

From: [HPPG](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Trevor Phillips](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEM 5.a - CITY COUNCIL MEETING - March 13, 2023
Date: Sunday, March 12, 2023 7:38:26 PM

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Chris Hoy, Members of City Council
From: Jon Christenson, Ward 2, SCAN resident

Subject: Agenda Item 5.a

Allow me please to comment on this Motion. I do not think the Motion is wise, tho I think, the Motion from Councilor Hoy has good intent to encourage wider participation. NAs vary.

For the Council to begin to regulate neighborhood associations selection of officers and leadership is a slippery slope.

Neighborhood associations are independent organizations. Advisory to the Mayor & City Council, but independent and self-governance. A partnership.

The DISCUSSION section on this Agenda Item quotes from on the City website:

Salem is proud to be the first city in Oregon...to have organized and actively recognized Neighborhood Associations.

Not exactly. Neighborhood associations began forming independently -- at least four years -- before the referenced claimed City of Salem "organization" and Council recognition.

City recognition only occurred after litigation: **SCAN v Lindsey 21 OR App. 578**. Circuit Court Judge Edward J. Leavy and the three member Oregon Court of Appeals panel of Judges William S. Fort, Robert Y. Thorton and Robert H. Foley upheld the standing of a neighborhood association to challenge the City.

Neighborhood associations were formed in Salem, as early as, at least 1973, to participate in land use decisions, among other purposes, to engage in decisions and citizen involvement affecting livability and the quality of life where one lived.

In 1973, Oregon Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 100, establishing a statewide comprehensive land use planning system.

The SCAN (South Central Association of Neighbors) was formed on July 23, 1973. Almost a half century ago. I caution on intrusion into selection of non-governmental officers of independent organizations of the citizenry.

I can report to you that SCAN functions under membership approved by-laws, amendable by the General Membership, with proper notice. Included in the By-laws are stipulations for terms, limitations on the sequence and time allowed to hold elected office of President. Annual Meetings at a consistent location and month of year.

The Vice President serves, as a *de facto president, president pro tempore* and experience with Roberts Rules of Oregon facilitates the Order of Business in the absence of the President. I do not know if it is wise for the City to begin to adopt ordinances that reach that far into the operation of an independent group. I think not.

SCAN functions similarly to a League of Women Voters *modus operandi* - model - with standing working committees on, e.g., land use, historic preservation, parks, transportation, et al. Currently, for example, the SCAN Land Use Committee is a 10 person working committee chaired by Roz Shirack. The Historic Preservation, Parks & Gardens Committee has 8 persons. There is a Transportation Committee guided by Victor Dodier, retired ODOT senior staff.

Our immediate past President is Lorrie Walker, who has been honored by the City of Salem for her work to help the homeless. Our neighborhood is diverse. Half of the children at our elementary school receive free or assisted lunch. We do not operate from the perspective of privilege. Our Board meets at the high school. Open meetings. All are welcome. All can speak.

Our past elected City Councilors have been excellent, e.g., Paul Wulf, Dave Moss, Jane Cummins, Jim Randall, Tom Andersen, et al. Have worked with the citizenry, reliable. Councilor Nordyke who represents part of SCAN (Ward 7): she knows her stuff and process.

I do not recommend the City start tampering who is to lead or not lead independent organizations at the grassroots level.

I understand the concern of Councilor Hoy, but one should also look at resources that have diminished from the City: the discontinuation of the solid support to produce and mail an NA annual NA newsletter, reduction in city staff, and a lack of inventiveness, program consistency in outreach, strategies. But that is a separate discussion. Electronic mail is a tool. Convenient, inexpensive, but it does not reach every house or every home situation or demography. Or street level.

Thank you.

From: [Linda Miller](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Regarding Councilor Hoy's motion to limit the terms of Neighborhood
Date: Sunday, March 12, 2023 3:56:56 PM

Association Chairs and vice chairs. How many neighborhood associations have people wanting to serve in those positions who have been denied the opportunity?

