

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Kathleen Dewoina <Dewoina@bhhsnwrep.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 3:40 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Janet Spingath; Kurt Spingath
Subject: Agenda Item 4.a. Aug 24 2020
Attachments: 2493_001.pdf

Please add the attached as testimony in support of Agenda Item 4.a.

Thank you,

Kathleen Dewoina



Kathleen Dewoina, Broker, GRI,
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The Power of Agency: Oregon Real Estate Agency Initial Disclosure Pamphlet

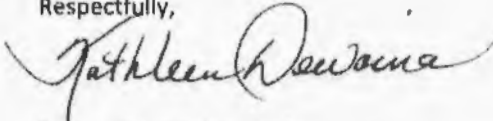
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Mayor Bennett
Members of Council

Re: Agenda Item 4.a. August 24, 2020
City of Salem's FEMA Community Rating System

Kudos and appreciation to Glen Davis and Public Works for their work to mitigate flood hazards, reduce insurance premiums for Homeowners of at-risk properties, and further the Natural Resource goal, to conserve open space, protect natural, historic, cultural and scenic resources, and to protect life and property from natural disasters and hazards.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen Dewoina". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathleen" being more prominent than the last name "Dewoina".

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From: dewoina@aol.com
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 4:43 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: 'Janet Spingath'
Subject: Agenda Item 4.a. Aug 24 2020
Attachments: Spingath Testimony Item 4.a. Aug 24 2020.pdf

Please add the attached testimony from Janet Spingath, 1460 Wallace Road NW in support of Agenda Item 4.a. Work to improve the City's FEMA Community Rating score is part of the work pursuant to the Natural Resource Goal; to conserve open space, protect natural, historic, cultural and scenic resources, and to protect life and property from natural disasters and hazards.

This testimony describes more specifically land the City is under contract to purchase that also serves this Natural Resource Goal.

Thank you.

KD

From: Janet Spingath <janbal1776@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 4:10 PM
To: Irose@cityofsalem.net
Cc: EM Easterly; Kathleen Dewoina
Subject: Please add this testimony to agenda item 4A 8/24/20

I believe my property which is pending sale to the City, supports Salem's goal of preserving natural areas. It is nearly 3 acres of undeveloped, native poplar, green ash and camas bottom lands. A spring-fed pond bisects it, creating a natural sanctuary. It abuts similar properties (also pending acquisition by the City) on two sides and a slough adjacent to Wallace Marine Park on a third side. The area preserves increasingly rare open space in a part of west Salem that has seen rapid commercial development in the last three decades.

Public funds, in the form of an OWEB small grant, have already been spent to improve this area for wildlife. Arborists improved the over-story for raptors and County youth volunteers removed invasive plants. Through the Polk County Soil Conservation district, studies for the small grant reported up to 150 species of birds could use these acres as habitat. Deer and coyotes traverse trails through the property. River otters rear young in the banks of the pond and an ancient Garry oak, estimated at about 300 years old, stands near the pond. Dozens of locally sourced Douglas-fir seedlings were donated through the Society of American Foresters to restore woods that were lost when the City drainage pipes were installed along the eastern boundary. North Salem High School environmental students have used this area for learning ecological sampling techniques.

The site has historical as well as natural values. State archeologists have noted that indigenous people would have seen stands like this and used the camas-filled bottom lands for digging roots. They would have taken them to the adjacent river bench for in-ground roasting. On one of the adjacent properties, at the far end of the slough, there is a bridge that was created from stones that were pulled from the burned wreckage of the original state capital building. A literal walk over history can be taken on a path leading across my property and over the bridge.

The standing timber on the property provides essential barrier space for slowing the velocity of periodic, dangerous, racing floodwaters along the Willamette River. For an everyday value however, the property provides a peaceful, beautiful respite from the rush of city activity all around. From the Salem bridges, the sound of "city surf" whispers in the background while king fishers and song birds fill the little glade with natural music. In April the pond reflects the spring sky and the forest understory turns sapphire with western camas blooms.

I believe the City would do well to preserve this gem hidden near its heart as a legacy for generations to come.

Janet Spingath
1460 Wallace Rd NW

Sent from my iPhone