

CITY OF SALEM

Written Testimony

City Council

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Wednesday, January 23, 2019 6:00 PM

Council Chambers

City Council Work Session - Council Policy Agenda

2.a. [19-52](#)

2019 City Council Policy Agenda

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Result Area(s): Good Governance; Natural Environment Stewardship;
Safe Community; Safe, Reliable and Efficient Infrastructure; Strong and
Diverse Economy; Welcoming and Livable Community.

Recommendation:

Provide policy direction on issues for the 2019 Policy Agenda. Next steps for the issues include:

1. Hold a work session in 2019 for further development of City Council's specific policy interests.
2. For issues with a budget need, consider in the context of the City's budget needs through the City Manager's Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Proposed Budget.
3. Place issue on list for consideration in 2020 or 2021.
4. Remove issue from consideration.

Attachments:

[Results of November 19 Work Session.pdf](#)

[Salem Result Areas.pdf](#)

[Tentative 2019 City Council Work Session Schedule.pdf](#)

[Status of Current Programs and Initiatives at the Library.pdf](#)

[Downtown Homeless Solutions Task Force Implementation Plan.pdf](#)

[Neighborhood Enforcement Division Assignments and Capabilities.pdf](#)

[Sobering Center.pdf](#)

[Tourism Promotion Area.pdf](#)

[Asset Management and General Obligation Bonding Strategy.pdf](#)

[Complete Streets Policy Analysis.pdf](#)

[Congestion Relief Task Force Implementation.pdf](#)

[Hillcrest Correctional Facility Acquisition Considerations.pdf](#)

[Public Comment received January 16, 2019](#)

[Public Comment received through 3:00 p.m. January 22, 2019](#)

Add - Written Testimony.

Amy Johnson

From: cbj49@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, January 20, 2019 7:55 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Save library books and reference desk

Dear City Council Members,

I write asking you to stop the library mass removal project that began in October. Our library needs to remove books in accordance with the CREW Manuel guidelines that call for removing roughly the same number of books as are added each year or up to 5% of total print collection, whichever is less thus maintaining the number of books in our library. We need balance of old and new books in order to preserve our past history, our poets, our art books

In addition, please reinstate the reference desk and reference librarian. Reference librarians spend years training for their job. Replacing the reference desk librarian with the checkout desk is replacing a specialist with a generalist. It is an action dumbing down our library. I ask, how can a checkout person answer reference questions that may take 10-15 minutes while the pressure of a growing line for checkout forms? And since the generalist does not have experience in reference work, the time to answer questions may take even longer. Can I count on their answers to be complete or even correct?

Thank you for your attention,
Cynthia Jones

Sent from my iPad

Amy Johnson

From: CLIFFORD SMITH <cliffordsmith@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2019 3:40 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Comment for 2019 City Council Policy Agenda Work Session 1-23-19

Dear Salem City Council:

As you develop your 2019 City Council Policy Agenda I recommend that you maintain the "multi-year ongoing action," included in the 2018 policy agenda for "improving Salem Public Library seismic safety." As part of that, I recommend that you reaffirm your support for the new Collection Development Policy that calls for a broad, deep, and extensive core collection of older and less frequently used books in addition to a "popular materials library" of more in-demand books.

When the community overwhelmingly approved the \$18.6 bond measure in November, 2017, to "Renew Our Library" it was with the intention to have the facility continue to accommodate a library book collection befitting the state capital — a collection which, in the words of the Collection Development Policy, “embraces *broad* fields of knowledge with *basic representative works* in most subject areas.”

I ask that the 2019 City Council Policy Agenda reflect this intention.

Sincerely,

Clifford Smith

Salem Public Library

Extension/Circulation Divisions Manager, Retired

Amy Johnson

From: The Romeos <jeffrey.betsy.romeo@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2019 9:11 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Comment for 2019 City Council Policy Agenda Work Session 1-23-19

Dear Salem City Council:


As you develop your 2019 City Council Policy Agenda I recommend that you maintain the "multi-year ongoing action," included in the 2018 policy agenda for "improving Salem Public Library seismic safety." As part of that, I recommend that you reaffirm your support for the new Collection Development Policy that calls for a broad, deep, and extensive core collection of older and less frequently used books in addition to a "popular materials library" of more in-demand books.

