

Rob Romanek

From: Leann Moore
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 1:00 PM
To: Rob Romanek
Cc: Jennifer Kellar
Subject: FW: Opposed to WU expansion Push Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

-----Original Message-----

From: Carlene Benson <bensonwc@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 12:58 PM
To: Leann Moore <LMoore@cityofsalem.net>
Cc: Linda Nishioka <LNishioka@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Opposed to WU expansion Push Park

We oppose the expansion of WU's stadium into Bush Park for the reasons that have already been stated and restated by friends and neighbors. It is not consistent with the CLMP for the park which was developed to preserve the natural setting of the park. Commercial use does not enhance that. Don't be bamboozled by a slick salesman.

There is no protection from noise, traffic, parking issues, lighting, etc. stated for those living adjacent to the park beyond "WU's intent to be a good neighbor". HA! Their proposal cites a long history of events at their complex giving them needed info on the parking and traffic issues. Those events don't happen on the average of every other night during prime summer use when other people are also trying to use the park. 32 games in 60 days. WU's athletic events are generally not well attended unless it's against a team that is located close by- George Fox, Lindfield. Otherwise you'd never know there was anything going on there. This is entirely different if 1500 are expected in attendance every other night- tramping thru the park!

Additionally, as it's all in the news lately, you must be aware of the great concerns with micro plastics entering the water systems and into our bodies. Artificial turf is a contributor to this and is being banned in other countries and states. Why does Salem have to be behind by adding turf when it's being removed elsewhere? I'm happy to provide articles regarding this from respected sources but a simple Google will take you right to them.

Please oppose the recommendation to support this proposal.

Carlene and Wally Benson
Ward 2



Mission Street Parks Conservancy

Chairman Norris, Vice Chair McDowell, Members of SPRAB,

The Mission Street Parks Conservancy (“MSPC”) formally requests that SPRAB defer until your July meeting or later any vote on Agenda Item 4a for the June 13, 2024, meeting, regarding an endorsement of the proposed amendment and restatement of an agreement for use of John Lewis Field, McCulloch Stadium, and Bush’s Pasture Park (“the proposed agreement”). The public has not been given sufficient time to comment on the proposed agreement, which affects the management of “the crown jewel of the Salem park system,” Bush’s Pasture Park.

The mission of MSPC is to preserve, maintain, enhance, and interpret the iconic public landscapes on and near Mission Street for current and future generations. We fulfill this mission through a variety of activities, including providing thousands of volunteer hours of service annually within Bush’s Pasture Park. MSPC leadership played a significant role in the development of the Bush’s Pasture Park and Deepwood Estate Gardens Cultural Landscape Management Plan (CLMP), and we are committed to working with SPRAB and the City in the appropriate management of our beloved park.

The CLMP guides management of the cultural and natural resources of Bush’s Pasture Park, including guiding decision making for proposed actions that could impact those resources. The CLMP Decision Flowchart specifically identifies “support from related groups,” such as MSPC, as one of the four categorical screens for approving any proposed action. See CLMP at 144.

The proposed amendment and restatement will impact management of Bush’s Pasture Park and is therefore subject to CLMP review, including stakeholder feedback. However, the specific language of the proposed agreement and accompanying documentation was not released until the morning of Monday, June 10. Providing the public with only two business days to review and comment is woefully inadequate.

As the board responsible for making recommendations to and advising the Mayor and City Council on matters affecting City parks, it is imperative that SPRAB undertake its work in compliance with the language and spirit of the CLMP. This includes providing ample time for public feedback on proposed actions impacting Bush Park. We strongly encourage you to defer any vote on endorsing Agenda Item 4a until your July meeting.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maureen McGee".

Maureen McGee

President, Mission Street Parks Conservancy

Rob Romanek

From: Leann Moore
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 1:39 PM
To: Rob Romanek
Subject: FW: Proposed Agreement Between City of Salem and Willamette University, SPRAB June 13, 2024, Agenda item 4.a.
Attachments: 61324 SPRAB Testimony.docx

From: Roz Shirack <rozshirack7@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 1:37 PM
To: salemparks <salemparks@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Proposed Agreement Between City of Salem and Willamette University, SPRAB June 13, 2024, Agenda item 4.a.

