

BHTNA Neighborhood Association
Meeting Minutes
10-01-13

ATTENDEES: Stephen Garner, Cindy Garner, Francis Hanna, Margaret Tolan, Neil Loebner, Sue Eng and John Adams, Meredith Olmstead, Robert Jester, Dave Sax, Mike, Brad Arms, Steve and Nancy Inman, Bill Weber, Sue and Larry Jones, Clyde Tanita, Mike Vossen, Gayle Carnahan, Rick Mishaga, Linda Hermann, Kuo Chang.

SPECIAL GUEST: Charles Seims; regarding the City of West Linn Aquatic Center.

Welcome from Steve Garner, President. A quorum was established (minimum 15 households represented). Introductions were made around the table.

Minutes from the May 23, 2012 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report: The city controls the funds. I have to go to the City to get a check but the bank is giving me a debit card for the account. We have a lot of \$\$ in the account.

Elections: President: Bill Weber nominated Steve Garner, Larry Jones seconded. Motion for Steve to remain as President is passed. Congratulations Steve!!

Vice President: Motion was made to nominate Meredith Olmsted; Brad Arms seconded. Motion is passed. Thank you, Meredith!!!

Secretary/Treasurer: Robert Jester was nominated (Sue Jones) and seconded and unanimously approved as well.

Elections were successfully concluded in less than 30 minutes.

Questions: where'd the \$\$ in the NA account come from? ½ from the developer of Stonegate (\$4,000) half from city stipends over several years. The developer just wanted to help our community. Why does city have control of our \$ via check approval, etc.? Answer unknown.

Red tape reduction project; This is essentially to make changes to city development codes which would make it very easy for city or developer not to have to deal with the Planning Commission or Neighborhood Associations.

One of the code changes the city wants to make is to delete the "de novo" code, which currently allows for Neighborhood Associations to make comments and produce evidence during planning commission reviews and appeals to decisions by city departments.

The city's EDC was supposed to directly approach the various NA meetings to get their suggestions for and approval of changes. They never did; only when requested.

There are several NAs fighting these changes and so far we're winning.

The word among NAs is that eventually the city wants to eliminate the planning commission and limit or eliminate the power and communication of the NA's. Chris Jordan is trying to accumulate power (LO water plant w/ water pipe; Stafford Triangle, etc.)

City Council Recall: Steve had heard of a group that is trying to recall the city council.

Master Trail plan: The Master Trail Plan is a master document of all the trails that the city envisions in West Linn. Its purpose is to connect WL neighborhoods and connecting to other cities in Metro area. I-205 trail will/may connect to a trail that runs up the Tualatin.

Steve sent a list of questions to Ken Worcester, staff member of WL Parks and Recreation. Ken is retired but still working for the city as a consultant.

2 years ago there were several new trails proposed and, per Steve's calculations (65 million dollars to acquire the land and build the trails). The trail along I-205 behind our houses would've cost \$173/linear foot! The city asked Metro, in the Spring of 2012, for \$\$ to pay for the trail and didn't get it thanks to our neighbors speaking up at the Tri-county Metro meeting. (Thus, the city wants to funds to build w/o the MTP or input from the affected parties.) In Ken's response he said each trail must be designed and approved and funded INDIVIDUALLY, but it doesn't say it anywhere in the actual MTP. If we can get the MTP to include a clause like that and get the planning commission to approve it then that would be an excellent start to having a voice in our community.

I-205 solar trail: The original design of the Solar Hwy trail was to come very close to Riverknoll. The new design starts across from Radcliff Court. The empty lots on Imperial will be a trail head going south toward 205, then turning parallel to I-205 at that point. It will diverge from Riverknoll as the ODOT property gets wider to the west. The trail is envisioned as part of a system that connects Vancouver to Salem.

Much of the trail funding has been expected to be ARRA \$\$ so it's "free". We don't know where the money will come from when ARRA is finished.

Personal concerns about other trail experiences: Bob Jester said there's no requirement for the people to stay ON THE TRAIL. In his last home by the Tualatin River they had a trail near them and there were campers, picnickers, and climbers who want to get a better view, etc. Meredith Olmsted also shared they had a similar experience where they used to live (teenage hang out; lots of garbage, etc.). The city and the county never took responsibility for the trail on a main street near their home. Mike Vossen also described a trail which is a problem for garbage and issues.