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I ask that the 2019 City Council Policy Agenda reflect this intention.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Romeo

Jeffrey A. Romeo | 5962 Dewpointe Street SE, Salem, OR 97306-6904
| jeffrey.betsy.romeo@comcast.net | 503.588.2899 |  **Please consider the environment before printing.**

Amy Johnson

From: Katherine Daniels <khdaniels51@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 12:48 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Library project comments
Attachments: CCF01182019_0002.pdf

Hello,

Would you please forward the attached comments to the city council as well as to Norman Wright, Steve Powers and Chuck Bennett sometime today? I'd like them to have a chance to read it before a work session on Wednesday, given the MLK holiday on Monday. Please let me know if you don't do this sort of thing and if I need to send my comments individually to these folks. Thank you!

Katherine Daniels

Dear City Council members,

January 18, 2019

On December 10th I testified briefly before you, sharing my dismay over the current aggressive discarding of library books, and was advised by the mayor to make my input to the Library Advisory Board. I'm writing to report back that on January 9th, I attended the monthly LAB meeting, together with an overflow of about 80 others, nearly all of whom stood when asked if they opposed the current mass removal of books. Aside from the testimony of a handful of out-of-town librarians who clearly did not understand that the current library project is not a normal "weed," all of the testimony involved heartfelt pleas for the library to maintain its carefully-acquired core collection. I urge you to listen to the recorded testimony. Common themes expressed were these:

- People are distressed that favorite books are no longer available, reflecting the prior aggressive discarding process from 2013 to 2017, when nearly half of the library's written materials were discarded. Now people are even more troubled by the thought of a second major culling of books. Classic literature and nonfiction with important literary, cultural and historic significance are some of the primary victims of these culls, for the simple reason that they are not checked out very often. Yet, in their lifetimes, many of these books have been checked out more often than popular new books will ever be. People are upset at finding core classics in good condition as well as new and relevant books for sale at library book sales or in the library store that have been discarded from the library's collection. People are equally upset at learning that new or quality books they donate to the library go straight to the Friends of the Library for sale, without being evaluated by library staff for possible inclusion in the collection (a new policy that defies understanding). When some people giving testimony suggested that the library purchase and use the Wilson guides of recommended core titles that libraries should maintain, the suggestion was summarily dismissed by library management. As most of the library's subject specialists have left or retired in the last 18 months, it is hard to understand why the library wouldn't embrace the added guidance the Wilson guides could provide. The library says it uses the CREW manual to guide collection maintenance, but this is a procedural guide, not a substantive one, and it does not identify any titles. What's more, the library's proposed cull is much more aggressive in degree and approach than that recommended even by the CREW manual.
- People like to browse the aisles and find books they wouldn't otherwise know about and thereby make new discoveries. They also like to read or do research using these books in the library. A good example of this is art books, many of which have disappeared over the last several years. Browsing can't happen when core books are discarded en masse and when the library doesn't recognize the value of books that may be used in-house and not necessarily checked out. Library management's response is that people can request that the library purchase or borrow books through the interlibrary loan system. Why purchase or borrow books when the library already has them? This is costly, inefficient and makes no sense. And how can people order books they don't know exist?
- People want to know what the library's ultimate goal or target number of books to retain is and are frustrated that library staff maintain there is no goal. However, library staff meeting minutes refer to a "big weed," and a couple of thousand books have already been tentatively identified for discarding, in October and November alone. Library management thinks that the library is over-sized when compared to out-of-state libraries serving similar populations. However, our library has a collection that is consistent with the median for Oregon libraries for a community

of our size (two books per person), not even counting the people in Keizer and outlying small communities who rely on our library's services. Library management says that it wants to ensure that there is enough space on shelves for books after the seismic retrofit, but many of us believe that to do a big weed now, before the architects have been consulted, is a premature move. There further appears to be plenty of space in the library for the creative use of shelving.

Library management's response to the above concerns was to dig in rather than be open to input. We kept hearing that the library must serve the community with popular new titles. We have yet to hear why we cannot have a dynamic collection of new titles as well as a core collection of older works! Those of us at the LAB meeting as well as many others in the community are some of the most faithful, regular library users, lovers of books and supporters of the library and recent library bond. Yet the message we clearly got was that our input was not valuable and our concerns not theirs. We were patronized and our views ignored. My impression and that of others was that the LAB was unfamiliar with the issues we raised and is getting input and taking its direction primarily from library management. Please do not rely solely on the LAB's recommendation to you in this matter, but rather look at the facts involved.