What happens when a neighborhood association chair and vice chair terms are up and there is no one stepping forward to fill the positions? Will the city appoint people? Does the neighborhood association cease to exist? What happens to all the valuable information and contacts they have? I can understand that there are chairs and vice chairs that choose to leave for various reasons, but to end their service before they are ready is just wrong!

I can only speak about Sunnyslope, but finding board members is difficult. My husband is vice chair but his talent is not leading meetings and he has no desire to do so! He is great at his volunteer maintenance job at our small church, leading meetings is not. I am glad other neighborhood associations have large attendance at their meetings with people willing to serve. I tried to recruit a new secretary and she backed out at the last minute. I am currently looking for someone to post minutes and meeting notices at Secor Park

What are the term limits for city council members?

Respectfully
Linda Miller

From: [Patricia Mick](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Cc: susann@kaltwasser.com; nanasue03@yahoo.com
Subject: Motion to Limit ELNA Terms of Service
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 10:51:44 AM

I am appalled at this publicized motion. Ms. Kaltwasser and Fowler have effectively served many terms and positions on the ELNA board, each acquiring vast knowledge about neighborhood associations and Ward 6 in particular. However, there has been no program to teach other board members of the requirements and knowledge that would be needed to seek election.

Patricia Mick

From: [Susann Kaltwasser](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [cityreporter@cityofsalem.net](#); [SALEM Manager](#); [SALEM MAYOR](#)
Cc: [nanasue03@yahoo.com](#); [Terry Motte](#); [Mike Sim](#); [Patricia Mick](#); [Chuck Westrook](#); [Clark Hazlett](#); [Bev Quiring](#); [Vern Golden](#)
Subject: Motion from Councilor Julie Hoy regarding limiting the terms of neighborhood association board positions.
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 4:14:11 AM

To: Members of Salem City Council
From: Susann Kaltwasser
RE: Motion for term limits

I am the co-president of the East Lancaster Neighborhood Association, but I am not speaking for the Board in this matter. I am only speaking for myself, in part because the Board had no notice of this proposal and has not had time to take a formal position

I attended my first ELNA meeting in 1987. In 1989 I began attending regularly and have done so consistently for 34 years. During that time I have served in numerous positions.... secretary, land use chairperson, vice-president and president. Currently I am co-president with Sue Fowler who is also a long-time ELNA member and holder of various board positions.

Over time many things have changed with ELNA as well as neighborhood associations in general and with the city's support of the organizations. In 1989 there were 18 NAs and 7 staff (5 FTE) to serve them. Since then we gained NOLA and lost South Salem Neighborhood and most recently Lansing merged with NOLA. We now have only one staff person to help all the neighborhoods.

NAs have been shifted from various departments over time. First, neighborhoods were established under the Planning Division as part of meeting Goal One of the Statewide Planning Goals, then we were moved to Parks and Recreation, then back to Community Development, then to Community Services/ Code Enforcement and now to the Mayor's office.

NAs used to have their own 501(c)3 organization called Salem Neighborhoods Incorporated (SNI). It received grant funds, created its own projects and sponsored events.

Through all the years and all the changes one thing was consistent. This was that while the city supports neighborhood associations, they do not control them. The city can recognize us, give us special status in various ways like testifying first at council meetings, not charging us for certain materials, or they ask us to take on certain tasks for the city. But they have never stepped in to determine our internal structures or told us what to do. It has been a partnership, I believe, that benefits all of us.

Each neighborhood association is unique. They were organized over several decades and have evolved their own styles and created their own projects that they feel address the needs of their communities. There are similar elements between all associations, but we've never been asked to conform to a city defined structure.

Each year the neighborhood is asked to submit a review of their past year's activities and to set goals that we share with the city. If we meet the minimum requirements the association is recognized again for the next year.

