



## **WSNA General Meeting**

**Thursday May 2, 2024**

**Location: Roth's at 1130 Wallace Road NW, Salem OR 97304**

**Meeting Called to Order:** 6:36 PM

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:20 PM

**Board Members Present:** Chair–Mike Freitas, Secretary– Drew Strayer, Nick Fortey, EM Easterly, Steve Anderson, Maureen Zwicker

**Board Members Absent:** Vice-Chair– Sara Campos, Treasurer - Beverly Frietas, Pamela Garland

**# Residents Present:** 13

### **AGENDA**

Call meeting to order: Mike

Reading of equity statement: Roberto

Any additions to agenda from the body: None

Approval of agenda: MSA

Minutes: Mike Reviewed onscreen

Any corrections or additions to minutes: None

Approval of minutes: Mike, MSA

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

• **Guest: Salem Police Department:** Sgt. Kevin Hill: shifts: Noon-midnight and weekends.

Community violence presentation at Chemeketa Community College this week, and three more coming through June. Opening discussions within community toward solutions.

May 18<sup>th</sup> at Police Dept. community room – hosting a procedural justice meeting: community members can register to engage with police officers of

all experience levels throughout the community. Hashing out the "whys" the Police officers do things the ways they do and how they treat members of the community. Reach out to Lt. Aguilar if interested in participating.

Offered volunteer opportunities and reach out if there are any interested in applying to be a police officer.

5 positions lost due to budget cuts: 1 Graffiti abatement and 4 sworn positions: Lt.s, Sgts, and officers with potential to lose another 10 officers by next summer.

Opened for Q's: None. Appreciation shared by a community member for the weekly updates of incidents.

Crime Data map on Lexus Nexus offers total calls and filtered by crime across city.

• **Guest: Representative Paul Evans:**

Leg update: interim period – supposedly not meeting, but politicians always meeting. Quarterly leg day coming end of the month. Chair of public safety committee of E-Board. Facing significant financial challenges. Many of the policies we attempted, esp. addiction services and housing, are being improved and will be better once completed. State going through a period of financial contraction. State challenges: tax system does not allow local leaders the authority they once had. At this point, we will need to pick and choose among the good things given the funding constraints. Also the weight-mile system is a pretty good system, but some variables were not factored correctly and the state is preparing to refund \$1.8B to companies and individuals due to over-billing. Fewer vehicles are paying gas tax due to fuel economy, but in some cases, some entities are not paying their fair share. State cannot deficit spend which is good, but limiting.

Francis, the Employment Dept is seeking to put new system online, but with challenges.

Housing remains a challenge. It is harder to convince developers to build things without the profit margin. I am looking to find a subsidy plan.

Governor has undergone staffing changes. New Chief of Staff knows Independence and West Salem, so that is good for us.

Open for Q's: Any insight on lack of income from state buildings in City of Salem.

RE: Payment in lieu of taxes. There is no doubt or argument that there is an impact. Multiple issues with addressing this. Proportionately, Salem is not in top 3 areas of Oregon by percentage of land area. Monmouth has 65% due to Western Oregon University, Klamath Falls, Madras, other cities face similar

challenges – more than just the capital city. While Washington has a plan for Olympia, other cities receive benefits, too. Tradeoff used to be wanting state employees for local business, but now it's the worst as the facilities are fixed AND you have to support the buildings AND the employees have not returned post-COVID to support local businesses. Our property tax system is inherently unfair. In a community where 1 person pays \$1K in tac and another pays \$6K it does not pass the smell test. Just resetting at sale, we may bring another \$1-3 billion in taxes. Despite that, we are in the middle somewhere even without a sales tax. I think we need to reevaluate the tax system. Consider the need and then find a way to pay for it.

Despite our claims, other areas have claims too and the state cannot meet all those so that complicates addressing Salem only.

Q: What percentage of kicker goes back to corporations. Some companies file as individuals within that regime. We have a corporate kicker, but what is counted as a corporation makes that more difficult and we try to keep as much of that as possible for a rainy day. Like individuals it is at the 5%-6% range.

Q: we anticipate the bridge upgrade. Where are we in talking about impact of traffic on that road/bridge? Here's what I think and what I know...back in 2017, there was a bucket of money for transportation projects that had to go forward to get others approved. This is the last in the special projects category. Originally it would have cost 50million, and now it is at 110 million. Because ODOT is operating at a deficit on other projects, they are going to make all the decisions on this based on how much something costs and how much they can save. If we have a specific ask with consensus, get that to me right away and I can try to help with that. Get it on their plate now rather than later.

Q: We want to make sure the city police do not have to carry the whole traffic management burden. I hear that and get specific asks to me and I will see what I can do.