Please allow the community to be part of this process. I urge the council to direct library management to:

1. Put a permanent stop to the "big weed," as our library is not oversized and it is premature to assume that post-seismic renovations will be unable to accommodate our core collection. Commit to maintain the current two books per capita standard that now exists, going forward.
2. Purchase a set of Wilson guides to maintaining public library core collections, as many other libraries do, to provide substantive guidance to a diminished staff in future discarding.
3. Return to the shelves all of the recently-pulled books that are listed in the Wilson guides.
4. Commit to using the CREW-recommended 3-5 year book checkout rate and not the proposed 1-3 year checkout rate, when evaluating books for possible discarding.
5. Devise an approximate way to measure the in-house use of library books that are not checked out and commit to considering this measurement in evaluating the level of use of library books.
6. Refer all hardbound books in good condition that are donated to the library or Friends of the Library to library staff for evaluation for possible addition to the collection.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to read Jim Schepke's (retired State Librarian) detailed research on these issues. Our library is a precious resource and an important investment in our community's future. I don't believe that library management is motivated by ill intent, but rather by over-enthusiasm. Nevertheless, the potential result is the same. Please put a stop to the current "big weed" before irrevocable harm is done.

Sincerely,



Katherine Daniels

518-339-3092

khdaniels51@gmail.com

Amy Johnson

From: Bob & Linda Rindy <therindys@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 20, 2019 7:17 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Comment for the Library Work Session

Dear Salem City Council:

I am deeply concerned about the thinning of our library. I have noticed that it is not just a cleaning of tattered books but a removal of classics and history. Tidy shelves are nice but not at the expense of removing our past. Books that are not read right now, we don't know, might be needed later. We need both the new more popular book and older classics. We must not lose our past. Especially perfectly good books that we paid for with public money.

When the community overwhelmingly approved the \$18.6 bond measure in November, 2017, to "Renew Our Library" it was with the intention to have the facility continue to accommodate a library book collection befitting the state capital — a collection which, in the words of the Collection Development Policy, “embraces *broad* fields of knowledge with *basic representative works* in most subject areas.”

I ask that the 2019 City Council Policy Agenda reflect this intention.

Sincerely,

Linda Rindy

Amy Johnson

From: Rich Schieber <richschieber@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 22, 2019 8:32 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Comment for 2019 City Council Policy Agenda Work Session 1-23-19

Dear Salem City Council:

As you develop your 2019 City Council Policy Agenda I highly recommend that you revisit the community's commitment to it's library. As you're undoubtedly aware, the community demonstrated it's love for the library by overwhelmingly passing a seismic retrofit bond. Simply put, we voted to raise our taxes in order to protect the library. Unfortunately, it appears an earthquake wasn't the only thing we needed to worry about.

For some strange reason our new librarian has decided that the library plan you approved late last year gave her the go-ahead to rid our library of close to a third of our book collection. Yes, a third! Professional estimates peg the number of books in the process of being tossed-out at close to 100,000 (see the Statesman Journal Guest Editorial, 1-27-2018, by a former Director of the Oregon State Library).

Our new librarian discounts the 100,000 book figure, but is unable to provide her own. In fact she can't even provide an estimate, range, or a projected percentage of how many books are going to be tossed and what the library will be left with. That's a rather odd situation to say the least – embarking on a plan to reduce the inventory of public assets (our books), but having no quantifiable goals or measurable figures for guidance.

Some might call such a move "misguided."

Others might call it "an incredible waste of taxpayer resources."

Regardless of what it's called, the majority of the citizens who voted for the bond will likely ask themselves "who in their right mind would approve such a plan and if they didn't approve it, who would allow it to continue once they learned of it?"

Both are good questions and I encourage you to reflect on the answers.

I also encourage you to ensure that your 2019 City Council Policy Agenda goes beyond safeguarding the library building from an earthquake and includes a commitment to safeguarding the community's assets - our library books – from a misguided plan.

I encourage you to stop what has become known in the community as "the Great Purge." Please ensure the 2019 City Council Policy Agenda reflects this. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rich Schieber
Ward 7

Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of scott.snyder@grandhotelsalem.com
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2019 11:31 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: SALA TPA Submission.pdf

Your Name	Scott Snyder
Your Email	scott.snyder@grandhotelsalem.com
Your Phone	503-798-3076
Street	201 Liberty St SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	SALA addendum to Staff report regarding TPA proposal for Wednesday 1/23/19 meeting. Upon reviewing the Staff report, there are several items that were different than the CPTAB's affirmative recommendation. This should help to clear up those items. Thank you, Scott Snyder SALA Chairperson

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 1/21/2019.