Recently the city staff has begun a positive effort to raise awareness about neighborhood associations through a series of communication activities. This includes advertisements, help producing newsletters, news articles and creating materials to help us share our work with the community. I know we all appreciate this support. Every neighborhood association would like to see greater participation and we work on it constantly.

The proposal to intervene into our bylaws and to control the internal structure of our organizations is unique. It feels like it has come out of left field. It was never brought up at any neighborhood meeting.

Requiring volunteers to step down arbitrarily after a set number of years could be very disruptive to a

neighborhood's culture. It could take away institutional knowledge, sends a message to long-time board members that they are not needed, and could destabilize the neighborhood associations.

Perhaps the intention of Councilor Hoy is to be helpful, but I think it is not based on sufficient information. If she had a suggestion to offer to help enhance the associations, I think it would have been better to start by chatting with at least the neighborhoods in her ward.

This motion seems unnecessary and feels unfriendly to the many volunteers who give hundreds of hours of personal time to benefit the city.

A dialogue about how we all can work together to improve citizen engagement is always welcome.

I urge you to vote against the proposal and instead double down on supporting staff in their efforts to strengthen community engagement.

Thank you for your support.

Susann Kaltwasser
ELNA co-President

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of napstudio@mac.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 11:21:22 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Susan Napack
Your Email	napstudio@mac.com
Your Phone	9736323005
Street	1124 Summer St NE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	<p>This email concerns Councilor Hoy's motion to limit terms of neighborhood association board chairs and vice-chairs. I encourage Councilors to vote no (or delay a vote) for the following reasons: 1) It is stated on the City website that NA's are not governed by the City and therefore might not have the power to dictate that change. 2) NA's should have a voice in this decision. They have not been provided with information about why this is being proposed now and what negative ramifications it could have on some NA's. 3) Such a change might be a "solution in search of a problem" If NA's hold elections as they should, there is opportunity for new people to step up for Executive Board positions. Personally, I value the guidance and support of our experienced NA officers who have witnessed the growth and change of the neighborhood and the NA. It gives me, a relative new comer to the Grant board, a foundation on which to expand and create new outreach projects and programs with the support of a solidly committed Executive Board, many of whom have given years of volunteer service. We should reward rather than propose to curb involvement of those who have made the relevance and vitality of their NA a priority in their lives. Thank you, SUSAN NAPACK Grant Neighborhood Association Outreach and Communications Chair</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 3/13/2023.

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of sam@salemLF.org
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Sunday, March 12, 2023 11:42:12 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Sam Skillern
Your Email	sam@salemLF.org
Your Phone	503-884-8194
Street	1255 Cottage ST NE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	Grant Neighborhood neighbors believe it's very premature to vote on a motion regarding term limits for Neighborhood Association officers before any research or conversations have been initiated with NAs. The spirit of city and neighbors working together is trust, early disclosure, and time for discernment and feedback. This motion, however much merit it may have, has unnecessarily blindsided NA representatives and jaded what could/should be a productive exploration of the idea and topic.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 3/12/2023.

From: [Sam Skillern](#)
To: [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [CityRecorder](#); [citycouncil](#)
Cc: sam@salem1f.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for 3/13 City Council meeting
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 9:50:42 AM

Dear Mayor Hoy and Councilor Stapleton,

I submitted this comment yesterday on the city website but wanted to let you know, as well. Here is my testimony as a resident of Grant neighborhood. I am also co-chair of Grant Neighborhood Association. This matter has come up so swiftly our group has not had a chance to vote one way or the other ... after listening to a lengthy email conversation among 14 people I composed the following testimony. Thanks! Sam

Grant Neighborhood neighbors believe it's very premature to vote on a motion regarding term limits for Neighborhood Association officers before any research or conversations have been initiated with NAs. The spirit of city and neighbors working together is trust, early disclosure, and time for discernment and feedback. This motion, however much merit it may have, has unnecessarily blindsided NA representatives and jaded what could/should be a productive exploration of the idea and topic.

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