

Tanner Basin Neighborhood Association

Meeting

October 5, 2005

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05pm
2. Motion for approval of minutes was approved & second.
3. This evening, members of the West Linn City Council were in attendance. Those absent were Mayor King and Councilman Mike Gates. Also in attendance were Ron Hudson, City Engineer & Public Works Director; Bryan Brown, Planning Director and Ken Worcester, Parks & Recreation and Acting City Manager.

Teri Cummings – has lived in West Linn since 1992. She assumed a “citizen-activist” role in local neighborhood associations and was appointed to the West Linn Planning Commission and then the City Council. She advises everyone to get involved to help shape West Linn.

Michele Eberle – moved from the East Cost in 1996 where she was involved in the school planning commission. Currently, she is involved in non-profit organizations and her church community. Was elected last fall to the City Council. She is the permanent Executive Director of the Clackamas Women’s Services.

Scott Burgess – Was the City Manager from 1993-2001, lives in the Robinhood Neighborhood with his wife and two children. Ran November because he did not like the direction of where the city was going. He is the General Manger for a construction firm (Eastbank Esplanade) that builds docks and piers.

Mr. Burgess introduced the work plan. If listed, are committed to accomplish these within a reasonable time-line. Must set goals, objectives and priorities. They are close to hiring a City Manager to help move West Linn forward. This information is listed on the front page of the web site for the City of West Linn.

A question was raised: On page 7 of the Comprehensive Work Plan, would like clarity on the format of the TBNA plan before approval. The concern is that other plans have been in development for two years and still have not been adopted. Willamette Neighborhood Plan has been adopted and Bolton Neighborhood Plan is in the process of being completed. There will be a staff directive initiative with a task force meeting for final review with any change in format and then reviewed by the Council in November. Since Willamette has their plan already adopted, goals and policies should be in a similar

format with the bulk of the document to contain action items and ideas for possible projects.

TBNA has a group of people ready to move on their plan. Council has allocated funds for consultant to review the document. There is a proposal to hire the consultant and have the neighborhood associations help evaluate the applicants from a single firm. But, have to file a "request for proposal" that is qualification based and ability to perform.

On Page 8 – Goal 5 Objective – work session on 12/5 and then hand out an Executive Summary to the public. Have mapping and inventory already done and on the web site for review and will show maps. If find areas of discrepancy, send message to city council after work session is done. Neighborhood Association will happen after the 12/5 Meeting, so no meeting in November and most likely closer to January 2006.

Teri Cummings asked what Neighborhood Associations could do for the Neighborhood Plan?

Bryan: Don't wait for the city to start working on them. Do this at every meeting. Get the Neighborhood Planning Kit (on the Lake Oswego web site). If can get consultant by 12/05, they will set time-line for action.

Teri Cummings mentioned an outreach program – go door-to-door to get neighborhood association involvement even though there are no city funds.

Ed Schwarz comments – 1) West Linn does not have a park. Is this put on the Neighborhood Plan? 2) There are two plans in development on Tannler & Blankenship and traffic from one does not have to take into account the traffic from the other. Can these two developments be taken into consideration together and not separately?

Scott Burgess: This area is underserved and split by Salamo. Updating the master plan (Parks & Recreation) and goal would be to have a park within walking distance. There have been sites identified and securing options from the landowners. At this point in time, that is all that can be stated.

Ron Hudson comments - The Transportation System Plan has a zoning concept incorporated. However, the master plan TSP is outdated and will be completed by fiscal year (summer). Will check if Blackhawk traffic numbers are included in the TSP for Tannler.

Roberta Schwarz asked – Is there a light scheduled for Blankenship and Tannler?

Ron Hudson comments - At this point, only on 10th Street but will check to make sure. So far, three traffic surveys have been done and will not do anymore because no "true" application has been filed. A letter can be sent to the staff for new ideas of alternate traffic routing. When public hearing comes up, a letter will be sent out again.

David Rittenhouse comments – Neighborhood Plan is unrealistically short. Only have one to two meetings before draft proposal and need more time to build consensus.

Ron Hudson comments – These meetings are held monthly, 2nd Wednesday of every month and times have never changed. Currently, there are two citizen members: Alice Richmond and Alice Johansson. The members consist of planning, parks, police, engineering, operation supervisor and council members. These meetings are open to the public. An agenda and minutes are posted on the West Linn web site. When the new City Manager is hired, discuss changing the meeting time to a more “citizen friendly” time of day would be appropriate.

Roberta Schwarz comments – Have requested four months ago to have her home annexed into the Tanner Basin Neighborhood Association from the Willamette Neighborhood Association given the proximity to Tanner Basin. What is the status?

Valerie Ramaswamy – This request is still in John Atkins hands.

Roberta Schwarz comments – A city employee embezzled funds and want to know when this type of “thing” will be controlled?

Teri Cummings comments – This occurred before this council was elected and it is just now coming to light. An effective response for monitor and audit of finances and policy and procedures was in place but not followed.