Steve: The city is promoting this trail because they want to connect all the neighborhoods. Our NA has proposed to move the trail to the south side of 205. The city said they can't engineer it and there is not a big enough ODOT right of way. This has not been verified.

Steve believes we need to fight the trail through the threat of fire, which is very definitely a huge danger. There are big trees on the Salamo/10th street hillside and embers can travel up to 1 mile and ignite new fires. There are lots of older shake roofs in West Linn.

Margaret Tolan (and her daughter) called in a fire this last July at Camassia Park. There was a fire there 23 months ago as well. TVFR has said both times they don't know what caused the fires, however, TVFR did say there were evidences of cigarette butts and garbage all around the ground. The Lead for TVFR said it was hard to get water in there; and hard to get people to fight it due to the terrain and that they needed respirators for fire fighters because of poison oak vaporizing in the fire.

Ken W. says when the trail is built it will be a "fire break". However, it will only be a partial fire break if the fire starts below the trail, which is right near I-205.

Neil Loebner, asked about Savanna Oaks. Steve suggested that if we can help Roberta in "her" fight, then Roberta will help us with ours. She gets lots of \$\$, maybe we can find ways to get lots of \$\$ to help us fight the trail.

It was mentioned by Rick Mishaga, PhD in Biology who has lived on our hillside for 20 years, that we have a lot more flammable stuff on our hillside than Savannah Oaks and the topography makes it more difficult to fight. Fighting it from the level of I-205 will not work. It must be fought from the top of the hill.

Steve asked for the files re: the Industrial scale Solar Power plant between ODOT and PGE and it showed the city staff was discussing erasing zoning lines on a couple of large lots at the top of our hill (outside current residences' lots) which makes it easy to design it the way they want it to be. Not only is this illegal but it is unethical.

Sue Jones: is anyone else fighting this trail? The city is hell bent on having this trail.

Steve: No one else is fighting it. The biggest problem is community pressure to build the trails but NIMBY.

In the 90's the city wanted to put a soccer field with lights on the hillside and ODOT said the land is not stable enough. But now for the power plant and/or trail, it's stable enough.

The ODOT says the only reason they aren't building the solar plant is lack of \$\$.

Steve: The Neighborhood Association position is this: We're not saying don't build the trail – we're saying move it to the other side of I-205. Better access to merchants; it could go right into OR City and the new development they are planning. The trail could connect right into Willamette Falls drive and on into Tualatin.

Introduction: Charles Seims, West Linn resident, has done research into the WL bond for the proposed WL aquatic center. He has lived in Robinwood (since '97). The proposal for an

aquatic center has been around forever. He believes it will be a financial disaster for WL. He's spent \$500 of his own money to get the word out to vote against the center. He expects tax increases of \$3-500 per year The #'s in his handout comes from the city's own studies.

Do we need an aquatic center? There's a small, noisy group that is pushing it. The city's own study (Ballard/King) identifies 14 current operating pools within driving distance of WL. The Clackamas pool lost \$800,000 last year. It's lost \$\$ every year in operation except the 1st year, where it earned \$6,000.00. There's also the Or City pool (loses \$400,000/year). Molalla loses \$300,000 per year. Madras just passed the 2nd bond for the debt and maintenance of their pool.

It would cause \$21.7 million of indebtedness for the City of WL. That means a ~<\$1,000 mortgage for every man woman and child in the city. It will be located off Parker Road.

His flyer shows what it will cost each individual in West Linn. Add \$86/year for the deficit. Aquatic centers don't last 20 years and the bond is for 20 years. There will be a lot of repairs/maintenance expenses.

Losses: Every study the city has done since 1994 says that the pool will lose \$.

Steve: Who else is behind this?

Charles: others think there are people who will make \$\$ on it that are behind the center.

The City Council is wishy-washy about the Center; they won't take a stand either way.

Meredith Olmstead: There are several community pools. Who will go to the center?

Charles: The city is estimating 20% of citizens will participate in the pool center. The charge for a one year annual pass is \$500/year for 1 adult. If you send Charles an email (chasseims@hotmail.com) he will send you a copy of the Ballard-King study:

Steve: Also think about the Stafford Triangle.

Meredith: Charles should go to the Skyline NA too.

Steve: Any other remaining issues?

Steve asked for a motion to adjourn. Seconded? It was so moved and seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.