

From: [Annie Battee](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [citycouncil](#)
Subject: July 11, 2022 City Council Agenda 5.b - Please Pull for Further Investigation
Date: Sunday, July 10, 2022 8:16:05 PM

Dear Mayor and City Council,

Please pull the July 11, 2022, City Council Agenda Item 5.b for further Investigation.

Park Fees for Community Groups are now prohibiting Groups from using their parks without committing to further fundraising. This will leave our parks with few community events put on "By the Community, For the Community." In some cases, this will leave park improvements paid for by these Community Groups unused due to large increases in City fees.

Specifically, the West Salem Lions Club has a Summer Concert Series that was always considered one event over a few weeks that is now considered as separate events each week and charged individually. Coordination with the City Staff for this Series happens only one time at the beginning of the Series, not every week. And, new this year, 2 City Parks Operations employees sat through the entire concert and with no job to perform once they checked in at the beginning. The City, through the Community Group fees, should not be paying City employees to sit through a concert when the Community Group is doing all the work, as they have done over all the years.

The West Salem Lions Club did the fundraising to put the stage and stage roof in the park for this series that was, for a number of years a partnership with the City, until City Funds were not available. At that time the West Salem Lions Club graciously volunteered to take on the Concert Series to continue this community event, now in it's 37th year. When the application was processed recently and the new billing for separate events this year was discovered the Club was told about the process to ask for a fee waiver of 60% and your Agenda Item 5.b would eliminate that option and only offer 20%.

Please pull this item for further study to allow for Community Groups to continue to use park facilities for the community events that make Salem the special community place that it is. By raising the City fees, it squeezes out the Community Groups.

The West Salem Lions Club is not the only Community Group feeling this burden to try to go raise more funds or cut the scope or entirety of their program to be able to pay the City's increased fees.

I appreciate your time and consideration of this written testimony and ask that it be made part of the City Council Meeting official record.

Sincerely,
Annie Battee, Community Volunteer
Salem Ward 3 Resident

From: [Craig and Cecilia Urbani](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [citycouncil](#)
Subject: July 11 Council Meeting - Agenda Item 5.b
Date: Monday, July 11, 2022 12:11:05 PM
Attachments: [Fee waiver testimony 8ages PDF.pdf](#)
[Excerpt of Agreement between City of Salem and Rotary Club.png](#)

TO: Mayor and Councilors:
FROM: Cecilia and Craig Urbani
SUBJECT: Agenda Item 5.b: which is proposing to limit the park use fee waivers that non-profits groups can request

Each summer, the West Salem Lions Club (WSLC) provides a series of free concerts on Thursday nights at the West Salem Park (this is the 37th season). This year the City charged \$965 to use the West Salem Park (behind Safeway) for four free concerts in July. This is triple the cost in 2019, the last year that the concerts were held.

The WSLC built the permanent stage that is used in the park and gave it to the City free of charge. In addition, other electrical upgrades to the Park have been made at no cost to the City. At the time of these park improvements, there were no fees therefore it was a hand shake agreement, no formal agreement initiated to waive fees for community activities.

An example of a recent volunteerism is the Riverfront Park Amphitheater that the Rotary Club organized and constructed; and in exchange from the City, the Rotary is given 5 days of free use. ** To encourage more of this type of fantastic volunteer efforts in the future, it should be recognized and thanked by a small gesture of waiving the park use fees so these groups can provide wonderful events/activities for the community.

These improvements and activities by the WSLC were provided for the purpose of building the community spirit and providing family activities for the Edgewater District and the greater Salem Community. Volunteerism is what has made City of Salem an All-American City. In addition to acknowledging these improvements, the WSLC appreciates this consideration to have fair and equitable treatment; as the Rotary Club has for the agreement of waived Park Use Fee for some use of the Riverfront Amphitheater which they donated. Other non-profit groups, such as the Salem Soap Box Derby Association in Bush Park, have also constructed, maintained, and then held community events.

Attached is a detailed history of the West Salem Park improvements and a petition supporting this request signed by 74 concerned citizens.

