

# Salem State University Neighborhood Advisory Committee

May 2, 2018 – Minutes

**Attendees:** Chairman Dominick Pangallo, Adria Leach, Councillor Josh Turiel, Polly Wilbert, Councillor Steve Dibble, Dana Lothrop, Marlin Nabors, Ben Szalewicz

**Guests:** Rep. Paul Tucker, Councillor Domingo Dominguez

**Absent:** Jack Hoar, Captain Riggs

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

## 2. Approval of April 4, 2018 Minutes

- Approved

## 3. Construction Updates

No Current Updates

## 4. Old Business

### A. Comprehensive parking study presentation by Sasaki – Andy McClurg

- Analysis & Alternatives (Executive Summary)
  - Counted every car & every space, every day for two weeks to get a solid understanding of parking needs.
  - SSU needs to satisfy its own parking needs, and to minimize distribution and the inconveniences to the neighborhoods.
    - Talked about Notre Dame having same enrollment and similar campus to SSU. Remote parking at ND is similar distance as remote parking for SSU but yet feels different. In addition, SSU students need to walk through neighborhood to get from parking to campus.
    - Conducted online survey – received 1658 responses
    - Community Concerns – reviewed slides
    - Community and students had similar concerns about the parking situation
  - Need to find a way for people to get out of their cars & find alternative transportation
  - City needs to enforce parking violations
- Target range of “full” is 85-90% of available spaces occupied.
  - North Campus is unable to hold additional parking – capacity already at 90%
  - Central zone is not peak occupancy during 11-12, but is at night because of dorm parking
  - South Campus – want to increase utilization of this parking lot. Currently, only 60% full
  - North of Loring has 65% occupancy & considered the opportunity zone
  - Study is taking into consideration a 2% enrollment growth/year as requested
    - Also looking at moving criminal justice & nursing from South Campus. This will add to parking demand on the other campuses
    - If this parking demand is added to North, Central and North of Loring, current peak occupancy there would increase from 78% to 88%
- According to study findings, in approximately 5 years, the number of spaces needed will exceed the supply.

- As soon as Criminal Justice and Nursing move, North Campus parking will immediately be over capacity.
- Some recommendations shared:
  - Encourage students to park once so they are not driving all over campus
  - More specific lot permits
    - Example: Pay less for lots that are further way
    - Consider limiting permit eligibility for resident sophomores
  - Parking regulations must be enforced on campus and in the neighborhood
  - Improve pedestrian access
    - Improve design by widening sidewalks and adding lighting
  - Make the campus shuttle more functional
    - A South Salem MBTA train stop would make a large impact
- New Parking Ideas:
  - Garage on buildable portion of O'Keefe lot
  - Garage on Canal/Weir lot
  - Garage on Stanley lot
  - Garage on Atlantic Lot
  - Recommendation from Sasaki: Focus on North of Loring for new parking
- **Questions/Comments:**
  - Councillor Turiel asked what the next place to make an impact/next step is. Sasaki advised that they feel the next steps should be identifying a place to build a new garage.
  - Polly & Dana both asked about the 2% assumption of growth. Both requested enrollment numbers for the past ten years.
  - Councillor Dibble advised that he is looking for more solutions than what was presented. He wants to see more long & short term solutions.
  - Councillor Dibble requested for Sasaki to comment on the plans he drew up to add more parking on campus. Andy of Sasaki, commented that the parking at central campus is already problematic, & the proposed lot is on wet lands.
  - Councillor Dibble suggests asking for an air rights easement from the city for over the bike path to make a connection between the possible proposed garages at the Atwood Morrill lots, on an upper level.
  - Polly requested that the neighborhood liaison group is provided the results of the study
  - Councillor Dibble suggested an app for students to be able to see the capacity of the garage. Andy agreed this would be helpful.
  - Polly expressed concerns about a pedestrian signal at Loring crossing at Linden would be going off constantly.
    - Andy suggested there are several light options
    - Councillor Turiel suggested that campus police help with traffic
  - Councillor Dibble suggested that adding lighting to the O'Keefe lot is looked at during the work putting the tank in.
  - Polly asked about the stripping in O'Keefe lot
    - Adria advised the university would like to enhance the striping once the tank goes in

- Ben advised SSU is still determining what changes will take place at O’Keefe after the work is done.
  - SSU is exploring a solar panel canopy concept at the O’Keefe lot.
  - Polly suggested that the bid for the tank is looked at with Dave Knowlton. Councillor Dibble agreed and requested a meeting with Dave Knowlton, Ben, Councillor Turiel & Dominick.
- Polly asked if it was possible to have the LED Lights lowered (currently too high)
  - Ben shared that students have also asked for better lighting in the neighborhood.
- Sasaki presentation is available online

#### **B. Baseball field activities**

- Adria confirmed they have lowered the volume of the music.

#### **C. Neighborhood Disturbances**

- There was one party on Loring Ave that was brought to SSU’s attention.
- Dumpsters are out for move out weekend

#### **D. Items for follow-up from previous meeting: Loring Avenue MBTA bus stop; weekend campus activities for students.**

- The city is in discussion with SSU to bring back the bus stop

#### **5. New Business**

- Ben informed the group there will be two construction projects on campus this summer. The roof on Bowditch will be replaced and take approximately 6 weeks. The work will begin right after students move out. There is a bid out for a roof replacement on Meier Hall, and hoping to start work mid – June.
  - Chairman Pangallo asked about the work hours of the construction. Ben advised that they will be standard working hours, and if any additional hours are required, Adria will inform the neighbors.

#### **Other Comments**

- Polly requested to discuss in the fall, how SSU is engaging their students with Horace Mann as the school has moved. How will the SSU students be getting to the new school location?
- Polly requested statistics on recent car accidents on Canal Street. She believes there has been an increase since the paving project and wonders if they are related.

#### **7. Adjourn**

*Next meeting: Wednesday, June 6, 7:00pm Enterprise Center*

Deferred Items (no current updates)

- a. Canal Street drainage project
- b. Science building addition
- c. South Campus buildings

d. 33 Loring Avenue building (current Horace Mann Laboratory School)