

# 051820 West Salem Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 18, 2020 7:00 PM

Attendees: Kevin Chambers, Mark Coutis, Tammy Goad and 19 attendees via Zoom meeting.

Meeting called to order by Kevin Chambers at 7:00 pm by Kevin Chambers.

## AGENDA

### Introductions

**Additions to agenda from the body - none**

**Approval of minutes from 2/17/20 Meeting - tabled until next in person meeting**

## PRESENTATIONS

*Toni Whittler, Parks Planner, City of Salem - Eagle's View Park Master Plan - VOTE*

See attached presentation slides for details.

Collaborative effort between Eagle's View neighbors, City of Salem, and external consultants. An online survey was also conducted.

This will be a neighborhood park - serves 1/2 mile service area (see map in presentation slides below)

Residents were notified of 3 planning workshops via postcards, along with info to sign up for email updates and URL links to planning process

Park land area has a number of slopes which present some design constraints

Red/pinkish areas on map are the steepest slopes and preclude development - but these can be overcome

Drainage way in middle of park draws storm water from neighborhood to the West - during heavy rain events water flow is pretty high. Currently covered with Blackberry thicket.

Yellow circles are streetlights

Entryways on W and NW corners

3 steps for adoption process - WSNA, City of Salem and City Council adoption of draft master plan developed through 3 workshops noted above.

Plan encompasses both passive and active recreation

Fitness pod is small piece of basic equipment with minimal moving pieces - chin up bar, parallel bar, etc. to encourage an exercise route around the park

Steve Anderson requested for an information kiosk as a place to post information about community events

Also drinking fountains will have spigot for dogs as well

Discussion of parking availability. AS a neighborhood park it is expected residents would walk or bike to park.

Parking provided along the side of the park and off Eola drive- residents did not want parking in front of their homes.

Mark Coutis Motion to endorse plan - Keith seconded. Majority approved.

**VOTE: Approved via "thumbs up" reaction votes via Zoom**

*Carol Houk, Salem Dept of Transportation - Wallace Road Project*

Presented Michigan City Lane at Edgewater Street (aka Wallace Road Project)

Pavement and safety improvement project

Pavement condition rated low to poor and sidewalks need to be upgraded to comply with ADA standards

Installing rapid flashing beacons at 5 intersections; adding beepers for sight impaired

Adding 172 ADA compliant curb ramps

See presentation for detailed location of push buttons, audibles, etc.

Funding coming from various dept. Fix It region 2 budgets - \$9.9 million

Final plans should be done by end of 7/2020

Go to bid by 11/5/20

Construction scheduled to start in December 2020 and continue through 7/2022 (actual construction probably will not start until first part of 2021)

There will be temp pedestrian access routes during construction - some will be marked or signalized

At this time, no full road closures are planned (at least one lane open during construction). No lane closures on weekends or during rush hour traffic.

There will be multiple single lane closures

Truck freight motility will be maintained through the project, but large loads will need to provide advanced notice and could experience up to a 20 minute delay

Repaving will be done at night.

Nick asked questions about signaling. Asked about Bluetooth connectors and flashing left signal light programming. Carol advised she authorized design team to implement left turn detectors. She will get answers to Nick's questions and send to Tammy once she gets answers from the design team.

Another question asked about location of equipment staging when not in use - Carol advised for most of the projects this is up to the contractor. Contractor will likely scope out area to determine best location for this. City has to grant permission and anyone owning the staging area will be contacted as well.

Marc asked about Orchard Heights and Wallace Road - impact of new crosswalks to property area - Carol will review plans and let us know. Marc would like to see a proposed plan before a completed plan so he has an opportunity to provide feedback

Residents can visit odot.gov and select link to projects in your area - enter project # and you can receive more information about a project...Carol will send the instructions to Tammy for inclusion in minutes.

Jim asked for more detail on crossing at 2nd and Wallace. There is a lot of contention about this site - City does not want a crossing installed there. There have to be routes for pedestrians due to ADA - only options were too far away. Also looked at one a couple of blocks north. Because 2nd street is on a hump, it blocks sight of traffic coming around curve off bridge. There will be a temporary crossing in this area only during construction.

Jim also asked about crossing at Orchard View and Wallace.

