



CITY OF SALEM

Written Testimony #2

City Council

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Monday, April 27, 2020

6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

****Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting is being conducted virtually, with remote attendance by the governing body. No in-person attendance is possible. Interested persons may attend the meeting online at City of Salem Facebook, CCTVSalem You Tube Channel, or watch on Comcast Cable CCTV Channel 21. Please submit comments on agenda items by 5:00 p.m., or earlier, on the day of the meeting at cityrecorder@cityofsalem.net.**

2.3a. [20-53](#)

Battle Creek Park Master Plan

Ward(s): Ward 4

Councilor(s): Councilor Leung

Neighborhood(s): SGNA

Result Area(s): Natural Environment Stewardship; Welcoming and Livable Community.

Recommendation:

Adopt the proposed 2020 Battle Creek Park Master Plan.

Attachments:

[Master Plan Report Layout 03-03-2020](#)

[SGNA Letter to City of Salem Regarding Battle Creek Park](#)

[SWAN Letter of Support](#)

[Battle Creek Park Disc Golf Support Letter](#)

[BattleCreekParkMasterPlan_SPRAB Action Sheet](#)

[Public Comments](#)

[Additional Public Comments received by 4:00 p.m. 4-25-20](#)

[Additional Public Comments received by 10:30 a.m. 4-27-20](#)

Add - Written Testimony.

2.3d. [20-144](#)

Small Community Air Service Development (SCASD) Grant Application for Commercial Air Service Development

Ward(s): 2

Councilor(s): Andersen

Neighborhood(s): SEMCA

Result Area(s): Strong and Diverse Economy

Recommendation:

Authorize the City to apply for a Small Community Air Service Development (SCASD) grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) for commercial air service development at the Salem Municipal Airport.

Attachments:

[Public Comments received by 10:30 a.m. 4-27-20](#)

Add - Written Testimony.

3.b. [20-150](#)

Public Hearing on Ordinance Bill No. 7-20, considering creation of the Jory Apartments Tax Increment Financing District (TIF District)

Ward(s): Ward 2

Councilor(s): Councilor Andersen

Neighborhood(s): NEN and NESCA

Result Area(s): Welcoming and Livable Community

Recommendation:

Advance Ordinance Bill No. 7-20 (Attachment 1), adopting the Jory Apartments TIF District to first reading.

Attachments: [Ord Bill No. 7-20](#)

[TIF District Boundary](#)

[Exhibit A - TIF District Report](#)

[Exhibit B - TIF District Plan](#)

[Planning Commission Recommendation](#)

[Taxing Jurisdiction Comments](#)

[Public Comment from M. O'Toole](#)

[Public Comment from A. Golden](#)

[Additional Public Comments received by 10:30 a.m. 4-27-20](#)

Add - Written Testimony.

4.a. [20-58](#)

Motion from Councilor Nordyke regarding a potential trail connection between Rural and Hoyt Avenues S in the vicinity of the Pioneer Cemetery.

Ward(s): 7

Councilor(s): Nordyke

Neighborhood(s): SCAN and SWAN

Attachments: [Public Comment received by 5:00 p.m. 2-19-20](#)

[Public Comments received by 1:00 p.m. 4-23-20](#)

[Additional Public Comments received by 4:00 p.m. 4-25-20](#)

[Additional Public Comments received by 10:30 a.m. 4-27-20](#)

Add - Written Testimony.

4.b. [20-147](#)

Extension of declaration of state of emergency related to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Result Area(s): Good Governance; Safe Community;

Recommendation:

Adopt resolution no. 2020-20, extending the state of emergency within the city of Salem related to the COVID-19 Pandemic through June 30, 2020.

Attachments: [Resolution No 2020-20](#)

[Public Comments received by 4:00 p.m. 4-25-20](#)

[Additional Public Comments received by 10:30 a.m. 4-27-20](#)

Add - Written Testimony.

Amy Johnson

From: Claudia Vorse <claudia@prsalem.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 9:16 AM
To: Chuck Bennett
Cc: CityRecorder
Subject: Please set aside Battle Creek Park Master Plan

Dear Mayor, City Recorder, City Counselors and all involved with the Battle Creek Park Master Plan,

First, I hope you and your families are safe and healthy.

Second, I would like to echo the concerns posted by Glenn Baly, Chair of SGNA, below. I would especially agree with point number 4, and encourage you to leave the property as is for now, and use those funds elsewhere in the City Budget if you can indeed vote to do so.

My condo, along with its full length glass sunroom, faces the park. The sunroom and it's full view of the park is the reason I purchased almost a year ago. I have been working from home since March 17th, and have witnessed hundreds of people using and enjoying the park, just as it is. Families, joggers, dog walkers, bicycle riders, wagons and strollers, even on the rainy days. I'm happy that so many find the park welcoming just as it is. It is not even the slightest bit distracting when on Zoom calls, and I pause to wave at neighbors walking by!

Please consider setting this project aside.

Thank you,

Claudia Vorse
6590 Huntington Circle SE
Salem, OR 97306
503.508.0998

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Glenn Baly <glennbaly12345@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Apr 10, 2020 at 9:43 AM
Subject: Battle Creek Master Plan - City Council Meeting

As you are aware, due to the Coronavirus there will not be an opportunity for people to attend city council meetings and testify at the April 23 meeting to approve/change/or not approve the Battle Creek Park Master Plan. Because most of the park will be used for storm water detention there are some serious questions regarding the city's assessment as to what should be done regarding development up in the South Salem Hills. As well as how much water (realistically) the park's detention ponds can hold and how helpful they will be. We need everyone to send their comments on the Battle Creek Master Plan by April 21

to: Citycouncil@cityofsalem.net; crbennett@cityofsalem.net; CityRecorder@cityofsalem.net

Please try to individualize your message to the city. It will make a bigger impact. Here are some comments and questions that can be asked. Please include your own perspective on the plan and the planning process.

- 1) Is there enough detention created on Battle Creek Park based on current storm water master planning with no on-site detention of new developments? Won't the lack of storm water detention in developing areas result in overruns of proposed detention ponds on Battle Creek Park? Will more than two detention ponds be needed for this property?
- 2) Does the present design reflect a detention plan that will have enough impact on flooding for the \$6 million (price-tag) invested?
- 3) What happens to the groundwater as well as the natural spring water when the detention ponds are dug lower than known groundwater levels of 3 feet?
- 4) Shouldn't we be concerned about spending \$6 million of city funds as we move into "unexpected" times? Maybe park and funds should be put on hold until outcome of how life will be/not be post-COVID-19 pandemic.
- 5) Under the circumstances, it may be worth considering that the Battle Creek Mater Plan be put aside. City may need to reprioritize \$6 million for public safety and health and changes that are unknown at this time.

The South Gateway Neighborhood Association voted against the current park option in favor of the "Habitat Option" that would have less impact on the property and help maintain the property's storm water detention role.

We appreciate your assistance. Please pass this on to your friends and neighbors so they can comment on the Battle Creek Master Plan.

Glenn Baly

Chair

South Gateway Neighborhood Association

Amy Johnson

From: Diane Stout <sedona1234@earthlink.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 7:12 PM
To: CityRecorder; Chuck Bennett
Subject: Postpone Recommendation of Battlecreek Master Plan

Dear City Officials,

Please postpone the approval and recommendation proceeding for the Battlecreek Master Plan!

Subsequent to COVID-19 Pandemic as well as continued building developments in the area of the Battlecreek Master Plan area, whereas further study and analysis needs to be conducted for water detention, the benefits of spending \$6 million is not necessary and especially at this time. It would be foolish and highly irresponsible to spend this amount of money for this Battlecreek Master Plan Option which I do not support, when flood mitigation is the highest priority and when the city may need to fund and prioritize towards public safety and health!