REQUEST that July 11th City Council Agenda Item 5.b be “pulled” for investigation and action and that Council further direct staff to prepare an agreement between the city and the West Salem Lions Club to waive the Facility Use Fee for the West Salem Park for the Annual Summer Concert Series (up to 6 Thursday evenings).

ADDITIONAL REQUEST: Non-profits doing volunteer events in parks should have the opportunity to be considered for park use fee waivers reviewed by Council; and further that non-profits groups that have constructed improvements in parks should have the agreement to use those facilities (stages, splash pads, amphitheater, Soap Box Derby tracks, play equipment, etc) without Park Use Fees at least once a year!

**Footnote: The excerpt of the Rotary agreement is also attached to this email

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An example of a recent volunteerism is the Riverfront Park Amphitheater that the Rotary Club organized and constructed; and in exchange from the City, the Rotary is given 3-5 days of free use. To encourage more of this type of fantastic volunteer efforts in the future, it should be recognized and thanked by a small gesture of waiving the park use fees so these groups can provide wonderful events/activities for the community.

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ISSUE:

For 2022, the City of Salem invoiced the West Salem Lions Club (WSLC), a non-profit organization, \$965 for FACILITY USE FEES for the West Salem Park for the 37th Annual Summer Concert Series. This fee is being charged to the WSLC who constructed, at no cost to the city, the permanent concrete stage and made electrical improvements in the West Salem Park which are used for the free concert series

Specific Example:

2019 (pre-Covid) was the last summer that the 6 free concerts were held at the West Salem Park and the WSLC paid \$311.50 for the park fee. The 2022 City Park Fees invoice for 4 concerts was \$965. The West Salem Lions Club has requested a waiver of these fees to reduce the \$965 fee to \$353 fee. The staff recommendation to Council was only to allow a 20% waiver, resulting in \$772 fee. This fee waiver request was scheduled for the July 11 Council meeting; but as of July 7th, staff removed the WSLC fee waiver request from the Council agenda and instead have a Council report (AGENDA ITEM #5.b) to apply citywide to establish a maximum limit reduction of 20% for Facility Use Fees without the opportunity for further fee waiver requests from non-profits.

RECOMMENDATION to support Community Spirit and Volunteerism:

To support the continued Volunteer efforts of the West Salem Lions Club (WSLC) and many others groups (i.e. Rotary Clubs,), that Council agree these non-profits be allowed events (i.e. the Annual Summer Concert Series) without Facility Use Fees for the park in which the non-profit organization installed improvements at no cost to the city (i.e. the West Salem Park where WSLC constructed the permanent concrete stage and the electrical improvements). Another example of a non-profit installing improvement in a park is the Rotary Club's construction of the amphitheater at the Riverfront Park, which included an agreement to allow the Rotary Club use of the amphitheater without a Facility Use Fee. For a fair and equitable city policy, non-profits that have provided capital improvements should be treated the same. At the time the WSLC built the stage no fees were charged so the WSLC did not ask for an agreement to provide free use for the concert series.

Because of the late notice of scheduling this Council agenda item #5.b, it is requested that the Council pull the item from the July 11 agenda and direct staff to prepare an agreement between the city and the WSLC to allow future use of the West Salem Park without a Facility Use Fee. Allowing the WSLC some free use of the West Salem Park provides fair and equitable treatment to the WSLC.

BACKGROUND for the Summer Concert Series at the West Salem Park

These concerts are FREE to the community. The concerts provide live music in a family friendly environment to foster Community Spirit thru volunteer efforts at no cost to the City. Here's the background and highlights of the last 36 years and the many improvements that the WSLC have made at the West Salem Park at no cost to the city:

The summer concert series began as a City of Salem project in 1983; City Staff raised funds, hired the bands and coordinated volunteers. The West Salem Lions Club already provided volunteers to operate a wading pool in the West Salem Park. Already volunteering in the park led the West Salem Lions Club to also volunteer for the concert series beginning the first year. The West Salem Lions Club also contributed money to the concerts. The West Salem Lions Club began a modest concession booth with the proceeds benefiting the concerts. At that time, the City of Salem borrowed four 4 foot by 8 foot by 1-foot high wooden risers from the Folk Lore Association to create a small stage for the bands performing in the park. The West Salem Lions Club hauled those wooden risers into the park from an off-site storage and then hauled them back to the off-site storage at the end of each weekly concert. This work was the motivation for the West Salem Lions to build the permanent stage that now is in the Park. At the time the stage was completed, the City of Salem did not charge fees to use the park.