I ask the Board to not endorse the proposed agreement between the City and Willamette University, because it lacks specificity and any provision for accountability by Willamette University.
Please see my comments attached.

Thank you for your consideration.

Date: June 12 2024

To: Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members

From: Roz Shirack, Salem resident

Subject: Proposed Agreement Between City of Salem and Willamette University,
SPRAB June 13, 2024, Agenda item 4.a.

I ask the Board to not endorse the proposed agreement between the City and Willamette University, because it lacks specificity and any provision for accountability by Willamette University. Willamette University has not met its promises under the current 1982 agreement to allow community youth groups and Salem-Keizer School District to use John Lewis Field, for many years, perhaps decades. Rob Passage noted at the April 11 SPRAB meeting that he has denied all requests from the School District and other groups in recent years to prevent added wear on the grass turf of John Lewis Field. But the University knew the degree of use-impact on grass turf when it signed the 1982 agreement. Rob has also noted that an improved artificial turf field could be available to others maybe one day a week. But during the Bearcat's baseball season (February to May) home games are scheduled any day of the week, including weekends.

The staff report includes no information that documents the number of times the University allowed the City, the School District, or other community youth groups to use its facilities under the current agreement. The current agreement states, "A specific schedule shall be developed by the City and by the University outlining all uses" and "shall be resolved in January of each year." The new proposed agreement does not include any similar statement to ensure a fair sharing of facilities. *Any agreement for shared use of University and City Park facilities should include an enforceable clause to ensure the sharing is fair and proportional.*

The proposed Agreement is premature because it is not based on a written and City-approved site plan of what the University wants to do with its stadium improvements.

Keene Stadium and John Lewis Field are unsuitable for Salem Baseball, a commercial baseball franchise, to use as its home field for summer night games. The intensity of use by Salem Baseball (SB) is not the same as Bearcat Baseball (BB):

- * SB has 27 games (2-3 games per week) in the busy summer months vs BB has 0.
- * SB has 27 night games vs BB has 0.
- * SB markets for 1,600 attendance per game vs BB has about 150 and seldom more than 250.
- * SB requires 500 parking spaces vs BB opponents and fans arrive in buses.
- * SB crowds out other summer park users vs BB season is February to May.

The fact that the University cannot accommodate Salem Baseball on its own property, plus Bush Park areas already encroached upon, illustrates how unsuitable that location is. In order to host Salem Baseball, the University wants to:

- Encroach further into Bush Park, and pave and fence the encroachment, destroying camas plants and oak tree roots, and excluding public park use of that strip of land.

- Not comply with the City's Cultural Landscape Management Plan, which seeks to conserve and enhance park resources, such as the camas and oak noted above.
- Overrun Bush Park's 420 parking spaces by the expected 500 cars (Salem Baseball's estimate). This would occur repeatedly for the 2-3 games per week throughout the summer months. The *possible* availability of parking on the University campus or in private lots is not a plan for handling the increase in vehicles competing for limited parking. The University's statement, "We don't anticipate any increase in demand for parking as compared to the days of other Willamette events" is irrelevant to parking demand expected for a commercial baseball league game.
- Violate the deed restriction that Bush Park be used for "public park purposes." The encroachment takes land out of daily public park use and puts it behind a fence as part of the stadium for use by ticket holders.
- Be exempted from the Park's closing time at sunset (9:02 pm at the latest on the summer solstice; 7:49 pm by late August) for hundreds of attendees leaving the stadium after 9 pm through a new south gate.
- Add 90-foot tall stadium lights, which violates the 70-foot maximum height in the PA zone.

There are other, better locations for a Salem Baseball home field. Chemeketa Community College (CCC) has none of the problems and liabilities of Willamette University's baseball stadium. It has plenty of parking and easy access off of I-5. CCC would welcome Salem Baseball's help in putting in an artificial turf field. Most importantly, the City has recognized that more recreational resources for youth are needed in northeast Salem (not central Salem). Salem-Keizer School District includes schools in Keizer and northeast Salem, which are much closer to CCC than to Willamette University.

Volcanoes Stadium already has artificial turf, a larger stadium and concession stand, plenty of parking, easy access off of I-5, and is surrounded by other commercial uses. Salem Baseball chooses to ignore that option, based on profit potential, but the fact remains there are other better locations for a commercial baseball home field than Willamette University.