Thank you for your consideration.

A long term South Salem/BCC resident.

Sincerely,

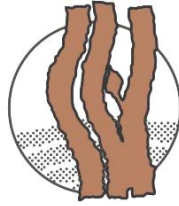
Diane Stout

Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of Francespurdy@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 8:17 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: L to City Council about Park 4-26-20.docx

Your Name	Frances Purdy
Your Email	Francespurdy@yahoo.com
Your Phone	2028308438
Street	6756 Continental Cir SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	Attached is a letter representing the testimony of BattleCreek Commons regarding the proposed regional city park, Battlecreek Park. This is the testimony that represents 160 units and families who reside to the immediate south of the proposed park. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need further information, Thank you. Frances Purdy, Secretary for the BattleCreek Commons Board of Directors,

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 4/26/2020.



BATTLECREEK COMMONS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

1823 Lexington Circle SE Salem, Oregon 97306 (503) 362-9284

April 26, 2020

Re: Testimony for the Final Plan for Battlecreek Park

Dear City of Salem Council Members:

Following are the comments of the BattleCreek Commons Association, a Homeowners Association of 160 units and families that shares the southern boundary of the proposed Battlecreek Park.

The Planning Process, led by Park Planning Manager Patricia Farrell, has provided numerous opportunities for local and citywide residents to express preferences and offer suggestions. The current recommendation provides for a moderate level of development and does reflect the highest priority of need: water retention, flood mitigation and control.

There are still unanswered questions about the efficacy of the proposed water retention areas since much of the design was based on past rain water amounts and no further construction to impact the watershed from the west and south of the proposed Park levels. BattleCreek Commons was greatly inundated by the creek overflow and adjacent flooding of the 1990's and early 2000's. We are deeply concerned with any land improvements and development because they affect water level and flow through the four creeks flowing through Battlecreek Park and the South Salem water basin from the west and south.

There is also serious concern about the increased pedestrian and vehicular traffic because the three sides of the Park abut current homes, most of which have no buffer whatsoever between their property and the proposed Park. The Park flows seamlessly into the backyards of the homes on Doral and the 'legal' south boundary of the Park is visually inseparable from the "commons" land and sidewalk of BattleCreek Commons.

This issue is complicated by current planning, which includes a major public parking area only on the north side even though trails and a disc golf course are adjacent to this "invisible border," BattleCreek Commons is already experiencing an increase in both vehicles, pedestrians and their dogs accessing and utilizing the Park by parking on and walking through private property, even before the proposed improvements.

REQUEST/RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the final actual building specifications based on current and projected rain fall, construction and water flow, rather than past rain fall and current open space to the west and south of the park.
2. Approve the final development bid plan with additional specification for

enhanced “natural features: for the physical and visual borders on substantial setbacks for the south, west and east boundaries of the park. These borders should include

- a. Wide border setbacks on or with high berms
- b. Low maintenance shrubs/bushes long the tops of the berms.
- c. Well signed public parking, away from private property and already-overcrowded streets and
- d. Signs that warn park users to use public lands to exit the park and not to leave the park by trespassing on private property.

For the BattleCreek Commons homeowners, I thank you for your attention to this testimony. We look forward to continuing to be a part of the sensitive planning and development of this positive Salem addition, Battlecreek Park.

Frances Purdy

Frances S. Purdy, Secretary of the Board of Directors,
BattleCreek Commons Association

Amy Johnson

From: Glenn Baly <glennbaly12345@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 3:35 PM
To: citycouncil; CityRecorder; Chuck Bennett
Cc: Bailey, Glenn
Subject: Battle Creek Park Master Plan

With present extraordinary circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic we feel that the City should set aside the Battle Creek Master Plan and consider shifting any related funding to relieve any economic and public health burdens on Salem citizens. The land is there for people to enjoy--and they do--money spent on a park seems like an extravagance at this time.

Lora Meisner & Glenn Baly
1347 Spyglass Court SE
Salem, OR 97306

Amy Johnson

From: LEA SPENCER <lea-chan@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 6:40 PM
To: CityRecorder; cbennet@cityofsalem.net
Subject: April 27th City Council meeting - Battlecreek Park Master Plan

Please enter this into the record for public comment for the April 27th City Council meeting. And please send me an email verifying it has been done.

I request the City Council vote this proposed plan down or put it on hold. The plan and process was flawed and incomplete. In addition, due to the current health crises, the City should not commit to long term projects of this scope until the crisis is resolved.

*Cost - residents asked many times about approximate costs to maintain this property. We were never given straight answers. Only vague, dismissive responses. I see the draft plan now shows approximate cost of \$6M to implement. Regardless of when or where the City of Salem expects to get funding, residents deserve an open, thorough dialogue about costs. Especially, since the city was operating in the red before this health crises. In addition, Salem has a reputation of not allocating adequate resources to maintain it's parks. It would be wasteful to move forward with this plan until concerns about costs and priorities are addressed.

*Flood mitigation - the property was purchased primarily for flood mitigation. The surveys that were conducted stated the #1 driver should be flood mitigation. This plan does not do that. It is secondary and it exacerbates the problem of flooding. At a presentation by the Stormwater Planning group in October 2019 to the South Gateway Neighborhood Assoc. residents asked, with development since January 2012 and in future plans, what will happen if there is another flood event. The response was "We don't know. We suggest you get flood insurance." Not reassuring! If you can get flood insurance, it is expensive, has high deductibles and has caps on what it pays. So, the consequence is homes and businesses would be under insured. A comprehensive stormwater plan needs to be completed and integrated into any plan, before this park is developed.

*Safety and security of residents and businesses - in addition to the impact on wildlife, which will not return if the park is developed as planned, there has already been a negative impact on the surrounding neighborhoods due to traffic, litter, trespassing and property crimes. In addition, a number of people are using it as an off leash park and owners are not picking up their dog's waste. Having more "eyes on the park" will not address this. This plan will exacerbate this problem, as well.

*Options - there was never a discussion about options. A few people want recreation at the cost of many. The latest information I have shows Salem has 48 parks, not counting undeveloped parks. The city just purchased 17 acres on Rees Hill Rd. Why not use an existing park to add recreation facilities? Or use the new acreage on Rees Hill Rd? It is important to note that there are dozens of disc golf courses in and around Salem they can and do utilize. Homes and businesses don't have the option of moving to another location or forgoing using their property, during inclement weather. Other options should be investigated thoroughly before moving forward.

*Communication - I heard from many people that they did not know anything about this process until well into the open houses and surveys. They learned about it by word of mouth. In addition, I

reviewed minutes for most of 2019 for the neighborhood associations in Salem and found only a few references to information about this plan. I don't believe there was a good faith effort to encourage public engagement and get information out that gave residents the full picture of the plan. The City needs to revisit this. In addition to details about cost, residents deserve the opportunity to be allowed to weigh in on the priority and use of this park before it is developed.

In closing, please review Figure 3.4 of your master plan report. It shows the park in December 2015. It is labeled during a flood. However, I have lived near the park nearly 17 years and have seen the park flood like this during normal rainy spells. What do you think it will look like with the development proposed here? And if you or someone in your circle wanted to live or locate their business around the park - or downstream - would you hesitate to recommend it? Think about that before you vote.

Please vote no on this plan. Set it aside until the health crises is resolved. City Council, and all residents. deserve full details about cost, flood mitigation and options and have opportunities for a more thorough a dialogue.

Page
Break

Amy Johnson

From: nadene@yatesguitar.com
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 9:57 AM
To: citycouncil
Cc: CityRecorder
Subject: PLEASE SAY NO TO AIRLINE SERVICE IN SALEM!

