

Olivia Glantz

From: Patricia Alley <palley@willamette.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 12, 2019 3:04 PM
To: Olivia Glantz
Subject: SUB-ADJ19-02

I am writing in regard to the proposed development of 34 new homes on an eight-acre parcel that borders Salem Heights Avenue South. My home is located at 530 Salem Hts. Ave. S., where I lived with my parents for 22 years (between 1951-1973). I returned to live in my parents home almost six years ago, so I suspect that I, along with Dr. Thomas Harvey, have been acquainted with Salem Heights Avenue for perhaps the longest period of time of any other resident.

Salem Heights has always been a dangerous street: dangerous for pedestrians, cyclists, other drivers, and domestic animals and wildlife. My parents lost three cats in the 1950s and 1960s, due to speeding cars. They finally decided to make all our pets indoor-only. I have personally buried two neighborhood cats, a skunk, and several squirrels who were killed on Salem Heights. My pets, too, are confined to the indoors; I would not risk their lives by letting them roam outside. Given the traffic and vehicles that frequently exceed the 25 mph speed limit, I am amazed that no one has been killed (to my knowledge) on Salem Heights up to this time.

With more traffic, more trips, and the narrow lanes of Salem Heights, I believe that the hazards to individuals, other cars, wildlife, and domestic animals will only increase. I have personally requested a third traffic sign of 25 mph on the flat portion of Salem Heights, between the hills, as well as police attention to speeders and scofflaws who deserve to be ticketed, but nothing has been done. With a narrow street, no sidewalks, no bike lanes, and greatly increased daily traffic, the danger inherent in Salem Heights over the past sixty or more years will only increase. Only the other day I saw two deer, a doe and fawn, across the street from my house, and last month two yearling deer remained in my back yard over the weekend; with this new development, they will likely be gone or killed, too.

The many trees that will be cut down to accommodate this development--ironically called "Wren Heights" when surely there will be no wrens left after construction begins--will not come again, not the Douglas Firs, the White Oaks, or any other large tree of many years' standing. This is a shame, and, I would say, extremely short-sighted in terms of ecologically conscientious development and sheer natural beauty.

My parents knew the Harvey family as neighbors when I was growing up. I was acquainted with all four children: Tom, David, JayAnn, and Carol. All four children grew up in the same bucolic environment that I enjoyed as a

child. They held sleepovers in their large treehouse in the summer, and they had the opportunity to pick blackberries in the summer, on the property that is now under consideration for development.

How much better it would be if the Harvey Family Trust were to make an attempt to preserve the special quality of Salem Heights as a suburban area with genuine outdoor space by dedicating at least part of the land--I would suggest the portion adjacent to Salem Heights--as a neighborhood park. The City of Salem has limited green space and seems never to require neighborhood parks in new developments, although many of the existing parks and older neighborhoods (Bush Park, Englewood Park, Pringle Park, for instance) enjoy this necessary amenity. Why must 34 small houses be crammed into eight acres, when the value of the property would only increase if fewer houses were built and a neighborhood park were created?

This would be a legacy for Salem and the environs around Salem Heights that the Harvey family could take justified pride in helping to create. It is not too late to consider other options apart from the impetus to build the maximum number of houses in a confined area; greater consideration should be given for the safety and good of the existing neighborhood, the preservation of historic trees and significant green space, and the protection of wildlife.

I will attend the meeting at City Hall on July 22, and look forward to speaking and listening to the other speakers who are against this proposed development. More work and discussion with the neighbors should be the first necessary step prior to any construction project in the future. That this discussion has not occurred in any meaningful way is the first flaw in the proposed development.

Sincerely,

Patricia Alley