

**Summary of Feedback Received from Neighborhood Associations
City of Salem/Salem-Keizer School District Property Transfer**

In June 2016, the City sent letters to the chairs of the following affected neighborhood associations regarding the propose property transfer between the City of Salem and the Salem-Keizer School District.

<u>Property</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Ward</u>
Chapman Hill Elementary School and Park	West Salem	8
Eglewood Elementary School and Park	NEN	1
Grant Elementary School and Park	Grant	1
Grice Hill Property	West Salem	8
Highland Elementary School and Park	Highland	1
Judson Middle School and Carson Springs Park	Faye Wright	3
Lee Elementary School and Park	South Gateway	4
McKinley Elementary School and Park	SCAN	2
Pringle Elementary School and Wes Bennett Park	South Gateway	4
Richmond Elementary School and Park	SESNA	2
Sprague High School and Skyline Park	Sunnyslope	7
Stephens Middle School and Stephens-Yoshikai Park	Northgate	5
Sumpter Elementary School and Park	South Gateway	4
West Salem High School	West Salem	8

This correspondence provided a summary of the property transfer, listed the specific park property located in the neighborhood, and described the proposed changes in use. Comments and concerns were solicited from the associations and staff were made available upon request to visit an upcoming neighborhood association meeting. A summary of the interactions and feedback is provided below:

Faye Wright: Staff provided a briefing and answered questions at the July 14 meeting of the Faye Wright Neighborhood Association. No significant issues were raised at the meeting. No formal motion regarding the proposal is expected from the association.

Grant: The association did not request a staff presentation at their meeting and no formal motion regarding the proposed transfer is expected from the association.

Highland: The association did not request a staff presentation. In an email dated July 14, the Highland Neighborhood Association “wholeheartedly” endorsed the proposal.

**Summary of Feedback Received from Neighborhood Associations
City of Salem/Salem-Keizer School District Property Transfer**

NEN: Staff briefed attendees at the August 16 meeting of the Northeast Neighbors. Among the issues raised and discussed: need for clarity on city and school uses; District-imposed restrictions on access to the area during school periods; and justification for fixed price per acre. To date, no formal motion regarding the proposal has been received, although members of NEN have contacted staff indicated one may be forthcoming.

Northgate: The association did not request a staff presentation at their meeting. A question was asked regarding the potential impact the property transfer might have on a cricket field; the answer provided by staff was will be no impacts to the cricket field. No formal motion regarding the proposed transfer is expected from the association.

SCAN: The association did not request a staff presentation at their meeting. At their August meeting, a motion was passed requesting McKinley Park be deleted from the proposed transfer list. Additionally, the Historic Preservation, Parks, and Gardens Committee of SCAN has provided comments to City staff regarding their opposition to transferring McKinley School Park to the District. Among the reasons cited: (1) Historically, SCAN was instrumental in the creation of McKinley School Park in the mid-70s, which included the neighborhood association being involved in litigation before the Oregon Court of Appeals; (2) McKinley School Park is the only neighborhood-scale park east of Commercial Street that is located in the SCAN neighborhood; and (3) Once the underlying property is owned by the District, the area will no longer be eligible for grants from organizations that specifically limit park funding opportunities to city-owned properties.

A copy of an email from the Chair of the Historic Preservation, Parks, and Gardens Committee of SCAN is provided on the back page of this attachment.

SESNA: The association did not request a staff presentation at their meeting and no formal motion regarding the proposed transfer is expected.

South Gateway: The association did not request a staff presentation at their meeting and no formal motion regarding the proposed transfer is expected. An issue was raised by the Chair and answered by staff regarding the need for a fence to be installed to separate the park from the school property.

Sunnyslope: Staff briefed the association at their July 21 meeting. Members then passed a motion in support of shared use agreements between the city and the school district, but not in support of the transfer of Sprague School Park to the school district unless Secor Park is given top priority for development as soon as funds become available.

West Salem: The association did not request a staff presentation at their meeting and no formal motion regarding the proposed transfer is expected.

Summary of Feedback Received from Neighborhood Associations City of Salem/Salem-Keizer School District Property Transfer

Email from Chair of SCAN's Historic Preservation, Parks & Gardens Committee

>>> ed scan <edscannewsletter@gmail.com> 8/3/2016 8:24 AM >>>

Following the proposal on the Consent Calendar, the SCAN Historic Preservation, Parks & Gardens Committee met, and unanimously opposed the elimination of this city pocket park.

SCAN was the driving force to create McKinley Park, litigated to protect the tract for park use successfully in the Marion County Circuit Court and before the Oregon Court of Appeals, sought Federal dollars through the City of Salem to purchase the tract under a new Federal program of the U. S. Department of Housing & Urban Development at the time.

The City of Salem made a commitment to the neighborhood and the Federal government that the tract would be a city park. Today, McKinley Park remains the only neighborhood scale park east of Commercial Street in SCAN.

The location is ideal, accessible by bike and walking on the only thru north-south axis in the South Central neighborhood, next to a school that we all know, a community garden, and complimentary to a number of historical homes in the proximity on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 4 years in working with Keith Keever, on rebuild of the Crooked House play area, and a 3 year successful endeavor to bring a drinking fountain for users of McKinley Park, Keith never raised the issue of elimination of McKinley Park as a city park to me. Further, in monitoring the SPRAB agendas, I never saw this issue presented before it was placed by Staff on the City Council Consent Calendar February 22, 2016.

The hope is a new report will modify the broader transfer proposal, deleting McKinley Park, in concert with the motion to be forward by our City Councilor Tom Andersen, Ward 2.

To our community, for 40 years, it is a cooperative multi-generational space, a serene needed park space for small gatherings, younger children, a safe place and City park observed and carefully watched over by those of us live near.

Transfer of the tract to the School eliminates our neighborhood's eligibility to access a number of significant grant funds and match (Federal and state), including State Lottery Funds, DOI Land & Water Conservation, HUD, as well as numerous private foundations that do not assist school districts.

A history of McKinley Park is on the front page of the 2016 SCAN Annual Newsletter.

City Councilor Tom Andersen advised the Council at the Work Session on July 18 that he supports the transfer proposals with the exception of McKinley Park.

The **SCAN Historic Preservation, Parks & Gardens (HPPG) Committee** is opposed to the transfer. Currently, HPPG is standing committee, 9 person work group that includes 4 members of the SCAN Board of Directors. To assist the work, we also have neighbors + Committee who work in subsets of Committee focus, e.g., Crooked House play area, protection of trees, issues in Bush's Pasture, along the Greenway (Pringle Creek Trail - linear park, historic bridges, S. Church Street, et al.

The HPPG is one of three standing committees of the Board of Directors. The other two work groups are: a 12 person **Land Use & Transportation Committee** (including 9 Board members); and a 5 person **Communications Committee**.

We function in a structure or model similar to the League of Women Voters (LWV) or the Legislative Assembly. Work is done at the Committee level.

Respectfully yours

Jon Christenson Chair, SCAN Historic Preservation, Parks & Gardens Committee