Dear Salem City Council Members,

I am enormously grateful for all you do and appreciate your efforts to serve the citizens of Salem. Thank you!

Today I writing to urge you to vote against applying for funds for commercial airline service in Salem.

- We can assume that once commercial airline service has resumed, it will require funds from the city. This is money we desperately need for the homeless and those who are being most hurt by the pandemic. Cities across the U.S. are already in serious financial straits due to the coronavirus.
- In a post-pandemic world, more people will be working online, and air travel patterns will be different. It will be years before air travel reaches pre-pandemic levels. With so many unknowns, it would be unwise to invest huge sums of tax-payer dollars in commercial air service.
- Commercial air traffic lessens our quality of life. I well remember the noise from jets flying above our city, and the pollution from ugly jet contrails. The pandemic has caused incalculable suffering for Salem residents, but one thing it has brought is clear blue skies and the rhythms of a quieter, slower pace of life. As we recover from the disruption of the coronavirus, we have an opportunity to rethink business as usual. Knee-jerk growth is not always the best path forward. The noise and pollution caused by jets crisscrossing our skies is not consistent with a more livable community.
- Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable. Commercial air travel in Salem would significantly add to our city's greenhouse emissions. I urge you to abide by the goals in our new Climate Action Plan.

I have attended city council meetings and watched you in action. I know your hearts are in the right place, that you truly care about the citizens in Salem, and that you want what is best for

our city. Please stay the course in making Salem a more livable, humane, beautiful city. Say no to commercial air traffic in Salem!

Nadene LeCheminant
Salem, Oregon

Amy Johnson

From: Clair Clark <clairclark86@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 10:08 PM
To: citycouncil
Cc: CityRecorder
Subject: Please do not approve commercial air service grant application

Dear Salem City Council:

I would request that you not approve a Small Community Air Service Development grant application be submitted for Salem for the following reasons:

1) Commercial air service development in Salem would contribute substantially to the city's greenhouse gas emissions. Using public resources to expand emissions-intensive transportation during a Climate Emergency is alarming to say the least. Scientists have warned we must reduce emissions by at least 7.6% annually to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, which includes rendering the planet virtually uninhabitable within this century. The Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory showed that transportation is already the major source of emissions in Salem (53%). Commercial air service would only add significantly to this.

2) As a resident of the Fairview neighborhood, I am concerned about the impact of pollution from additional air travel and traffic to and from the Salem airport. Right now, our city is experiencing much cleaner air and less noise pollution as our streets and skies have quieted during the stay at home orders. Though I want our strong economy to return quickly, transitioning back to the heavy traffic on my street with the added burden of more aviation and traffic pollution would be intolerable.

3) We are now living in a new world when it comes to air travel and business travel in particular. It will probably be many years before air travel reaches anything close to level that was common before the global pandemic. Perhaps more importantly, the pandemic has forced most businesses and other organizations to learn that air travel is not necessary to get work done. I think extensive business travel will become a thing of the past to the benefit of both people and planet. We need to acknowledge this, and not pretend things will go back to how they were by doubling down on investments that no longer make sense.

Thank you for your consideration,

Clair Clark
Ward 2 Resident
350 Salem OR Co-Coordinator

Amy Johnson

From: Sarah Deumling <sdeumling@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 10:06 AM
To: citycouncil
Cc: CityRecorder
Subject: Potential Salem Airport Grant

April 27, 2020
The Salem City Council

The idea of a \$950,000 federal grant to support commercial use of the Salem airport is a fools errand. The Statewide Transportation Strategy as well as the Governor's EO 04-20 "Direct State Agencies to Take Actions to Reduce and Regulate Greenhouse Gas Emissions" We have no choice but to implement responsible policies that will reduce our carbon footprints to try to get a handle on climate change. We means individuals, cities, counties, states, etc. The Corona Crisis is showing us that we can get by with much more remote work, conferencing, etc.and flying more is the solution to nothing. Please do not follow through with this idea. Invest any federal money available in alternative modes of of travel and communication that require less use of fossil fuels which will make Salem a nicer and more attractive place to live.

Many of us are waiting and wishing for your leadership!

Sincerely,
Sarah Deumling
2667 Orchard Heights Rd. NW
Salem OR 97304

Amy Johnson

From: Jim Scheppke <jscheppke@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 9:00 PM
To: citycouncil
Cc: CityRecorder
Subject: Testimony on Agenda Item 2.3d

Dear Salem City Council:

I would request that you not approve a grant application be submitted for commercial air service development in Salem for the following reasons:

1) Commercial air service development in Salem will harm our ability to lower our city's greenhouse gas emissions which is an imperative if we want to do our part to address the Climate Emergency that could render our planet virtually uninhabitable a century from now. The Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory showed that transportation is already the major source of greenhouse gas emissions in Salem (53%). Commercial air service would only add significantly to this.

2) If Salem had adopted a Climate Action Plan as most other cities already have, it would already have bound us to an aggressive goal to reduce our emissions and fossil fuel use. For example, the City of Eugene has pledged to reduce fossil fuel use throughout the city by 50% from 2010 levels by 2030. The City of Portland has pledged to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. The State of Oregon is pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon by 45% below 1990 levels by 2035. It is only by Salem's inaction, I believe, that a resumption of commercial air service can even be contemplated, as it obviously would not be consistent with an aggressive goal to reduce our emissions.

3) We are now living in a new world when it comes to air travel and business travel in particular. It will probably be many years before air travel reaches anything close to level that was common before the global pandemic. Perhaps more importantly, the pandemic has forced most businesses and other organizations to learn that air travel is not necessary to get work done. I think extensive business travel will become a thing of the past, and that will be a good thing for people and for the planet. We need to acknowledge this, and not pretend that things will go back to the way they were after we defeat the pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jim

Jim Scheppke
1840 E. Nob Hill Salem
jscheppke@comcast.net
503-269-1559

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Break

Amy Johnson

From: Nancy McDaniel <nanmcdann@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 6:54 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Irma Dowd; Takata, Lynn; Jeremy Mills; Nick Ritchie
Subject: Testimony for April 27 hearing
Attachments: NEN Jory Apts TIF.pdf

Attached is the testimony of the NEN Neighborhood Association on File #20-151, the Jory Apartments TIF District, for the Council hearing on April 27.

Thank you,
Nancy McDaniel
NEN Land Use Co-Chair



NEN

NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS
555 Liberty Street SE, Rm 305
Salem, OREGON 97301

(503) 588-6207
www.salemnen.org

April 26, 2020

To the Members of the Salem City Council,

On April 26, the NEN Board voted to submit this testimony on the proposed Jory Apartments Urban Renewal District, specifically the Tax Increment Financing Plan for the district. We strongly support affordable housing in the development, but certain elements of the plan are troubling and we question if this is the way to finance it.

Under the plan, 97% of tax increment financing would be used to pay the developer – presumably Mountain West. Payments would start at \$255,000 and increase every year for a potential total of \$20 million. (See Table 3a in the Report on the TIF District Plan for details.) This type of arrangement is unusual; financing is typically used to pay for infrastructure improvements or to offset System Development Charges. According to city staff, they are aware of only one other instance in Oregon, in Wilsonville, where tax increment financing was used for direct payments to the owner.

The plan projects payments over 41 years, although city staff have said it might be 30 years. Either way, how can the city commit to so many years of payments when it's impossible to predict the housing market over that time? Meanwhile, other efforts are underway to increase housing stock: recent changes to the city's multi-family housing code, and state legislation (HB 2001) that requires cities to allow more density in areas zoned as single family residential.

