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To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [Linda Nishioka](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comments on November 10, 2025 City Council Agenda Item 5.d: Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Recommendations - Seasonal No-Mow Management and Related Actions for the Upper Oak Grove at Bush's Pasture Park
Date: Monday, November 10, 2025 2:39:43 PM

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Mayor and Councilor, thank you for considering my comments on the above-captioned item on your meeting agenda tonight. Let me begin by expressing my gratitude for your service and attention to this important issue. I am also appreciative of SRAB's review of this matter and their considered recommendation to you.

I am a 30-year resident at 1297 High Street SE. This is directly across from Area 13a. My comments are enumerated below.

1. I am fully supportive of maintaining the oaks and of activities that assure their long-term health and vitality. I am also supportive of planting new oaks as has been successfully done over the recent past. As I view the new oaks—ones planted a couple of years ago and ones planted over a decade ago—I have witnessed their growth and health even with previous mowing practices.
2. Practices that support oak health and vitality must, however, be balanced with the passive recreational uses of Areas 13a and 13c. Historically, this part of the park has not been a conservation area (in contrast to the eastern parts of the park). The proposed mowing strategy essentially converts Area 13a from a passive recreation area to a nature preservation area. I do not agree with only paying some cursory—as yet undefined—attention to Area 13c without considering the impacts to the public use of 13a.
3. I believe that there are prudent measures to support the health of the oaks and allow for the passive recreation uses of this portion of the park. Thoughts that come to mind include: a) creating larger buffer areas where mulch can be installed; and b) better mowing practices so that the oaks are not accidentally hit. I am certain that experts in this field will come up with more sensible options.

In closing, I would like to express my dismay that I was not notified of the SPRAB meetings where this issue was considered. I assumed that Councilor Varney's motion implied that residents who had provided comments to the Council—and as such are

interested parties to the issue—would have been given the courtesy of meeting notice. I would have welcomed the opportunity to have discussed this with the SPRAB members.

Thank you again for your attention to this important matter.

Best regards,

Peter Fernandez, P.E.