

## BHT NA VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

Barrington Heights, Hidden Creek Estates, Tanner Woods Subdivisions

January 24, 2024 6:00-7:00 PM

Meeting Link and Details at [WestLinnOregon.gov/BHT](https://WestLinnOregon.gov/BHT)

### Agenda Topics, Discussion and Decisions

- A. **Call to Order:** BHT President, Robert Jester, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM
- B. **Roll Call of Attendees:** Secretary, Rebel Steirer recorded the following Attendees:
- C. **Board of Director Introductions:** President, Robert Jester, Vice President, Grace Cargni, Secretary, Rebel Steirer, Treasurer, Pia Snyder each introduced themselves to the attendees stating where they lived and what they do for the Board.

BHTNA Residents	Guests
Sarah Carter Joseph & Carol Benda Darren Stegemoller Gali C Geoff & Makena Clive Susan Ludwigsen	Rory Bialostosky, West Linn Mayor

- D. **Mayor Introduced:** Robert Jester introduced Mayor Bialostosky. Robert acknowledged the Mayor for having great energy and insight so far on the work he has done for the city and his investigation into ODOT's tolling budget.

**January Storm:** Mayor Bialostocky addressed the City's performance during the January Storm. They received one complaint stating the city didn't plow enough and he went on to explain that the reason they had to refrain from plowing is because plowing removes the layer of snow which leaves the roads coated with just ice which makes the road conditions worse. Residents on the zoom call chimed in that they thought the city did a good job during the storm.

**Tolling:** Mayor Bialostosky is very concerned about the status of the two tolling projects that ODOT is trying to implement. ODOT is moving full steam ahead for tolling with devastating results to West Linn and Oregon city.

The first project is the I 205 tolling project for the Abernathy bridge construction and the second project is a regional mobility pricing project and is a wide spread tolling project that would place 8 tolling "gantries" known as tolling areas in the metro area.

Concerning the first project – West Linn residents commuting to Portland for work could potentially be subjected to several tolls per day at a significant personal cost and local trucking business also subjected to several tolls per day will likely pass on their cost of the tolling to the goods they carry. West linn and surrounding communities will be affected by these fees and will be paying 2 to 3 times the amount of the tolling than other road users.

West Linn Mayor and other city leaders attended the ODOT tolling meeting in Gladstone on January 6<sup>th</sup> to voice opposition to the toll project. . They would like our government to consider alternative, more efficient ways to pay for the tolling projects.

The current tolling financials show that only a small share of the money to be generated from the tolling will actually go to the projects they are supposed to fund, such as the repairs of the I-205 Abernathy Bridge.

He explained that the first glimpse of tolling financials is stunningly bad and despite knowing this, ODOT is moving full steam ahead to start tolling and to lock in financing no matter how high the cost is to Oregonians. Currently the tolling will generate more money for a customer service center than for funding the bridge. Looking at the data from ODOT's tolling scenario analysis it shows that potential gross and net revenues for the I 205 project shows that a large portion of tolling revenue will go toward admin costs.

Under 1 scenario, at a max toll rate of \$2.25, ODOT would raise about \$2.7 billion in revenue but due to the admin cost of operations and maintenance, only 369 million of this would be available for the bonds and loans financed through the toll project. So for every \$7.00 paid by a road user only \$1.00 would be spent on the bridge. And this inefficiency is virtually the same for all of the scenarios.

Mayor is asking the legislature to find a different way to fund the 400 million dollar repair estimate and to save everyone 3 billion dollars.

Robert Jester added that the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting was attended by well-spoken people who provided the transportation subcommittee with good testimony, questions and information. What are the next steps from the legislature and what are you hearing from your lobbyist?

Mayor Bialostosky: Our representatives that really want to focus on this are Jules Walters past WL Mayor, Senate President Rob Wagner, Mark Meek from Oregon City and Representative Hartman from Gladstone. Senate President Wagner is becoming more interested in hearing about alternatives to tolling. Leadership of transportation committee which has big influence over transportation policies wants to wait until 2025 to talk about transportation funding.

This puts the State at a crossroads between funding these major projects or stabilizing ODOT's budget?

The Transportation subcommittee that heard the testimony will wrap up in a few weeks and make a recommendation. Mayor Bialostosky . – doesn't think they'll recommend to study alternatives to tolling because the powers that be are kind of focusing on tolling as their legacy. We'd like to see them recommend to study alternatives to tolling because tolling is so inefficient.

ODOT receives money from gas tax plus federal revenue from federal transportation act. Gas tax has gone down due their being more efficient vehicles on the road and the presence of more electric vehicles. The state doesn't currently charge electric vehicles for their road use. It's estimated that in the long term there will be a tax on any type of vehicle miles driven. If the tolling does move forward, it should be allocated as it is currently, 50% to the state, 30% to the county and 20% to the city.

How can you make an impact – continue to email Senate President Wagner and make your word known.

E. **Willow Ridge Development & Icon:** Darin Stegemoller, Hidden Creek Estates Resident, requested help from the city to resolve an issue with Icon Development regarding Icon's follow through with their agreement to replace mature trees that they removed while doing site prep work at the new Cornwall development called "Willow Ridge". Willow Ridge is the new development that backs to Neighbors on Fairhaven Drive in the Hidden Creek Estates Neighborhood.