We are also concerned that the number of affordable units proposed for the Jory Apartments has decreased. Last fall, the NEN and NESCA neighborhood associations were told by a Mountain West representative that about 50 units of affordable housing were planned for the development. Since then, the city learned that legislation enacted in 2019 limited the amount of tax increment available to urban renewal districts. This limited the district to 60% of the tax increment (a 40% decrease). A proportional decrease in the number of affordable units would result in 30 units but the city is proposing 24 units.

We know more affordable housing is needed in Salem and want to see some in the Jory Apartments. We especially like that the affordable units would be incorporated into a market-rate development. However, we question if the arrangement as proposed in the TIF Plan is in the city's best interests. We hope that the Council will carefully review the TIF Plan and any associated agreement between the city and the developer to ensure that they are in the public's best interests over the life of the TIF District.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Nancy McDaniel
NEN Land Use Co-Chair

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Break

Amy Johnson

From: Gina Johnnie <gina@shermlaw.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 1:55 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Elisabeth Potter
Subject: Pioneer Cemetery

My name is Gina Anne Johnnie and I am a resident of the Fairmount neighborhood. I am also a decedent of a family buried in the Pioneer Cemetery. In addition to distant relatives (including Salem's first dentist), my grandmother, Pauline L. McMahon, is buried in the Pioneer Cemetery. The Pioneer Cemetery means a great deal to my family, as it does to all families with relatives buried there. I understand that people with no relatives buried in the Pioneer Cemetery will not have the same emotional response to using it like a park, that my family does. With that said, I would hope that they would consider the need for historic preservation and would be willing to show respect for the families who have people buried in the Pioneer Cemetery. Irreparable damage has been done to my families' plot – two headstones are missing and others are broken – as well as other parts of the Cemetery.

While I understand the desire to have neighborhood access from one neighborhood to another neighborhood, I strongly disagree with any attempt to use the Pioneer Cemetery for that access. Until it was donated to the City of Salem, the Pioneer Cemetery was owned and managed by a service type organization. When the Cemetery fell into disrepair, the service organization asked the City to take possession, with the understanding that the City would protect it. The Pioneer Cemetery houses so much of this City's history that preservation and protection should be a priority. The Cemetery was not been well cared for until the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery became its guardian angel. The Pioneer Cemetery is not a public park and it is not property that the City of Salem purchased. It has seen its share of damage, including during a time recently when the "public" sought to use it as an unauthorized off lease dog park and did not pick up dog poop. Now dogs are not welcome. We already know that people do not respect the Cemetery and are happy to use it like a park. In fact, when talking with us publicly, Vanessa Nordyke called it a public park before correcting herself. Putting a path through the Pioneer Cemetery will invite more damage, not less – the solutions proposed by Ms. Nordyke are not feasible. If the City is not interested in protecting a historical treasure, then find a non-profit that will ensure that it is protected and preserved.

If the City seeks connectivity, then it should improve the current connection between the two neighborhoods and not seek a new connection. Others will know much more about this issue than me, but my understanding is that because the Pioneer Cemetery is on the National Historic Register, studies are required to make any change. Additionally, because there may be unmarked burials in the location where it looks like a path is proposed, other studies would also be required. As far as I am aware, none of that has been considered or been done. With other more important issues, like homelessness, why would the City use resources on this issue? And if it did seek to use resources, why not use them to improve the current path between neighborhoods?

Regardless of those issues, I would hope that the City would decide to protect the Pioneer Cemetery.

Gina Anne Johnnie



SHERMAN SHERMAN JOHNNIE & HOYT, LLP - Attorneys at Law | www.shermlaw.com

Ph. 503-364-2281 | Fax 503-370-4308 | 693 Chemeketa St. NE Salem, OR 97301

Connect with me on LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/ginajohnnie>

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IMPORTANT NOTICE: The lawyers and staff of Sherman Sherman Johnnie & Hoyt LLP are committed to both continuing to service your legal needs and supporting local efforts to slow the spread of covid-19. We are honoring the Governor's order to implement remote work to the fullest extent possible. We remain available to you by phone, video conference or email. As circumstances continue to evolve we will keep you informed of the best manner to reach us. Thank you for your support and cooperation as we meet your needs and help protect the health of our community.

April 27, 2020

To: City Recorder

City of Salem, Oregon

RE: Trail through Pioneer Cemetery

For: Mayor and City Councilors

From: Pat Norman

Enclosed: Letter and Petition - 4 pages

cc

April 26, 2020

Re: Trail through Pioneer Cemetery

Mr. Mayor and City Councilors:

I see why some people are asking for the convenience of passing through Pioneer Cemetery to get to the other side. I am asking you, please, to look inside Pioneer rather than just to the other side. Pioneer Cemetery is an outdoor history museum, full of people whom all have stories. The cemetery's website contains much information about those (8000 +) buried on the grounds. Olive Stanton was the first woman to graduate from Willamette Law School, and was a Suffragette who helped gain the vote for women in Oregon. Hiram "Hi" Gorman was born into slavery, and freed by President Lincoln's emancipation proclamation.

My position is the city should look outside Pioneer for the trail. There are concerns that Commercial is dangerous. Since there are crowds of South Salem High Schoolers who regularly travel from the school to Rural and Hoyt then south to the food vendors, I suggest safety measures be established for the students and general public along Commercial. There also may be need for upgrades of the Fairmount Trail, which runs from the park to lower Crestview, parallel to River Road. The other issue is Candalaria's lack of parks. In speaking with Eunice Kim, Salem Vision, there has been discussion of pocket parks – on lots rather than acreage. Candalaria needs a pocket park.

For transparency's sake, I am involved with other agencies that intersect with Pioneer: board member with Salem Parks Foundation; and a founding member of Just Walk Salem Keizer (JWSK). JWSK has hosted many walks and events in Pioneer Cemetery, which is open to the public. In this letter, I am speaking on my own behalf and in reference to my work at Pioneer Cemetery.

I am a member of Friends of Pioneer Cemetery (FOPC) and have been working the grounds for over 9 years. I moved into the neighborhood about 1988 and live within 2 blocks of Pioneer. The fence saved the cemetery from vandalism when installed in 1986, and continues to protect it. Even the one entrance and exit is protective as it is very public at Hoyt and Skopil, rather than a gate on the north side that is out of sight from Hoyt. The grounds were very open to people when I first arrived in the neighborhood. It eventually evolved into a "leash required" area and is now "no dogs allowed" (Over 3 years now) because of that percentage of irresponsible dog owners. I was not in agreement with the "no dogs" designation at the time, but have come to appreciate it since the grounds are much cleaner and without the damage resulting from loose dogs. Unfortunately, places such as Pioneer Cemetery need protection from that low percentage of people who don't care or are determined to do damage to properties. I am a full time walker and fair weather bicyclist and love trails. But I cannot support a trail in Pioneer Cemetery, a fragile place where we do ongoing repair and restoration of aging headstones and monuments. FOPC also prunes the roses (there are many heritage roses), removes invasive plant species, trims bushes and trees, picks up debris, removes moss from cement and headstones/monuments, and cleans headstones with water, soft brushes and wood. When we have new volunteers, we warn them of the safety hazards: the property is uneven and the ground squirrels (invasive) dig holes and make tunnels, causing stones to lean and sometimes fall, so take care in moving throughout the property; there are headstones not securely attached to their base so could fall if leaned on; and watch for the periodic poison oak.

Pioneer Cemetery is designated Historic by the City of Salem and is on the National Register of Historic Places. There is also a Salem historic archaeological site on the grounds, established approximately 3 years ago. If the motion to have city staff study trail options in Pioneer is pursued, eventually, the Historic Landmarks Commission will make the final decision. Since Pioneer is designated a Goal 5 Resource, as an historic site, an extensive study would need to be obtained, which includes economic, social, environmental, and energy analysis.