2019 Policy Agenda Proposal

Title / Concept **Salem Tourism Promotion Area (STPA)**

Sponsoring Dept. **N/A**

Source of Project **Salem Area Lodging Association (SALA)**

Purpose and Scope

SALA is seeking Council's support to adopt an ordinance creating the STPA. The STPA would establish a benefit assessment of 2% on all gross short-term room rental revenue booked in City of Salem. The fee would be paid by visitors/guests when staying in a Salem lodging property. STPA revenues would be dedicated to Travel Salem (DMO) for tourism marketing and promotion that is focused on shoulder season business (Nov-Mar). An Advisory Council made up of lodging operators would oversee and advise Travel Salem on where the funds are invested. The STPA conservatively would produce an additional \$800,000 in revenues for tourism promotion. STPA efforts will grow Salem TOT collections at a faster rate, which will increase the 75% of TOT funds available for City-based priorities. This Industry-driven initiative is being brought to you by a "super majority" of Salem lodging facilities who request the City of Salem create an STPA ordinance to collect these fees. The TPA model is successful in large and small markets all around the country. Several other communities in Oregon are considering the same type of program, so while Salem would be one of the first, it will certainly not be the last to establish one. We seek your support for placing this project on the 2019 Council Priority list.

Priority Based Budget Scoring (based on department scoring and peer review scoring)

Result Areas		Score	Basic Program Attributes		Score
Natural Environment Stewardship		0	Demand		1
Safe Community		0	Mandate		2
Safe, Reliable, and Efficient Infrastructure		0	Population Served		1
Strong and Diverse Economy		1	Cost Recovery		4
Welcoming and Livable Community		1	Reliance		3

Community Score **18 (formula)**

Comments: Program of "City Tourism Promotion" was submitted by the Community Development Department as part of the City's PBB implementation. The department scored the program, and per the PBB process it was then scored by the teams of peer reviewers. Peer review scores are reflected above.

Timeline

Months to completion (after start)

Are there other timing considerations?

The sooner the marketing efforts begin, the sooner positive impact will be realized. The industry is ready to get to work, and looks forward to working with the City of Salem on this game-changing initiative that will deliver tangible results, including a healthier and more robust Salem economy and new jobs.

2019 Policy Agenda Proposal

Cost Estimate

Ongoing Costs Annually ?

Are additional FTE required? unknown

What does this cost cover?

The City of Salem would be responsible for collecting the STPA and remitting funds to Travel Salem on a monthly basis. To achieve savings and efficiencies, STPA collections could use the same form, timeline and procedures currently used to collect the TOT. Once a fair cost to execute SPTA collections is determined, compensation would be provided to the City of Salem from STPA funds to ensure no additional cost is incurred by City of Salem to do collections.

One-Time Costs Annually

What does this cost cover?

Timeline

Months to completion (after start)

Are there other timing considerations?

Other Factors

Has this project been attempted before? What was the outcome?

Portland has had a Tourism Improvement District (TID) in place for 6 years. It was just renewed by lodging operators for another 10 years. The results have exceeded expectations with TOT revenues increasing by 12% and average daily rates increasing by 29%. The desired results of driving shoulder season business has been the primary growth in revenue collections.

Could a similar result be achieved using a different method?

The TID/TPA model is used in 200+ markets across the country, with proven results and benefits to local economies. Tourism is the front door to economic development and TPAs ultimately result in diversified job creation and healthy, vibrant communities.

Are there other factors that should be noted for this project proposal?

Amy Johnson

From: susanwat@peak.org
Sent: Sunday, January 20, 2019 3:46 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [Possible Scam Fraud]Comment for 2019 City Council Policy Agenda Work Session 1/23/19

WARNING: Your email security system has determined the message below may be a potential threat.

It may pose as a legitimate company proposing a risk-free transaction, but requests money from the victim to complete a business deal.

If you do not know the sender or cannot verify the integrity of the message, please do not respond or click on links in the message. Depending on the security settings, clickable URLs may have been modified to provide additional security.