Several trees, that had been designated to be preserved, were removed by ICON after the developer decided the trees were in the way of some underground drainage they wanted placed. Darin has been working with the City to have Icon share a plan and timeframe for tree replacement but nothing concrete has been done. The trees need to be of a significant size to replace those taken down. Darin has been working toward a resolution for more than 12 months.

Robert Jester shared that part of the frustration with this project is that neighbors feel like the developer just does whatever they want regardless of the conditions and agreed upon terms placed in the approval to develop.

Pia Snyder added that she was involved in the planning of this development from the beginning. She said the planning commission did a great job with research and rules, etc. but when the developer comes in and starts the project, it seems like they don't follow the rules, nor are they held accountable when they don't follow them. There is a disconnect between what they say they will do and what they actually do.

Mayor Bialostosky offered to meet with Darin to facilitate a resolution.

F. **City Public Works and Operations Center:** Update by Robert Jester.

The neighborhood associations and HOAs are interested in learning more about public works projects prior to them being designed. It often seems the culture in public works is to ask for public input after a design or the work has been started. Robert Jester would like to add a Public Works employee to our next meeting so we can get clarification and updates about their projects.

The construction on the new Public Works area is affecting Barrington Heights residents with constricted entry from Barrington Drive to Salamo Rd. The current speed limit and the blind corner with traffic proceeding down Salamo is increasingly more dangerous with the narrow entry to go down the hill. The Transportation engineers came out to observe and are working on ways to make traffic more visible in that area. One idea is to shrink the landscaped areas for better visibility and to reduce the speed limit. Residents of Barrington are interested in having a stop sign placed there or at the entry to the new public works area. There are plans to install a new crosswalk with flashing lights from Barrington Drive to the pedestrian/biking paths.

Mayor Bialostosky noted that the new public works building will be a closed facility. The building is for maintenance of city property and equipment except for a meeting room. It will not be a building for public access, so they don't expect a lot of traffic in and out of the area. The City's plan is to keep public access departments at the City Hall. The city plans to sell the public works department land between Norfolk and Sussex and to use those proceeds to help fund the new public works building.

The site work that they've done so far, shows that the building will not be visible from Barrington Heights nor Imperial Drive.

Joseph Benda, Barrington Heights, asked how the city would plan for a snowstorm with the new area being located down a steep long driveway. Several people chimed in that the City would likely have equipment staged throughout the city to respond to storm weather.

Mayor Bialostosky asked that we continue to weigh in on city business and concerns whether positive or negative. They want to hear from us.

Robert Jester thanked the Mayor for his time and the valuable information he brought to our meeting. And he added that it's important to know that all of these city government positions are volunteer positions and everyone should know how hard these individuals work for us.

G. **Treasurer's Update**: Pia Snyder, Treasurer

Pia Snyder, reported that we currently have \$9,719.70 in our account which is the balance after we paid for the zoom meeting platform fee. Last year we received \$1200.00 and the year before \$750.00. Pia Snyder has asked the group to think of ways we can use some of the money to help make our neighborhood better. One item of concern is the Cornwall Creek bridge area. Pia Snyder consulted a landscape company to get an estimate to clean up the area, and the estimate is about \$1,000.00. She also noted that some neighbors talked about getting a group together to do a clean up of some of the green spaces in our neighborhoods – ivy, blackberry, downed branch clean up etc. Mayor Bialostosky responded to this as a great idea and let the group know that the city doesn't have money to keep up on the maintenance of all of the green spaces so it would be nice to do either or both.

Pia Snyder also proposed looking at the cost of signs to announce our future neighborhood association meetings.

Gail C, Barrington Heights, offered her services to make A frame signs to use. She will get back to us with numbers for making them.

Robert Jester made a motion to approve up to \$999.00 for the Cornwall Bridge landscape project. The vote passed to move forward.

H. **Homeless Camp Update** – Robert Jester updated the group on the status.

The Homeless Task Force previously identified a property on Willamette Falls Drive to use for overnight camping of homeless people that would fulfill the state requirements and provide space for 2-5 people and be available from 7pm-7am. This location is accessible to Oregon City which is essential because of resources associated with the county seat. This property is currently owned by PGE and we were trying to reach an agreement with them to change the current lease to allow for this type of camping. The employee we were working with has left the company and we are awaiting our new contact. If no agreement is reached with PGE a new site will need to be identified.

Reminder: City ordinance prohibits camping in city owned parks. City hall is in a multi-use parking lot with other businesses and the city doesn't have jurisdiction to allow people to camp there as they don't own the parking lot, it's owned by a private party. And technically the city has been in violation of the mandate to provide overnight housing.

H. Adjourned: Robert Jester concluded the meeting at 7 PM.

Date for Next Meeting- Wednesday March 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:00 PM

Minutes Approved By:

Signature	Title	Date
<i>Robert Jester</i>	Robert Jester, BHT NA President	2/6/2024
<i>Grace Cargni</i>	Grace Cargni, BHT NA Vice President	2/7/2024
<i>Rebel Steirer</i>	Rebel Steirer, BHT NA Secretary	2/7/24
<i>Pia Snyder</i>	Pia Snyder, BHT NA Treasurer	2/8/24