There are a number of people who have talked about the inconvenience of walking from Fairmount to Commercial to get to Life Source and other shopping. Sure, a path/trail would be convenient. But do we want to put our historic outdoor museum at risk by adding traffic when there are options outside the cemetery? I encourage a visit to Pioneer if you have not done so. I would be happy to walk with you to assist with your experience in this significant and special area.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Pat Norman



Candalaria Resident

normanboo@comcast.net

Attached is a petition I started just before the "stay home" restrictions. There are others interested in signing when we get to safer circumstances. One of those is a veteran who was planning on making comments at City Council, first on February 24 and then again on March 23, and both meetings were postponed. He has been unavailable this week. I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE COUNCIL TO HEAR A VETERAN'S CONCERNS. There are nearly 300 veterans buried in Pioneer Cemetery, several having served in the War of 1812 and many more from the Civil War.

Petition to protect Salem's Pioneer Cemetery, Salem Oregon

Petition summary and background	Pioneer Cemetery is on the National Register of Historic Places and has an archaeological site on the grounds. Adding a gate and/or trail to the grounds will put it at risk for damage and misuse.
Action petitioned for	Do not add a gate and/or path/trail to Salem's Pioneer Cemetery

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Sue Apodaca	<i>[Signature]</i>	2855 Fillmore Ave NW 97304		3/7
DALE PALMQUIST	<i>[Signature]</i>	1672 Sumner Cir NW 97304		
Harold Ott	<i>[Signature]</i>	4692 Fir Hill Dr. S.E.		3/7
KEN ALBIN	<i>[Signature]</i>	4490 Silverton Rd NE 97305		3/7
PAT NORMAN	<i>[Signature]</i>	2495 Mulvree Dr S 97302	preserve & protect cemetery	3/7
Zach Norman	<i>[Signature]</i>	3245 Bonham St. 97302		3/7
FRED KLATZ	<i>[Signature]</i>	810 Vista Ave SE 97302		3/9
Claudine Shaw	<i>[Signature]</i>	3040 Loucks Ct NE Salem 97301		3/10
Judy Norman	<i>[Signature]</i>	4253 Heavens Way So		3/10
Dixie Hall	<i>[Signature]</i>	4293 Heavens Way So	Preserve!	3/10
Richard Hiltz	<i>[Signature]</i>	380 Hoyt St. S.		3/11
James R.	<i>[Signature]</i>	350 Hart St		3/11

Page
Break

Amy Johnson

From: Adams Darla <Adamsdarla@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 9:05 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Cascade Gateway Park homeless "invasion""

We are a retired couple living at Paradise Island park. My husband is blind. He worked for BPA in Portland for 35 years as a computer programmer. He moved to our park for safety, exercise of the walking paths & peaceful/safe living environment.

I resent you, the city council, allowing homeless folks camp next to P.I. Let the homeless live in your neighborhoods. The State of Utah has no homeless problem... they take care of them. Why don't you folks look into their model of the homeless situation?? This situation can be handled in a safe & logical manner. Do your homework, folks..!

Putting our park & residents in danger, is not a solution, you are passing the buck like you have done in the past. Our country has added to the homeless problems by raising rents & closing Mental Health facilities, that used to house & treat this population that are unable to function on their own. It started in the 80's & was fast moving in 1990's. I am a retired mental health worker & sadly watched this problem mushroom into what it is today. Our country has to deal with this problem they have created.

Utah is proactive... why don't you follow their design?? Don't reinvent the wheel. Wake Up folks. I was walking my dog in "our" park & saw a man in a car parked along the fence that separates parks.. with a rifle pointed towards the eagle nest. The eagles have a nest at the top of one of the tallest trees in park. Our park also has car break-ins & theft of personal property that was not happening when I moved in 2012.

We elect you to work on & solve community problems like this.

Darla Adams & Stacey Glennon Unit 166

Sent from my iPad

Amy Johnson

From: ANNE ESCH <anne724@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 5:40 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Cascade Gateway Park

I am a sr citizen who lives in Paradise mobile home village & am quite worried re: the homeless people setting up homesites in the Gateway park. This is a request for the city not to allow this to take place; for our safety & for sanitary reasons.

Sincerely

Anne Esch

3100 Turner Rd. S.E. #621

Salem, OR 97301

Amy Johnson

From: Diana Samson <dndsamson2@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 9:36 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Homeless---Cascades Gateway Park

We the citizens of Salem and Resident's of Paradise Island Park would like you, the city of Salem council members to reconsider using Cascades Gateway Park as a homeless camp.

1. A lot of seniors enjoyed walking or biking over to the park as a safe place to walk or ride along the creek. Some walk the sidewalk to WalMart and down to the park, around the lake and continue along the frisbee golf course on the creek side and back to Paradise Island.

We have personally found 2 syringes (needles) on the sidewalk and human feces inches from the side walk.

2. This camp appears to be unsupervised. This park also borders Paradise Island.

3. No toilets which means they are doing their jobs on the creek's edge or in the creek and have to assume that is where their garbage is going too.

As Salem residence's we want our city Park back again, that means picnic area, play ground for the children - All of it. Thanks for your time. Dennis and Diana Samson

3100 Turner Road SE #413

Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of dtakeizer@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 6:03 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	David
Your Email	dtakeizer@gmail.com
Your Phone	5039493141
Message	Why In the world you have a large park like Minto brown open and not one restroom open? The city could at least supply wash stations by the open porta pots? I can go to a small store like Life source here in Salem they have 2 of them. You really need to step up and serve the public you serve in a more efficient way. I hope this issue is addressed.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 4/27/2020.

Amy Johnson

From: Fay Lawson <fay_lawson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 10:19 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Cascades Gateway Park

I strongly oppose opening city parks such as Cascades Gateway park that has no toilet or garbage facilities. I no longer feel safe in my home as I live on the path that leads to the park. My dog barks constantly when people walk by hauling their belongings down the path

Fay Lawson
3100 Turner Rd #132
Salem.
Sent from my iPhone

Amy Johnson

From: Judy Ferguson <fergie.je@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 7:32 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Cascades Park concern

Gentlemen and Ladies:

Your interest in allowing the homeless to live in Cascade Park is a terrible idea. Although homeless live in the area, this park is at the back door of our lovely 55+ senior community, Paradise Island. It is a huge concern for the safety of our residents. Please vote against this idea.

Thank you for your consideration,

Judith Ferguson
3100 Turner Rd, Unit 419
Salem, OR 97302

Amy Johnson

From: jrgrim@juno.com
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 5:57 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Opening Cascades Gateway park to the homeless

We would like to express our opposition to opening Cascades Gateway park to the homeless

UNLESS:

Proper sanitary facilities are provided.

1. Adequate restrooms to provide for the full number of people who will be in the park.
2. Adequate garbage service.
- 3 A source of drinking water
4. Adequate sanitary provisions where people can clean themselves
5. Periodic security checks for the safety of individuals
6. Enforcement of rules that provide for the exclusion and removal of those person who endanger the welfare of others or fail to keep their camping sites sanitary.

Jon & Mary Grim
3100 Turner Rd. SE Unit 211
Salem, Oregon 97302-2086

Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of richjudiott@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 12:21 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Judi Ott
Your Email	richjudiott@yahoo.com
Your Phone	5596760560
Street	3100 Turner Rd. SE, #180
City	salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	We live in Paradise Island Park. Cascade Gateway Park is ust north of us. We do not appreciate that city of Salem has allowed the homeless back to camp. We have already experienced break ins here in the park. Thank you

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 4/26/2020.

