Salem Comprehensive Park System Master Plan polices

How the Partnership Works:

- NA identifies a project within one of their parks
- City staff works with the NA to ensure feasible
- Projects selected by the SPIF Project Review Committee
- City awards up to 75% of funds needed to construct the project
- SPIF project cycles run for a 2-year period

SPIF Timeline

Beginning

September of Each Year

Neighborhood
Associations
Notified of
New SPIF
Cycle

End of October of Each Year

Letters of
Intent Due

November of Each Year

Review Letters of Intent

November -

January of Each Year

NAs and City
Staff Prepare
Project
Budgets

End of January

of Each Year

NAs Submit

Formal

Applications

February Each Year

SPIF Committee Reviews

Formal Applications and

Awards Funds

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Five-year forecast identifying major projects requiring public funds over and above routine annual operating expenses, updated annually

Annual CIP Process

- Committee Meetings
- Scoring
- Programming Funding*
- Create CIP Document
- Presentations
- Submission to Budget Office
- Council Adoption

*Funding sources include General Fund, System Development Charges, Development District Fees, Bonds, Grants, Transient Occupancy Tax, Loans, and Tax Increment

Park Master Plan Process

- Identify Local and System Priorities and Needs
- Outreach and Public Participation
- Development of Design Options
- Staff Recommendation to SPRAB
- SPRAB Recommendation to City Council
- Council Approval

If you would like to be involved in a park planning project, you can sign up to get email updates.

<https://bit.ly/COSParkPlanningList>

Park Planning & Development in Your Neighborhood

Proposed Neighborhood Park in Willamette Valley View Estates

- Funded acquisition of a new park, approximately 2.9 acre
- Developer to provide "pre-development": grading, street frontage (e.g., sidewalks, street trees), looped walking path, and rough lawn seeding

Proposed Fabry Natural Area

- Funded acquisition of a new natural area park, approximately 5.6 acre

- Developer to provide "pre-development": grading, restoration, walking path, and outdoor classroom adjacent to Pringle Creek Elementary

Rees Park Playground

- Play equipment replacement in 2024

Sumpter Park Sports Court

- Planning for multi-use court rehabilitation to start this fall with improvements occurring in 2024 or 2025

Contact:

Rob Romanek, Parks Planning Manager
503-588-6211 | rromanek@cityofsalem.net

Recreation, Sports, and Activities

Come Out and Play!

Athletics

Baseball | Basketball | Cheerleading | Flag Football | Pickleball
Soccer | Softball | STRIDE / Fun Runs and Walks | Tennis
Track & Field | Volleyball | Kickball | Multi-Sport

Activities

Fishing Derby | Movies in the Park | Nature Camps | Owl Prowl
Such A Voice | Summer Parks Program Day Camps | Tree Climbing

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/community/things-to-do/recreation-sports-and-activities>

Contact

Customer Service: 503-588-6261
Recreation Staff: 503-588-6211
Email: parksandrecreation@cityofsalem.net

Volunteer in Salem Parks

Salem parks receives over 55,000 volunteer hours a year or the equivalent of approximately 27 full-time equivalent employees

Park Volunteer Programs

- Park Partners
- Gardening
- Deadhead Rose Bushes
- City partnership with Friends of Trees
- Salem Pioneer Cemetery

Contact

Amanda Sitter, Volunteer Coordinator
503-589-2197 | asitter@cityofsalem.net

Connect

<https://www.facebook.com/salemparksvolunteers>

Question: Is there a minimum age for volunteers, if not accompanied by a parent? Dylan said he would have to get answer back from Amanda on that.

Capital Improvement Project Request Form:

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/home/showpublisheddocument/148/637782040581130000>

5. Jim Scheppeke - Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Problem: Less than half of third graders in south Salem elementary schools passed the state reading test in 2022. All Salem-Keizer Elementary Schools Third Graders testing “Proficient” was 26%.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Free, high-quality books for children from birth to age five, no matter their family's income.

- One book is mailed in the child's name each month, age birth to 5, NO COST to the family.
- Age-specific reading tips for parents
- Book themes: love of reading and learning; regard for diversity of people; promotion of self-esteem and confidence.
- Audio and Braille books available

2022

197,460,315 Books Gifted Since Inception.

- The number of books gifted in 2022 was 24,708,008. This was an overall 11.56% increase over 2021 and equals 2,567,700 additional books gifted. (This equates to a book mailed every 1.27 seconds).

Breakdown by country for books gifted:

- USA: 23,362,946
- Canada: 463,190
- United Kingdom: 604,963
- Australia: 203,999
- Republic of Ireland: 72,910
-

Over 24 million books gifted in 2022

A 11.56% increase over 2021
(Equates to 1 book mailed every 1.27 seconds)

Books are mailed from Dollywood.

Locally started the program, here in July 2022 and currently cover 97301, 97306, 97317, Keizer, Aumsville, Independence and Falls City. Other participating communities include: Silverton, Jefferson and Santiam Canyon. Have 2,000 Children signed up in our area so far.

Have received donations from the Creekside Rotary Club and \$1.7M from the state legislature.

To sign up to get books go to: <https://parentinghub.org/for-parents/imagination-library/>

To donate go to: <https://donate.imaginationlibrary.com/>

If you have questions contact: jscheppke@comcast.net

6. New Business

No new Business.

7. Adjournment.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 12th at 6:45 PM at the Battle Creek Elementary School and will be a hybrid meeting in person and with Zoom.