## REPORTS

*Salem Police - Not Present*

### City Councilors

Jim advised the improvements for Wallace Road will be starting in July, and this will affect congestion for the 1 1/2 years of construction - please be patient

There is work starting to improve sidewalks on Orchard Heights

Still cannot have public testimony at the virtual council meetings - please send questions in advance - next meetings are 5/26, 6/8 and 6/22.

Just finished budget committee process for period 7/2020 - 6/30/2021. Two meetings conducted and budget passed in two sessions in near unanimous votes.

There are additional expenses continuing into next year to accommodate growth. If income is not there, the expenses will not be incurred.

Jim advocates for virtual meetings to continue communication!

Attendee asked about funding for homeless. There are hopes there will be some federal funding - emergency declaration to allow camping in Wallace Marine park will continue for now.

Paula asked about county court judge ruling that Gov Browns order should have been voted on by Legislature within 28 days of the order. Jim believes supreme court will overrule the ruling - but for now, the order is null and void until supreme court reinstates it.

Mark communicated that spotlight at Orchard Heights is too far back and poses a safety risk. Planning to visit City rep for promised answer soon...Mark believes all that is needed is for some trees to be cut back.

*Land Use - Steve Anderson*

Posted two reports from City on Facebook. 1. 33 single family development on Doaks/OH and offstreet parking expansion for NW Human services. Residents can visit City of Salem web page, access West Salem neighborhood link and you can see all pending development projects.

Thanks to Clint for his work on Marine Drive.

Steve will provide links to projects for neighbors to comment.

*Homeless Committee - Fay DeMeyer is new chair!*

Fay shared info/vision on HopeCrest. Providing solutions for homeless, not just food and place to sleep. Also to provide wet and dry shelter to help both those who want help and those who don't. Has classrooms, swimming pools. 2700+ square feet - indoor and outdoor camping space. Also has restroom facilities.

Can provide food, education, treatment, etc.

While we have laws against loitering and public urination/defecation, we don't have a way to enforce those laws. Hopecrest would provide a legal place for even those who don't want help to stay, camp and clean up.

Need to repurpose budget from agencies not providing useful solutions or non-working programs (Navigation Centers?) to real solutions. Need to support people to improve their lives - no more enabling. Need to lead people to productivity. Fay will send Tammy email info and we will set up some meetings to send message that our parks should not be used for homeless camping, per the Association vote. Goal of Homeless Committee is to pursue any idea/options to address and solve the challenges posed by the homeless population - HopeCrest is one option. Totally open for how we achieve solution. Kevin will be forwarding names of interested neighbors to Fay as soon as he has a moment.

#### Parks - Micki Varney

Received 5th grant for David Chandler nature park.

Thanks to Nick for being on Salem Parks advisory board meeting - brought up issue on pedestrian road crossing at Orchard Heights park. Still haven't heard anything back from City on this yet.

#### Traffic and Infrastructure Transit - Nick Fortey

Nick asked City to perform some maintenance at Wallace Road/Glen Creek and asking City to mow the median near Eagles View Park.

As Micki said, Nick spoke about the pedestrian access to Orchard Heights park; asked City to look at access to parks in general

Nick brought up issue about Stop Bar at OH/Wallace with City

Sent comments back to MPO about transportation improvement program. One project at Doaks Ferry/Hwy 22 interchange - need to add lighting. Also talked about OH parks crossing. And finally requested doing some things for walking/biking optimization to help with traffic

#### West Salem Business Association - Not Present

#### Edgewater - Steve Anderson

Market started on Thursdays - talked with Mayor's office, trying to get him down for coffee sometime in June

This Thursday a rep from Glen Gibson Watershed Council - come by for some seeds, bring the kids!

Next meeting a week from Thursday to talk about reopening walking cruises

#### Glen-Gibson Watershed - EM Easterly

See attached newsletter for upcoming/ongoing events

#### Chair Announcements - Kevin Chambers

Board approved printing expenses for Tammy and also agreed to spend what was needed for communication (aka Zoom account) for meetings

Kevin planning to have executive meetings every 2 months

#### Vice Chair Announcements - Mark Coutix

Need to identify who is in charge of school crossing lights and have them turned off

*Bridge Committee Update - none*

#### State Representative Report - Not Present

#### State Senator Report - Not Present

Old Business - None

New Business

Might be beneficial to move to 2 WSNA meetings per month to allow more time for presenting and Q&A

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

Links for more information:

WSNA - <http://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/west-salem-neighborhood-association.aspx>

Land Use (chair: Steve Anderson) - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1920123584965094/>



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