Scott Burgess comments – Have changed credit card policy, hired an effective City Manager to hire effective finance director to take necessary steps to keep from happening again.

David Dean comments – Presently, are three years behind audits and could these problems been discovered if the audits were more current?

Scott Burgess comments – Controls were in place but were not followed. We are trying to actively and quickly correct this issue.

A Valerie Ramaswamy comment – Regarding citizen involvement and citizen impact – currently there is no guarantee that citizens will have any sort of impact and therefore won't get involved. The neighborhood associations do not have a contact person at city hall in which to receive assistance, there is a very limited budget (\$1500), the Mayor is not at this meeting, Michelle Eberle has left early and now we are down to only two council members. There isn't even money for post cards to advertise this meeting.

Scott Burgess comments – The issue for funding of neighborhood associations is a budget issue and can be reviewed for future consideration. A community director is needed to be more responsive to neighborhood associations. He shares the frustration when people do not show up for meetings.

Teri Cummings comments – It is very important to have significant involvement in the neighborhood comprehensive plan with door-to-door, documented contact. Find anyone you can that is interested, send e-mails, flyers, etc.

David Rittenhouse comments – In Lake Oswego, neighborhoods and neighborhood associations are marked with signs. This fosters a sense of identity, unity and belongingness.

Bryan: Agreed. On extremely tight schedule but goal is to keep it tight and stay within budget.

Valerie Ramaswamy comments – Concerned because TBNA does not have a Neighborhood Plan and if Tanner Basin East and West get approved will not have anything left to preserve in the Neighborhood Plan. Since no plan in place, can't voice concern over developing. Zoning changes have come up because no plan in place, decisions made that are not in the best interest of Tanner Basin.

David Rittenhouse comments – What about annexation? Work session is scheduled for 10/17 for annexation policy. These parcels should be folded into the Neighborhood Plan and owners need to get neighbor buy-in before annexation.

Valerie asked – Is property zoned before or after annexation? It was answered that specific zoning is done at point of annexation and can be anywhere from R-7 to R-40.

Ed Schwarz asked – What is happening to stop the expedited land use process?

Mr. Burgess: Council has directed the City Attorney to look at the legislation to limit the application of expedited land use.

Michele Eberle comments – None of the City Council supports this expedited process.

Teri Cummings comments – Citizens should ask to be included in the pre-application meeting to see what is happening, to stay involved.

Roberta Schwarz comments – The Carol Connell annexation figures have new numbers regarding the cost of housing in West Linn. Will the Council use her new numbers and will the Council follow the code to put these numbers on the ballots?

Bryan Brown comments: Have senior planner developing short, brief response to this and update the procedures. School district information was different from information West Linn had so will need to be reviewed.

Teri Cummings comments – Council did not review the information on the last ballot and it contained inaccurate data. In the future, when annexation voting is needed, will have actual wording to go before the voters so will know what is being presented.

Valerie comments – There is nothing specific that states Council had to approve wording of explanatory statements.

Roberta Schwarz comments – want to invite the Council and all in attendance to a traffic meeting on Friday, October 7th at 6:00pm. Dr.

David Rittenhouse comments – Is there any consideration to the traffic/transportation commission to oversee long-term planning?

Scott Burgess comments – 1) Plan due to be redone and have public process for this. 2) Have a traffic safety committee already but is understaffed and need people. 3) Mayor would like to see transportation committee.

Valerie comments – Traffic & Safety Committee is not helpful, not user friendly because of meeting times so early in the morning. Most people work and cannot get to these meetings.

Roberts Schwarz comments – Lake Oswego has a good “monster home” plan in place. What is happening to keep these “monster homes” out of West Linn?
Teri Cummings comments – They are in the process of addressing single-family home scale and West Linn is definitely at risk for this. Need to honor scale and positioning of homes and still allow for remodeling. Will have floor/area ratio assessments.

Robert Schwarz comments – It is very important that people who are involved in the community be respected and not called names.

Scott Burgess comments – That goes both ways.

Lynn Fox comments – Need to look at the process on how to get something in place for avenue of communication.

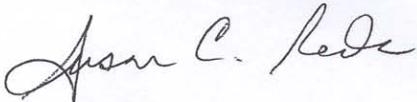
Teri Cumming comments – Look at models of effective city neighborhood association with expectations. This is an area of on-going frustration and the council recognizes that this is a problem. Will give to the City Manager and set resources aside.

Scott Burgess comments – Neighborhood associations are one way to evaluate how the council and city are doing. How much resources are spent when only ten people show up to a meeting? Give them suggestions. Currently, they are understaffed and individuals are doing multiple jobs. The City Council does read the minutes of each neighborhood association.

Valerie Ramaswamy comments – Taylor Road will now be a through street. It is expected to be opened this week and intersects on Bland Circle once you pass Tannler heading toward Crestview Drive.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm
Next meeting scheduled for November 2, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



Susan C. Reda
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