

BHT Neighborhood Association
Minutes Meeting of October 13, 2009
City of West Linn City Council Chambers

Present: Officers Steve Garner, President; Margaret Tolan, Vice-President; Margaret Juarez, Secretary/Treasurer. Thirteen additional members of the association were present and a quorum achieved, names were recorded on an attendance roster and available upon request.

Call to Order at 7:10 pm by Steve Garner

Introduction of Members and Guest Speakers: Ken Worcester, West Linn Parks and Rec., and Darrin Stairs, OTAK.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2009: Copies of the previous meeting minutes distributed to members, upon review a motion was made by David Grelewicz with a second by William Weber to approve the minutes. Motion passed 16-0-0. President Garner will forward copies of the approved minutes to the City of West Linn for uploading to the neighborhood portion of the city website.

Presentation: Mr. Worcester and Mr. Stairs shared a Power Point presentation regarding the West Linn Solar Highway Trail Project. Mr. Worcester made a comment regarding the DOC \$\$ - money in March. He does not intend to rush the project nor let it be dollar driven. The project is eligible for ERA money and is in line to receive up to \$200,000 to answer questions and do studies to move the project through the public land use process. He said he could meet every two weeks or so to keep the public informed. Decisions still need to be made "to go or not go". The map presented indicated the trail would be:

- (1) 70' to 100' from property lines
- (2) 10' to 12' wide of permeable asphalt
- (3) Access on Imperial @ Radcliff Ct (lot furthest east), second access on Imperial @ Rockridge Dr (City already owns these lots)
- (4) Purple was used to indicate two kiosks/interpretative centers
- (5) A future trail was indicated along the creek behind Manchester Ct extending to Wellington Dr
- (6) Trail extended across Salamo to Savanna Oaks property (indicated in yellow), crossing Salamo is problematic because of traffic.

They will study the crosswalk area to Savanna Oaks very carefully as they go thru trail process. The solar array will not be visible from 205 Southbound or Salamo due to the slope and new and existing vegetation. There are definitely grade challenges in some areas. A discussion of the trail proposal continued with questions from members to Ken.

- (1) Q: Why not move the trail to more level area like next to the freeway? A-K: Viable option, lower option is more direct route and less challenging but ODOT may want to reserve that area for widening interstate. OTAK said that is not off the table but they are waiting for ODOT and their plan. OTAK said there are views of the river from above the solar panels, not on the freeway. Darin of OTAK said there is noise above the solar panels and it was not the most pleasant walk he has ever taken but the views of the river are spectacular.
- (2) The upper area is unbearably hot in summer.
- (3) Q: How is trail to be advertised to the public? A-K: World's largest solar hwy trail directional sign, exact wording and size has not been determined. The trail will tie into the Oaks Savanna and city trail system and Metro. Trail designed to be a commuter trail for multi-purpose use by bikers and hikers.
- (4) What are the crime concerns? A-K: No history of crimes on cities other trails, check out the "spring water corridor". However, ODOT/PGE does not want the trail close to the panels due to possible vandalism.

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- (5) Q: Where is parking? A-K: Not reflected on map, probably four or so spaces at either end of trail.
- (6) Q: What is the slope between the trail and the rear property line? A-K: Starting on the right of map by Radcliff slope is 5%. As we go west, it traverses along the grade but as you turn around the curve, it is over 6% to 8% (not actually calculated, rough figure). There is an existing hillside bench paralleling Riverknoll way but Barrington is more complicated/quite steep. Originally, they were going very close to Barrington houses but there is a steep grade and other issues, thus, moving the trail downhill to the next bench/flatter area is better.

Mr. Worcester and Mr. Stairs action items:

- 1) Propose four different trail locations with pros and cons for each:
 - a. Current location
 - b. Multi-purpose within maintenance roadway (could save money incorporating the trail within the access road)
 - c. Through center of solar array project
 - d. Lower location along interstate
- 2) Additional information from ODOT regarding the trail will be requested.

Finally, Mr. Worcester stated the city will use their own development code, the USGS soil survey report will be reviewed, and there is a clear benefit to have a water line through the project. The city will have to conduct a wildlife study on the property. Parks and Rec Dept still has to go through their own development codes. Ken was not aware ODOT is seeking Categorical Exemption for their property—this means they need do no real environmental assessments other than that to get the CE. Ken said the trails do not affect wildlife. Land use process next thru planning commission then the city council.

Upon completion of the discussion and presentation, the meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Submitted by Margaret Juarez, secretary.