Q: Do we know what the logic is on timing? Not sure of the timing. Either a short period of time using just 1 bridge, or 1 lane intermittently for a much longer time. Likely see some activity this Aug/Sept and complete by 2026. The interchange on Rte 22 west of town will be put off a year due to other issues. There are critical supply issues.

Q: On this project, we are concerned of loss of trees. Will they look at barges to hold cranes rather than taking down trees to position cranes on land. Not sure about that.

Q: Should we have an ODOT rep visit to tell us more. Given the challenges facing ODOT broadly, and in the Rose Quarter project, trying to offset that, there is more and more funding required to meet that project's dramatically increasing needs. I would encourage that they come out to speak with you.

Q: can we get the names of the players in this decision and planning? City, County, Chemeketa CC, School District and MidWAC (Mid-Willamette Advisory Committee).

• **Guest: Ken Bierly: Flood Plain Species Assessment, Chair of Glen Gibson Watershed Council**

Flood Plain – where water interacts with the landscapes, especially flat areas next to rivers impacted by high water. Willamette River has been dramatically altered over time. Flood plains have great ecological value. 1968 – federally backed flood insurance plan. Local government can provide discounted flood plain insurance and offer credits to members in the local community. Community Rating System determines the rate. City has new Floodplain Management Plan (Dec. 2023) and is one of the more advanced across the state. This plan seeks to identify endangered species residing in the flood plain and at risk of extinction as threatened or endangered.

Has been submitted to local, state, and federal entities.

We acknowledge climate change will affect the intensity of storm systems and greater impact on tributaries versus the Willamette as it is regulated by 13 dams.

Q: Is there any benefit to developers who go above and beyond to mitigate impact? Yes that is the follow-on to this project once approved.

Q: Is this related to the April 8<sup>th</sup> award from FEMA? Yes, Salem has one of the highest ratings for flood protection in Oregon.

• **City Councilors**

o Ward 1: Not Present (other Neighborhood Association commitments)

o Ward 8: Councilor Varney:

Opioid Settlement Funds working group meeting (no decisions made) – \$2 million to be used for Opioid remediation – to reduce presence of opioids here. Also connected to the Community Gun Violence prevention efforts, support for houseless neighbors, first responders, and other local efforts.

Sgt Hill mentioned losing the 2<sup>nd</sup>/vacant Graffiti Abatement position (\$91K). At the revenue committee last evening we discussed the needed to fund that position out of working group funds.

Our Parks dept. also spends close to \$1,200 on graffiti abatement in addition to the costs regarding damages at the parks.

Budget meetings happening every week.

Last evening, the library hour reductions were discussed and Mayor Hoy had put forward cultural tourism fund to support the library and last night discussed the splash pads and closed restrooms, as well. At end of evening, agreed to use ARPA funds to address Park maintenance reductions.

Revenue Sharing funds moved to support Police Dept. reductions.

May 13<sup>th</sup> City Council mtg will address, among others, Fire Dept taking over Emergency Management System and ambulance services. We will discuss the implementation plan.

Affordable Housing will be discussing a tax exemption incentive for the developer of 105 unit apartments – in order that 15% of units be designated affordable housing. The tax exemption, if approved, extends for 10 years.

Next Budget mtgs May 8 and 15

Q: Center 50+ updates? It is on the reduction list – reduction for supplies and services.

Q Payment in lieu of taxes to the city went to what? Don't know if general fund or emergency services.

• **Revenue Committee: Katy Ciancetta** – Not present

• **Chair Announcements:** Mike

Update on Communication funds and revenue from Chair participation in quarterly meetings.

CPR Class: We are working at finding trainers and locations for a CPR class for the neighborhood. We found the trainer, but need to determine the location and insurance details between the City and School District.

August meeting will be shifted indoors and September meeting aims to be sited at a neighborhood public school.

#### Executive Board Goal Review

Bylaw Review: Maureen Zwicker, Communications Chair:

Focus areas: table of contents, rearranging sections for clarity, some articles were edited for clarity and accuracy, creation of associate membership by 7<sup>th</sup> graders and older minors, clarity on voting rights for individuals and organizations and associate members if approved, board member role responsibilities, response to Executive Committee decisions, new section under meetings to detail candidate participation in preparation for elections, testimony guidelines for members providing testimony on behalf of the WSNA.

We ask that suggestions be made prior to May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. They will be voted upon in our June meeting.

- **Committee Reports:** Will be uploaded to website.

Does anyone have any questions for a committee chair? None

- **Parks** > SPIF grant Options? : NOTE: 2 projects were funded from this fund in West Salem in the last year: benches in Edgewater and Orchard Heights Park. In the current year, the goal is for a new Edgewater Park sign and two garbage receptacles. The order went through, but they won't arrive till late summer this year and we will then arrange placement.

We are currently looking at providing a bench or two at Eola Ridge Park.

Any other ideas?: none offered. Will invite comments on website.