The tax limitations created by Measure 5 in 1991-1992, and the resulting budget reductions caused the City of Salem to cut the staff support for the concert series. At that time the West Salem Lions assumed total responsibility for the concerts. Since that time the West Salem Lions Club raised funds, hired the bands and provided the volunteers to produce the concert series of 6 Thursday nights in July and August. The concerts continued uninterrupted until Covid-19 shut the concerts down in 2020 and 2021. The last year the Concerts were run the City of Salem charged \$311.50 in fees for the whole concert series treating the series as one event even though it occurred on six Thursdays.

A few years ago the City of Salem had a project to add more lighting to the West Salem Park. The West Salem Lions Club contributed funds to that project to improve the electric service in the maintenance chase in the restroom building to better support the concerts and run the electric service to the stage for the bands to perform. At the same time the West Salem Lions Club contributed funds to purchase a spider box and extension cord.

The metal structure that supports the current metal roof on the stage was originally installed to support a fabric awning to cover the stage during the concerts. The first fabric cover was stolen after one concert. The second cover lasted one season before it was also stolen. A third cover was never purchased and for the next few years the concerts were uncovered. West Salem resident and frequent concert attendee, Ken Dalke began a community-based project to add a permanent metal roof on the stage. The West Salem Lions Club contributed funds to that project.

Contact: If you have questions or need any additional information email to: WestSalemLionsClub@gmail.com.

July 11, 2022 City Council Agenda Item

SUBJECT: Request for Fee Waiver submitted by the West Salem Lions Club to allow the use of the West Salem Park for the 37th Annual Summer Concert Series for the fee of \$353 instead of the \$965 (which is based on the City Fee Schedule).

During the last 30 years, the West Salem Lions Club installed improvements (the permanent stage and the electrical improvements) at the West Salem Park and produced the Annual Summer Concert Series. These improvements and activities were provided at no cost to the city for the purpose of building the community spirit and providing family activities for the Edgewater District and the greater Salem Community.

Based on these Park Improvements, we further support the future Summer Concert Series (produced by the West Salem Lions Club) be permitted at no rental fees.

Cecilia de Santos Urbani

Annie Battée

David Peterson

Hector Coon

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

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Gem Hage (Gail M. Gage)
Carolyn Llerenas (Carolyn Llerenas)

Robert J. Jones

Steve Anderson

Les Wielgos

Millyellen Strayer

Drew Strayer (Drew Strayer)

Pat Smith

Michelle A. Wielgos

Georganna Crumley

Orina Hughes

Ruth Williamson

Theresa K. Perdue

Susan Guder Williams

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CHRIS Estes
CE

Keo Simola

Evelyn J. Farley

Michael R. Derrah

Sarah DuVal

Roger DuVal

Julie Rohwer

Michael Rohwer

Ch L

Peter Locasini

Cliff Boy

Yvonne Bayer

Peggy Fisher
Richard Hill

Earl P. Henderson
Donna A. Jasater

DHD

Christie Ferrigno

Bill H

Paula Helgen

Bill C. Hellstump

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Dough Karno

Jane Karno

Phyllis Schmidt

Wayne Schmidt

Carol Doran

Maria Eva Manlangit

Manny Manlangit

Violeta Sambillan

Marilyn Manlangit

Madelyn Manlangit

Stephanie Zellner

Daniel Zellner

Sharon Munsterman

Penny Blackwell

Dorothy Dood

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Steve Di...
Auntie Carlson
Cathie Head
Debra Gyska
Robert Gyska
Gay Miller
Michael Miller
Craig Matell
Linda Owen
Nancy Dunn
Diane Rowing
DANIS WAFFERTY
Patricia Burt
Herrod Abbott
Carol Abbott

Charges for Use of the Gerry Frank | Salem Rotary Amphitheater or the Park

In consideration of Rotary's donations to the City and the Park, both past and present including the Pavilion and the Playground and this Project, the City will hereafter bind and obligate itself to waive any and all use, reservation, and/or other fees or costs which would otherwise be charged to Rotary related to Rotary's use of the Park. Provided, however, it is understood that Rotary will only periodically use the Park for a period not to exceed five (5) days in any calendar year.

