

**CITY OF SALEM
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE
PUBLIC FORUM
MARCH 18, 2004**

PRESENT: Laura Yokochi, Committee Chairperson
Robert Florian, Committee Member
Stephanie Swiger, Committee Member
Phyllis Freedman, Committee Member
Ken Yost, Committee Member
Jackie Ritter, Committee Recorder

ABSENT: Tim Jamison, Committee Member

The City of Salem Planning and Zoning Committee met on Thursday March 18, 2004 for a public forum on planning. Chairperson Yokochi called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. She explained the reason for calling the public forums and also offered the opportunity to provide written comments.

1. Mr. Wilsoncroft:

Mr. Wilsoncroft spoke in favor of maintaining the Rifle Club at its present site. He feels this is a source of revenue to City business as well as a source of recreation. Local police and correctional officers also use it.

2. Maxine Mason:

Ms. Mason felt recruiting business to the city and supporting current businesses should be a priority. She stated the city has a depressed downtown area and more residential development is needed. She requested the current city owned garden area be kept as a garden rather than parking. Ms. Mason also asked for clarification of why there is another forum scheduled at SIU. Both forums are open to the public.

**There was discussion of city parking issues including parking meters. There are currently no allotted funds for parking lots and an ordinance is needed to purchase property anyway.

3. Norma Vanscoy:

Ms. Vanscoy spoke of the lack of interest that property owners take in the appearance of their property. She feels the city ordinances regarding noxious weeds and trash need to be better enforced.

4. Norman Goldsmith:

Mr. Goldsmith spoke about the need to address more condemned properties, specifically a house on Cherry Street behind his house on West High Street. He also feels residential development in the Upper Dog Run area would present water and sewer problems similar to the Lakeview Terrace area.

5. Fredette Leda:

Ms. Leda felt there is a need for an aggressive incentive plan for new business such as lower interest rates or lower B&O taxes. She is in favor of the annexation of city owned properties to allow for further development and tax base. She suggests the recruitment of specialty shops that offer products not available in the usual shopping areas. She feels the certain aspects of the

current zoning ordinance needs revised to encourage more residential development. She also supports the need to have the noxious weeds and trash ordinances better enforced.

6. Bob Husk:

Mr. Husk supports the suggestion to allow the rifle club to remain and suggests continued support and maintenance of the garden areas.

7. Joe Lyons:

Mr. Lyons is a member of the Harrison County Re-development Authority and was present to gain information to help work on common goals.

8. Fred Sias:

Mr. Sias agrees with the idea of specialty shops for the downtown area with historical lighting, etc. He mentioned Cairo, WV and Sistersville, WV as representative of this concept with a courtyard area near the Rails to Trails. City officials may gain information from their development. He also spoke of the need to address the road problems on Liberty Street near his home but also realizes this is a need in many areas of town.

9. Doris Moore:

Ms. Moore requested the status of the UDAG fund. The City Manager reported there remains little information on the exact purpose of the money; however, it is believed it was to be used for downtown development. Grant requirements may have expired and not even the State Auditor could give a definition of the fund.

The Public Forum adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Committee Chairperson

Recorder