- **Welcoming** > Robert Garcia:

- **Communication** > Maureen Zwicker: (Suggestion from floor to cite WSNA website in each article)

- **Houseless** > Drew Strayer: Updates from the City of Salem:

Responding to houselessness in Salem is a top priority for the community and the City Council. You can explore the City's housing and shelter information: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Admin/Components/Page/EditDesign?navid=169> .

Local food banks report more than a 20% reduction in donations while inflation is driving up the costs of food. You can be part of a solution in our community by donating to Marion and Polk County Food Share. Your donations will help our neighbors transitioning from shelters to their new, permanent, affordable homes. For some, leaving shelter also means they are leaving two or more prepared meals a day. Your donations to help build food security in our community will help our neighbors as they settle into their new homes. Learn how to give to Marion Polk Food Share (<https://marionpolkfoodshare.org/ways-to-give/>)

Women's Shelter Seeks Volunteers: help SafeSleep United, managed by the United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley, serve women experiencing homelessness by filling needed volunteer shifts! Visit their web page (<https://unitedwaymwv.org/program/safesleep-united>) for information.

#### Salem Outreach and Livability Services (SoS)

---

In April, they exceeded 1 million pounds of collected trash since the team started in August 2022.

The SoS Team addressed areas this past week near Hawthorne south of Market, Liberty near the Civic Center, Storz off Fisher, and Wallace Marine Park. This week's efforts will focus on Wallace Marine Park.

The SoS Team provides direct outreach to those living unsheltered, to share resources and alternative options to assist property owners with those who may be trespassing on private property, and to pick up trash.

Expanding housing and shelter

- \* Sequoia Crossings permanent supportive housing in NE Salem is now full and home to 60 households, many of them with two or more residents.
- \* Salem Housing Authority is now accepting applications for multiple waiting lists. Lists close on May 19, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.
- \* Salem Housing Authority representatives spoke at a national Housing First conference and were recognized for Salem's level of collaboration in response to homelessness.
- \* The Safe Parking Network partners with local communities to provide legal parking spaces on their property for those who are unsheltered to stay in their vehicle overnight. C@P's goal is to help transition those in our Safe Parking program to permanent housing as quickly as possible. Call 971-375-7491 or email [safeparking@church-at-the-park.org](mailto:safeparking@church-at-the-park.org) (mailto:[safeparking@church-at-the-park.org](mailto:safeparking@church-at-the-park.org)) .

#### Day Center Services

\* ARCHES (<https://cityofsalem.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9c537ef0aeb7914e4fe4f6d5c&id=d74f6eb1b3&e=35b2a55874>) day center is open Wednesday through Sunday at 615 Commercial Street NE

\* HOAP (<http://www.northwesthumanservices.org/HOAP.html>) (Homeless Outreach & Advocacy Project) at 694 Church Street NE is open during the day Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Closed 1:00-2:00 p.m. Window Services 2:00-4:00 p.m. (mail, hygiene items, bathrooms, and other services). Brunch: 10:30 a.m.-noon. On Mondays, brunch is only available to women and nonbinary folks. Mondays are women and nonbinary days from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

\* The ROCC (Recovery Outreach Community Center) offers peer support, resource navigation, Oregon Health Plan assistance, group activities, soup, coffee, computers, transportation to and from showers on Wednesday, and outreach. ROCC is open Wednesday through Monday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Tuesday, noon to 5:00 p.m., at 1190 Broadway St. NE. <http://www.roccsalem.org/calendar>

\* Kindness Closet is open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each Tuesday and offers ARCHES' shower truck, a hot meal, coffee, cold drinks, desserts, and a bag lunch to go. They are hosted by the Grace Community Church at 4105 Lancaster Dr. NE.

\* The Oak Park Church of God hosts a wellness table each Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The table includes a meal, a partnership with the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency for a shower truck visit and other community partners. The location is 2990 Lancaster Dr. NE.

Subscribe to City of Salem Responding to Houselessness weekly updates (<http://eepurl.com/hKh0IT>)

- **Transportation** > Nick Fortey: no updates
  
- **Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed** > E.M Easterly: no further updates
  
- **Parks** > Pamela Garland: none other other than SPIF Grant shared above.
  
- **Treasurer** > Beverly Frietas: no updates
  
- **Land Use** > Steve Anderson: noted continued activity on Brush College

## Next Meeting

**Next general membership meeting will be held June 6, 2024 at 6:30 PM at Roth's.**





## **Equity Statement**

The WSNA (West Salem Neighborhood Association) is committed to reducing equity

gaps, increasing access for all, and creating a safe community for everyone.

Safety and belonging for all West Salem residents is vital. We must be inclusive in

conducting business and promoting policies that protect age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, religion, and other individual identities.

The association commits to integrating equity into the fabric of our association and the

Delivery of public services in pursuit of equal, fair, and just outcomes for all.