From: [Info at Salem for Refugees](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Written Testimony for City Council Meeting (7.11.22)
Date: Monday, July 11, 2022 8:53:37 AM

To the members of the council:

I understand that the proposed amendment to the council's fee waiver policy would allow the council to be able to distribute fee reductions more evenly, and I hope that this means the council will be able to offer more qualifying nonprofits a fee reduction while also considering the city's budget. However, Salem For Refugees' fee waiver request was submitted on May 27th for an event that took place on June 20th, with no knowledge that this amendment would be proposed.

Due to the fact that our fee waiver request and our event both took place prior to the proposed amendment, we ask that the council would honor our fee waiver request and consider waiving the full Facility Use fee.

Thank you,

Ethan Howard

Office Manager | Salem For Refugees

ethan@salemforrefugees.org



From: [A Sturgill Story](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [Chuck Bennett](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [citycouncil](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Jackie Leung](#); [Micki Varney](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 5.b be pulled from the July 11th agenda for investigation and action
Date: Monday, July 11, 2022 10:32:52 AM

My name is Samantha P Sturgill and I have lived in Salem, OR my entire life of 30 years. One of the most important aspects of Salem is community and with how Salem has expanded and grown the sense of community has diminished. The fact that Salem increases fees and taxes only makes it harder for volunteers and non profits for mending our sense of community and providing the locals the opportunity to get together and know one another.

As a citizen of West Salem I request that Agenda Item 5.b be pulled from the July 11th agenda for investigation and action; and to further direct staff to prepare an agreement between the city and the West Salem Lions Club to waive the Facility Use Fee for the West Salem Park for the Annual Summer Concert Series for 6 evenings.

As a citizen of West Salem I Additionally Request that: Non-profits doing volunteer events in parks should have the opportunity to be considered for fee waivers reviewed by Council and that non-profits that have constructed improvements in parks should have the agreement to use those facilities (stages, splash pads, amphitheater, Soap Box Derby tracks, shelters, etc) without Park Use Fees at least once a year

From: [Paula Hilgers](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Fwd: July 11 City Council Meeting, Agenda Item 5.b
Date: Monday, July 11, 2022 9:43:38 AM

I am a member of the West Salem Lions Club. Each summer we provide a series of free concerts (Music in the Park) on Thursday nights in July. This year the City wants to charge us more than \$900 to use the West Salem park (behind Safeway) for four concerts. This is almost triple the previous years' costs.

The West Salem Lions built the stage that is used and gave it to the City free of charge. In addition we have provided other upgrades to the Park at no cost to the City. The cost of the concerts is paid by our Lions Club and our sponsors. Any money made on concessions and donations go to pay for the music and any other costs involved with is activity.

Other non-profits are also seeing their fees increased, in some cases so much they have decided to move their events to places other than Salem. (Soap Box Derby)

We know prices are increasing, but does the City really need to hit the non-profits so hard that events that have been held for many years, must be cancelled or moved to a friendlier city?

I am **requesting** that **Agenda item 5.b** be pulled from the agenda and that the City enter into an agreement with the West Salem Lions Club to allow us to use this park (in which the West Salem Lions has provided numerous improvements at no cost to the City) free of charge to host our summer music series. We are hosting only 4 concerts this year instead of our usual 6 resulting in lower costs for all involved. I know that the City has entered into a similar agreement with Rotary and the Amphitheater. I believe this would be an equitable and fair agreement for our non-profit, West Salem Lions Club, resulting in equal treatment for other non-profits.

For additional and specific information, please contact Cecelia and/or Craig Urbani at 503.378.7041(Cec), 503.931.8050 (Craig) or ccurbani@comcast.net.

Thank you for considering this,

Paula Hilgers
Service Chair
West Salem Lions Club

Sent from my iPad