Amy Johnson

From: John Shealy <johnshealy67@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 12:57 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Homeless Camping at Cascades Gateway Park

Hello,

We live at 3100 Turner Rd SE unit 309 in Paradise Island Park, which is adjacent to Cascades Park. Lately our park has for the first time in years had criminal activity related to stealing.

We strongly object to the homeless camping at the park with no supervision. There are no toilet or garbage facilities for them there and we think you should come up with another plan for these homeless people.

Thank you for your time,

Inger Johanne and John Shealy

Amy Johnson

From: John Wilde <jnbwilde@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 8:51 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Cascade getaway park

Please do not allow homeless camping in the park the leave massive piles of garbage , you need to find a better alternative

Sent from my iPhone

Amy Johnson

From: Randy Green <handlegreen@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 11:52 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Cascades Gateway Park.

To whom it may concern,

The plans to open this park to homeless for camping is an ill conceived and and decidedly toxic plan with ramifications far beyond the mess and crime they will bring with them!
As a senior citizen and resident of the Paradise Island Park, we are a highly vulnerable senior community at greater risk of crimes and other related activities, as well as any health concerns these homeless campers would bring with them! As you well know, there are no sanitation facilities in that park, nor is there any refuse collection, and with Mill Creek running through, I wonder at the likely hood of serious pollution and the environmental impacts this will have for the greater community of our beloved Salem! You need to do better then this, shuffling the homeless from location to location isn't solving any problems, and I doubt they are a problem in YOUR neighborhoods, yet you repeatedly foist them off on the citizens in other neighborhoods around the city, this is completely unacceptable and will not go unchallenged! We are Better then this, lets address this for what it is, and stop trying to put band aids on it, and take action to eliminate this issue! Supporting and encouraging this behavior only leads to more of the same, and we all know it doesn't work, never has, so repeating the same hoping for a different outcome is a waste of time and resources! I expect more from MY civic leadership, and this isn't getting things done, and is unacceptable!

Sincerely,
Karl, M. Green

Amy Johnson

From: Kathy Reens <kreens@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 8:15 PM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Paradise Island
Subject: Homeless in Gateway Park

My name is Kathy Reens. I live in Paradise Island space 142 located at the back corner of the park. Last week there was a car behind our house pointing a rifle at an eagle that was flying over head. My husband's window faces the park. I called the police but by the time he got here they had moved on. The car was there about 1/2 hour and was a tan Subaru and drove toward Mill Creek. There are NO cars allowed in that area.

Since the City has placed homeless in Gateway Park next to a Senior Mobile home Park there has been many many issues.

Camping in the ODOT area between Mill Creek and the freeway. I called ODOT and was told they would get to it when they had time. There have been fights in those camps many times. I called the State Police and they can't put them out and said it was an ODOT issue.

Cars, RV's and sheds have been broken into. Men that don't belong in our park found in people's carports.

There has been camps in fringed golf area behind homes here and they had camp fires.

My question is where do they get money for cigarettes liquor drugs or dog food?? Could they be stealing and selling things that don't belong to them??

This used to be a very peaceful secure place for seniors to live, you have made it a very big mess for all who live here.

And oh by the way we are the ones who pay taxes. And vote for City Council members.

Kathy Reens

Amy Johnson

From: Linda Thomas <clycash@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 6:13 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Cascades Gateway Park

I am a homeowner at Paradise Island Park. I live next door to Cascade Gateway Park.

Since the city has allowed the homeless to live in Cascade Park they come and live next door to our fence line it is very disturbing. Upon living there they have started campfires which is very alarming to residents and their properties. It is not a safe situation.

In seeing how the homeless leave there areas extremely unsanitary. They leave garbage, needles and defecation. When the homeless leave, we are unable to use the walking area for us or our dogs.

I realize the homeless need a place to live, but please don't let them live at this end of the park. It is not fair to us homeowners. They don't respect our area and safety.

Ms Linda Thomas
Paradise Island Home Owner

Amy Johnson

From: Patrice Hadsell-Evans <pehadsell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 7:40 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Cascade Gateway Park- Covid19

City Councilman,

I'm writing on behalf of myself and my husband. We are residence of Paradise Island MHP on Turner Rd in Salem. This is the second letter I have sent regarding the problems we are experiencing in our neighborhood since you made Cascades Gateway Park a "shelter-in-place" for the homeless population. First of all we should never allow homeless camping in a PUBLIC PARK, this park belongs to the citizens of Salem and it's become a dumping ground. It's not only unsafe it's unsanitary since the city made no provision for toilets or garbage.

There are many residents living in Paradise Island that walk or ride their wheelchairs to Walmart, it's now unsafe to do so. We've had multiple break-in in our retirement community since you made this decision. Personally, we had our outside security camera stolen, they got into my car and attempted to get into my shed. My husband dedicated 33 years to law enforcement and we moved to Paradise Island from West Salem because we felt safer in a community such as this.

I'm appalled at the complete lack of care and concern for the welfare of such a vulnerable population. My husband is unwell and I have the task of caring for him myself. It's very unnerving, to say the least, knowing someone's outside in my yard, prowling about my neighborhood, and it's my responsibility to keep him safe. I resent you making this kind of a decision without any regard for the safety, security and peace of mind of a large elderly population. With the COVID19 effecting "our age" is enough pressure thank you very much...

This decision putting a homeless camp on the doorstep of a retirement community is shameful. What were you thinking? This has to be dealt with, the homeless in this park need to be move to an area where they have access to the facilities they need instead of using Walmart for the restroom..it's just not safe and it's not fair to the citizens where Walmart is there only option for food and supplies.

We expect something to be done and sooner than later...

Patrice & Gary Jeffs
3100 Turner Rd SE unit 402
Salem, OR 97302
530-613-0236

Amy Johnson

From: Pamela Watson <ppw30@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 10:10 AM
To: Chuck Bennett; citycouncil; CityRecorder
Subject: Expiring camping

Good morning All,

I'm writing to encourage each of you to vote to extend the camping at both Parks as we continue to find our way through this pandemic.

We need to be using this time to be planning on "where they will go" once camping is not allowed.

After consulting one of our agencies heads I learned there are no discussions going on for planning the next step!

So for now, I feel where the unsheltered are at is the best solution.

As a City and Community I'm hoping we can work together on a solution. It's not going away!

Be well,
Pamella Watson

Sent from [Outlook Mobile](#)

Amy Johnson

From: Roberta Kane <bkane@teleport.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 11:25 AM
To: citycouncil
Cc: pdisland@comcast.net
Subject: Cascades Gateway Park

Good Morning,

I would request that you reconsider your decision to allow camping at Cascades Gateway Park. I understand that the area is unsupervised and lacks adequate personal and refuse facilities.

This area is in close proximity to a senior living development and these conditions present a grave concern to the residents, for their health, welfare and safety.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Roberta Kane
3100 Turner Rd Se Unit 701
Salem, OR. 97301

Amy Johnson

From: RALPH Y MORGAN <rymorgan62@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 8:39 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Homeless at Cascade Gateway Park

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I realize having homeless people in downtown areas or any other place is not only a city problem, but also a humanitarian problem. I do not feel that it should be a problem shoved on to the residents of Paradise Island Park. If you put them at River Front Park, the whole town of Salem would be up in arms.

We at Paradise are 55 and much older. We have been vandalized, abused of our property, and I personally have had my wife's bike stolen, and my motor home broken into and they used it as a toilet.

I promise you I don't want to be violated in anyway, nor do I want to hurt anybody, however my wife, and Property come first.

Solutions are tough, and I unfortunately don't have one that you would resort to, unless you can figure out a way to get them into Wapato. I understand it never has been used and was paid for with tax payors money.