Dear Salem City Council:

I am writing because of the library's removal of books deemed to be out of date or too old and replacing these books with new, current material. My primary interest is in history, the history of our country, the world wars, and medicine. The public library is about the only place available for the general public to research any given topic. Public libraries should have a balance between old and new materials. Looking back to see where we have been helps us to understand where we are today. Here are some experiences I've had researching at the library.

- Some time ago, as a result of conversation with friends, I became curious about the languages spoken in colonial America. A trip to the library provided several books on that period of time. One book published in 1932, stated that the Constitution and Declaration of Independence were printed in five different languages. Four of them were English, German, French, and Dutch. I can't remember the fifth language, except that it was not Spanish. But, I wanted to make sure I remembered them correctly, so I made another trip to the library to find that book and verify my memory. However, the book was not there; in fact, there were no books in the library older than 1960 at the time and there were no books on that topic. I was appalled.
- Another example is regarding the idea that certain subject areas such as medicine and science require the most up-to-date information. But, do they? A while back I had some seborriah on my forehead. The standard treatment for this is cortisone cream. It makes it go away for a while, but it soon returns and you get another round of cortisone. However, when the pharmacist told me it thins the skin, I started looking for something else. My search led me to a book that told how medical conditions were treated in the 1920s. Seborriah was diagnosed as a deficiency in sodium chloride (table salt). I thought well, that's easy to test. I started putting a little salt on my grapefruit in the morning. The seborriah went away in two days and has never reappeared. So. I would like to find more books on medical practices published in the early 1900s. My first thought was to make a visit to the public library. But, that would be useless now.

- When I was a kid in public school, we were taught how to do research and were told that all resources were to be no more than five to ten years old. And, we all bought into the idea that new is best. Now, as I research our nation's historical events, I find that what is best is a balance of the two-- what was written about events when they happened and what is written about the same event twenty, fifty, a hundred years later. Material published prior to 1945, between 1945 and 1975, and material published from 1975 (after the freedom of information act) to present are necessary for they all have a very different view.
- Here's a third example. Quite a few years ago, I read a letter to the editor that referenced the Catholic Encyclopedia. Out of curiosity, I went to the library to look this up and verify what the writer had written. At that time, the encyclopedia had about ten volumes. In the early 2000s, I again wanted to reference something from this encyclopedia so made a trip to the public library. This set of encyclopedias had shrunk to three volumes. Where did all that information go? That is why we need to be very careful with what we "weed" from a library. There seems to be a concerted effort to separate people from their past.

However, all is not lost. I can go to Boston and visit the Athanaeum private library of old books.

Sincerely,

Susan Watkins
Salem, OR 97301

Amy Johnson

From: Virginia Green <vagreen09@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 12:32 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Please use revised copy
Attachments: Concerning our library.docx

Tonight, after I sent you my message for the Council's Policy meeting Jan 23, I noticed that I wrote Community Service, instead of Community Development.

This copy is charged ~ please use it instead!

Thank you,
Virginia

Salem City Council: January 23 Work Session for 2019 Policy Agenda

Council Members:

Twenty years ago, one of the attractions of Salem for me as a prospective new hometown was the fine reputation of the Public Library, standing in the center of our city, a conspicuous next-door neighbor to our City Hall.

Within a week of moving here, I became a volunteer in the Technical Services Department ~ a lucky break for me! This small position in the framework this civic institution led to several personal opportunities to learn not only about how a library functions, but the library's place in the priorities of the city government. Unfortunately, despite the close physical proximity of the Salem Public Library to the Mayor and City Council, the city's financial and cultural priorities have moved an increasing distance from important library civic goals.

Over the years, as a member of several city Advisory Boards and Commissions, I discovered the lack of influence members have with their suggestions for library services including the lack of support for a Library District which would have stabilized funding, cutting patron hours at the West Salem facility, the disappearance of the popular Book Mobile, the merger of the Library Department into Community Development, and abandonment of the online resource development for the (volunteer staffed) online SalemHistory and Oregon Historical Photograph Collections production and maintenance, the recent controversy regarding severe cuts to the core book collection and the dwindling number of experienced and qualified staff employees at the library offering professional service to patrons.

I come from the "Depression" generation when, as children, the library (along with Sunday School at church and the Saturday matinee at the movies) was the main entertainment in our Middle American hometowns. Perhaps I impart the city library of today with too large a share in establishing how the city represents itself.

With much gratitude to all the library staffers who enriched my years in Salem,
Virginia Green