Sincerely, Ralph Y. Morgan 3100 Turner Rd SE #302, Salem, Or 97302

Amy Johnson

From: Dixie Pearson <rondixiepearson@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 5:24 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Cascade Gateway Park

To whom it may concern,

We are residents at Paradise Island Mobil Park that borders the back of Cascade Gateway City Park.

We are concerned with the ever increasing presence of the Homeless population that resides at Cascade Gateway Park.

It's becoming more common for items turning up missing....and a couple of the neighbors cars were broken into.

It's only been in the last few months this started happening.

We used to enjoy going to the park and fish and then when our grandchildren would come we would take them also.

We don't feel secure to go to the park or as secure in our house.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Ron and Dixie Pearson
3100 Turner Road SE Unit 625
Salem, Oregon 97302

Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of Ronsrv9a@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 1:40 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: trim.20661E35-EDC5-45FE-A56E-A4F74BECD48E.MOV

Your Name	Ronald Sterba
Your Email	Ronsrv9a@gmail.com
Your Phone	5034009191
Street	500 20th st ne
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	<p>Hello city councilors. Concerns : Emergency Declaration @ Cascades Gateway Park. South East Mill Creek Association (SEMCA) neighborhood association. Board Member Ronald Sterba. Councilors you have put extreme pressure of forced anxiety on the "55" and older Paradise Island -Mobile Home park senior citizens. I bet your didn't even know that Cascade Gateway southern boundary is shared with Paradise Island park's senior citizen's backyards where their bounty wire fence has been cut several times allowing thieves to STEAL from the seniors properties. Last week a unknown person was seen using a rifle and targeting the Eagles nesting area at the park! Councilors you need to stop this scary scenario for these homeless folks as well a park visitor. Why do I say scary because I ventured back to the camping area (parking area because the picnic area is not accessible ,still has barricade posts at Mill creek bridge) and FRANKLY I was a little on EDGE as two people walked toward me asking WHY I was there. People walk pushing carts down the driveway to the park because approximately 890 feet of sidewalk is missing from the park entrance next to Walmart on Turner road Se. Why is SEMCA SAFETY requests being ignored at city hall. On two occasions I hand delivered pictures and a email asking for the tree to be trimmed on the south east corner of the park entrance on Turner road. The branches have totally grown around the luminarie (street light) blocking light from reaching the CROSSWALK LINES and Pavement at this corner, I volunteered to cut the branches but I was told I would be fined! I hope it doesn't take a accident to get the tree trimmed. I will mention more pedestrian foot traffic near the park roadway as well as On the Turner road pavement itself in front of both mobile home parks and down to Air Way dr. Se. I bring this SAD news that there was person killed in pedestrian/vehicle accident 2018 by Lakeside mobile home park on Turner road,,,, WHY because there is NO bike or pedestrian lane on the shoulder of either side of the Turner road pavement. Saturday I took a picture of two pedestrians walking south on the pavement and a bicyclist walking on the other side. By this city's Emergency Declaration these two communities WELL BEING on Turner Road have been comprised. My feelings on comprise,,,the end of May overnight camping ends at Cascade Gateway Park. Install a 10 foot wide perimeter gravel driveway next to the Paradise Island property line/fence to add in police/security patrols. Next add a pavement pedestrian/bike lane on the West side Turner road Pavement (Garmin Corporate south) (pass Public Works discussions) this would be the least expensive) because the east side has flood water concerns and the sidewalk expense would be high! I say city canvas the campers on what city they are from and if they did not previously live in Salem give them a transportation voucher to their hometown. Our town has graciously given opportunity for all the homeless to succeed. Now what's in it for</p>

the taxpayers? As a reminder one citizen I Quote “ I remember swimming and LIFEGUARDS at Cascade Gateway park. Attributes of Cascade Gateway Park” Off Leash Dog runs and beautiful picnic area along Mill Creek. Don’t let our hearts get abused Ronald Sterba SEMCA Active board member,

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 4/27/2020.

Amy Johnson

From: RICHARD & LILLIAN THOMAS <lilltom@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 7:10 PM
To: citycouncil
Cc: pdisland@comcast.net
Subject: Cascades Gateway Park

City Council;

Allowing anybody, especially the homeless people, to spend the night in Cascades Gateway was not allowed before and should not be allowed now of all times.

The park is an un-secured gate away from a senior citizen community of over 300 seniors. We have taken all COVID 19 precautions thus far and to have to see this happen to us is ridicules!

State parks are closed and other facilities are locked and you see fit to do this shows a total disregard to the health and safety of all of us here in Paradise Island as well as all the citizens of Salem.

Please do not allow this to continue!

I am,

Richard L Thomas
3100 Turner Rd SE Sp 624
Salem, Or 97302

Amy Johnson

From: sharon peterson <sharontrekingon@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 7:51 AM
To: Paradise Island Bunny; citycouncil
Subject: Cascades Gateway Park homeless residents

I am a senior tax paying citizen of Salem, Oregon who owns a mobile home in Paradise Park at 3100 Turner Rd SE and my home backs up to Cascades Gateway Park. Before retiring I was a Realtor here in Salem and Paradise Park was the premiere park for retired people and it took a long time for any homes in here to become available. My husband and I have worked in Oregon most all our years so have of course paid our taxes all those years and still do for our home here. Now, he has to be in a Memory Care facility so I have to live alone and this mobile home park is the most affordable option for me. It is still the most beautiful park in Salem for us. Our owner has strict rules that we as residents have to abide by, so it is a lovely place to live. I have always been confident it would be this way. So, it goes without having to say, it is very dismaying to have the homeless camping in our backyard. I have heard it say they are the vulnerable ones and yet I would ask you if your mother lived here at Paradise Park wouldn't she be the vulnerable one? And the answer would be a definite resounding "YES".

We all know they could care less about how they live as we have witnessed wherever they park themselves on the city streets. It is unsafe for anyone around them. The ones who parked behind our home were able bodied young people who could work if they choice to do so. People have choices and these choose to be homeless. Amazon opened a huge warehouse and many jobs were available and these homeless ones choose to not work. Why?

I see a gal who parks herself on the corner of Turner Rd. And Mission begging. My husband and I choose to go to work in Honduras for one year out of our careers and that was an eye opening experience to say the least! It is a shame to see our country and our state of Oregon looking like a third world country!

Cascades Park does not have the facilities needed to house these people. It should be a safe place where children can fish and have a good time. I thought putting in a disc golf course was a nice thing for our youth but not a hangout for homeless people who seem to have enough money for alcohol and drugs.

What is becoming of our once beautiful city and homes? It is deteriorating!

Sincerely,
Homeowners at #122
Sharon Peterson

Amy Johnson

From: Stan & Sharon <stanshar@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 5:42 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: HOMELESS IN CASCADES GATEWAY PARK

IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT YOU ARE GOING TO OPEN CASCADES GATEWAY PARK ON TURNER RD. TO THE HOMELESS FOR CAMPING. WE LIVE IN PARADISE ISLAND PARK RIGHT NEXT DOOR. WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS. THERE IS NO GARBAGE OR SANITARY FACILITIES OR SUPERVISION AT GATEWAY. IT WILL BE JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY PUSH TOWARDS OUR PARK. IT SCARES US.

STAN AND SHARON PETERSON

3100 TURNER RD. SE
#215
SALEM,OR. 973024

Amy Johnson

From: Cory Poole <robotopdx@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 11:45 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: From SEMCA Board, Regarding Homeless camps in Cascades Gateway Park.

Mr. Mayor and City council members.

We the board of the Southeast Millcreek Neighborhood Association are writing to you in lieu of in-person testimony that has been suspended.

Cascades gateway park is a great asset to our community. Over the years SEMCA has worked closely with Salem Parks, groups, and individual Salem residents to help make Cascades Gateway park a destination for Walking, fishing, wildlife viewing, disc golf, and other activities.

On many days Cascades gateway park enjoys a level of use that rivals other city parks that enjoy much larger maintenance budgets.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Salem city council opened Cascades Gateway park to unsupervised, unregulated camping by homeless individuals. There was no effort made by city staff to contact SEMCA or adjacent residents or businesses.

Almost immediately after this, homeless individuals started to build makeshift camps throughout the park often on sensitive wildlife habitats. The areas of Cascades gateway park where many of these camps are located have no lighting, no road access for patrol, no garbage disposal facilities, and most importantly no supervision by city staff, parks staff, or police.

Immediately to the south of Cascades Gateway Park are two manufactured home parks, the manufactured home park bordering the park is a senior park with 213 households with an average age of over 70. Both manufactured home parks have seen an enormous spike in theft and trespass. Residents living in these communities are expressing extreme concern for their personal safety since homeless campers have cut the chain-link fence to gain entry into the manufactured home park several times.

In addition to the current homeless camping policy being unsafe for residents and businesses adjacent to the park, it is also unsafe for the homeless community camping in the park. Many camps are placed very close together homeless campers are not observing social distancing congregating in groups within the camps. When homeless campers steal from or assault each other there is no chance for a quick police or ambulance response. The people living in these conditions are left to deal with these criminal acts on their own.

Cascades Gateway Park is suffering from the presence of these camps. A camp has set up on the island in Wirth Lake. This island is set aside for wildlife and currently, nesting geese and ducks have been forced to leave their nesting sites due to the presence of campers and disruptive behavior of these campers. A camp is located adjacent to a tree containing an eagle nest one homeless camper that was illegally driving his car through the park was observed aiming a rifle at the eagle in its nest. The campers have been trampling native plants on sensitive creek banks and have been cutting down park trees to make campfires which they claim is permitted under the current camping ordinance. In the absence of restroom and garbage facilities campers are using bushes and Mill Creek as open toilets and garbage dumps. I have documented toilet paper, human waste, drug manufacturing paraphernalia, and large amounts of garbage around the campsites.

Understanding that the COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated an already tragic homeless crisis in our city we are asking the Council to make the following changes to the current camping policy.

1. Move all homeless camps to the north end of Cascades Gateway Park, north of Mill creek. This area already has

vehicle access for emergency response, It has lighting at night for the safety of the campers, it has a covered shelter which could be used for serving food and distributing supplies, It has restroom facilities, it is much closer to transportation and bus service along mission street and very importantly the north end of Cascades gateway park is not adjacent to any residential or business properties.

2. Provide homeless camps with garbage and restroom facilities. Clean and safe restroom facilities MUST be provided to people living in tents. Clean water for handwashing and sanitary toilet facilities are critical to keep the homeless population from infecting each other and the broader community. Garbage disposal facilities also must be provided to keep garbage from polluting Cascades Gateway Park and Mill Creek.

3. There must be 24-hour supervision of the campsites. Salem's homeless population are among the most vulnerable people in our city. Many of these people suffer from mental illness, drug addiction, PTSD, and acute health problems. We cannot expect this population to monitor itself. At all times there should be a city staff member present to monitor the campsites to ensure that homeless campers are not abusing each other. Using the north end of Cascades gateway park would allow for fast medical, fire, and police response.

4. Tents must be spaced in a way that allows for social distancing. A grid should be laid out on the field grounds to designate a safe personal space around each campsite. Campers should not be permitted to congregate in large groups to prevent infection by COVID-19. This approach is currently being employed effectively in Portland and other cities.

5. A task force should be established immediately to establish a post-pandemic homeless camping policy. SEMCA and Salem's residents are unwilling to permanently loose Cascades Gateway Park to homeless camps. A more permanent homeless village or some other system outside of Salem parks should be implemented to provide ongoing safe shelter for the homeless population.



Homeless camper illegally driving his car on the Disc Golf course.



Homeless campers cutting down park trees for firewood.



Campfire made from park trees.



Homeless Camp set up on the disc golf course.



Homeless campsite less than 50ft from Paradise Island Mobile home park.



Drug cooking supplies adjacent to homeless campsite 100ft from Paradise Island Park.



Campsite on the protected island in Wirth lake. Normally a nesting site for wild birds.



Mar 13, 2020 3:57:50 PM
3100 Turner Road Southeast
Salem
Marion County
Oregon

Homeless Trespasser in Paradise Island Park. He told park staff that he was looking for a place to take drugs.



Apr 8, 2020 10:12:29 AM
2650 Turner Road Southeast
Salem
Marion County
Oregon

Homeless campsite on Disc golf course.



Campsites immediately adjacent to businesses.



Campsites adjacent to neighboring businesses.



Alcohol from homeless campers left on disc golf course.



Homeless campsite on disc golf course.



Homeless campsite on disc golf course.



Garbage left by homeless campers on disc golf course.



Homeless campers driving through park. (not on roadways.)



Trash left by homeless campers 20ft from paradise Island mobile home park.



Garbage left by homeless campers adjacent to disc golf course.



Campsite with large amounts of garbage on disc golf course.



Apr 22, 2020 2:43:13 PM
2510 Turner Road Southeast
Salem
Marion County
Oregon

Homeless camp with many stolen bicycles adjacent to disc golf course and neighboring businesses.



Apr 22, 2020 2:44:32 PM
2510 Turner Road Southeast
Salem
Marion County
Oregon

Homeless campers not practicing social distancing.



Apr 22, 2020 2:46:01 PM
2510 Turner Road Southeast
Salem
Marion County
Oregon

Homeless campsite on Disc golf course.



Apr 22, 2020 2:56:10 PM
3100 Turner Road Southeast
Salem
Marion County
Oregon

Homeless campsite on an ecologically sensitive creek bank.



Apr 22, 2020 2:56:13 PM
Oregon 99E
Salem
Marion County
Oregon

Homeless campsite on an ecologically sensitive creek bank.



Apr 22, 2020 2:56:24 PM
Oregon 99E
Salem
Marion County
Oregon

Homeless campsite on an ecologically sensitive creek bank. Park trees have been cut down for firewood.



A young park tree cut down and burned for firewood in a homeless campsite.



A young park tree cut down and burned for firewood in a homeless campsite.



Group of homeless campers burning park trees in a campfire.



Burned garbage immediately adjacent to Mill Creek, next to homeless campsite.



Man with a machete threatening me for taking photos of his campsite while he cuts down park trees.

We the board of the Southeast Mill Creek neighborhood Association implore you to take immediate action to save Cascades gateway park and our community from the destruction caused by Homeless campers. We look forward to working with the city to assist.

Thank you.
Cory Poole
SEMCA Chair.

Amy Johnson

From: Tim Parrish <trig4tim@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 5:11 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Please note upon opening a area or park to homeless people you must provide bathrooms, supervision, and management with rules.

I think it's wonderful for the city council to take compassion for the needy and the Homeless. However to open an area with no provision of bathrooms, garbage cans with pickup. The city is being totally irresponsible by transferring a problem only to send it to another place away from their view, only to make it a problem for neighborhood. Those of us living in Paradise Park. No Sanitation, open campfires, no garbage collections. It is NOT OK for the council send their problem to another neighbor hood without considering the safety of our neighbor hood. Your actions is very irresponsible. Please take of your errors. Perhaps the council members ought to consider their own neighbor hood. Please resolve your poor decisions

So we can retain our clean and sanitary park. Also our park has escalated with breakins, and fires in unauthorized places.

Tim Parrish 3100 Turner Rd SE

Sent from my iPhone