

## **WESTLINN SAB VIRTUAL MEETING – APRIL 16, 2026, 6:30 P.M.**

6:03 – Meeting started

**In attendance:** Victoria Meier, Rob Kugler, Samantha Thoreson, Greg Smith, Lou Groner (City Council Liaison), and Teresa Nowicki standing in for Dylan Digby)

**Absent:** Roberto Baturoni

No members of the public present

### **CHECK-IN**

Victoria – Visited Aprilcot Lane Farm of the movie "The Biggest Little Farm" when in Southern California recently and learned more about regenerative farming.

Rob - In Germany last time we met with new grandson, daughter, and son-in-law.

Greg – Pleased with success starting heritage vegetable seeds indoors.

Samantha – Getting garden planted and trying to control ants interested in colonizing compost pile.

Teresa – Excited about getting a community garden plot in Portland where she lives.

### **MINUTES**

Not enough people had read the minutes to warrant approval. With regard to corrections, Greg mentions that Amy rather than himself is the person who talked about the farm program. He recalls talking about the Be Two-Weeks Ready program in Canby that Victoria had gone to.

### **RESIGNATIONS**

Victoria informs us that Mike Carlson and Amy Schauer have both resigned from the SAB because of time constraints.

### **GAS-POWERED LEAFBLOWERS**

Greg reports on meeting in Lake Oswego with Mark Puhlman and Kathleen Wien who have been leading efforts there. They addressed some of the central objections to the development of a ban: (1) Laguna Beach study suggested that battery-powered leafblowers will pay for themselves in 10-12 months because of the fact that they don't require gas, oil, or maintenance. (2) Manufacturers often provide low-interest loans for landscaping businesses to purchase leafblowers. (3) Question about leafblowers included in broader community survey showed that 55% of respondents opposed their use. Recent *Review*

article included similar figure for LO respondents to another survey. A much higher proportion of respondents from West Linn were opposed to a ban. (4) LO folks seemed less interested in finding ways to support the purchase of battery-powered leafblowers through the development of a funding stream provided by the county. They were interested in forming a coalition of people from different Clackamas County communities who would be willing to speak with legislators about a statewide ban. (5) LO SAB chair would like to speak with WL SAB chair about coordinating our efforts if we decide to move forward with this initiative. Greg also mentions contacting Clean/Quiet PDX about identifying people in other Clackamas County communities interested in addressing this issue.

In discussion following this, we decided not to pursue a ban but to continue encouraging people to replace gas-powered leafblowers (as well as other landscaping equipment) with battery-powered tools when possible. Battery-powered landscaping equipment is being prominently displayed in places like Home Depot, and this transition may be happening on its own as these technologies (less expensive to operate and more repair free) improve. Education and incentives may be a less divisive way to proceed. **Greg was encouraged by the SAB to speak with folks at Clean/Quiet PDX about their interest in approaching the county about offering an incentive to landscaping businesses to fund the purchase of battery-powered leafblowers without a ban.**

## **EV-CHARGING**

Rob reports that remaining dollars that had been allotted to install EV-chargers have been redirected to the Department of Transportation to make up for a shortfall.

## **OLD TIME FAIR**

Victoria reports that she has reserved a place for us on the Saturday of this event. **Samantha will get in touch with WL Refuse and Recycling to see whether we can obtain stickers that we can distribute with information about what can be recycled to place on bins. She will also contact Mark Puhlman about when he can demonstrate battery-powered landscaping equipment. Greg will send Samantha Mark's e-mail address.** People should be ready to sign up for time slots for the fair at the May meeting.

## **BE 2 WEEKS READY**

Greg reports on meeting with the minister at the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church who will get back to him in the next week or so about any people from her church who are interested in serving as community hosts. Greg learned that many of the people in her small congregation (40-45) live in neighboring communities. He mentions sending an email to the Lutheran minister (is waiting for a reply) as well as checking out the congregation sizes of the Methodist and New Life churches. Given the small size of congregations and the fact

that churches do not really function as neighborhood or community centers may make them less useful for organizing the Be 2 Weeks Ready program. Rob suggests seeing whether the Lutheran Church as well as others might be interested in serving as community hosts for their own neighborhoods—providing training for people beyond their congregations in emergency preparedness. **Rob will approach Pastor John Larson about this possibility.**

Samantha suggests that elementary schools often serve as this kind of community center and wonders about the possibility of finding community hosts through them. **Greg says that he will approach the appropriate person at the school district office about whether this is something they'd be willing to pursue.** For example, LO's newest elementary school is designed to Level 4 to withstand earthquakes in order to serve as a safe haven for the neighborhood.

Dylan says that anyone interested in being a community host can schedule a short training with him to go over the Toolkit and get a *Community Host Guide* which makes it easy and clear on activities and training materials to go through. He can also provide the physical Toolkit color training and activity books to the community host to share with their group members. He just needs some reporting back on the number of people in the group, when they meet, and briefly what they discussed as he has to report back to the state.

## **SUPERFUND BILL**

Rob reported that this died before the end of the legislative session but got further than in the past. The coalition who has been organizing around this issue would like to get the city council to join with others to support it during the 2027 legislative session

## **RECYLING/COMPOSTING EDUCATION**

Dylan is still waiting for answers about franchise issues before organizing a meeting with West Linn Refuse and Recycling about picking up kitchen wastes for composting.

**Samantha still plans to reach out to OSU Extension about making a presentation about composting at the Adult Community Center.**

## **REPAIR AND REUSE DIRECTORY**

The directory is off the table because of the city's lawyer has said not to not publicize information that could be construed as advertising about local businesses. Dylan sent this link to share with us: <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/waste-disposal-and-prevention/need-get-rid-something/ask-expert/find-recycler> or [Find a recycler/Metro](#)

## **SHARED DOC DEPOSITORY**

City's IT department is working on new cloud structure that will allow for the storage of CAB materials. There's no set time frame for when this will be completed.

## **REGIONAL SUSTAINABILTY EFFORTS**

Lou has had some discussion about the EPA Brownfield grant LO received but these have not resulted in specific details that might help us figure out how to seek federal support to clean up the Blue Heron ponds.

## **PARKS DIRECTOR**

The city now has an interim parks director, Jon Legarza, who is working on a part-time contract schedule. He is helping to look for a replacement for Megan.

## **TREE INVENTORY AND CANOPY**

Victoria learned from Daniel Quinones at the Nature Conservancy that Camassia will be getting an intern in June who will be monitoring trees that could be attacked by emerald ash borers. He feels that the more hands on, the better, and that it would be great if high school students could coordinate with the intern. **Victoria will share this information with Roberto.**

## **NEW BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS**

Greg reported on a LO tour of resilient homes on the weekend of April 25.

### **7:03 – Meeting adjourned.**

Our May meeting will be held in person at City Hall.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Rob Kugler** - Rob will approach Pastor John Larson about the possibility that the Lutheran Church (and other churches) might be interested in serving as Be 2 Weeks Ready hosts for the church's immediate neighborhood.

**Victoria Meier** - Will share the information about the Camassia intern with Roberto and with the three high school teachers involved.

**Greg Smith** - Greg was encouraged by the SAB to speak with folks at Clean/Quiet PDX about their interest in approaching the county about offering an incentive to landscaping businesses to fund the purchase of battery-powered leafblowers without a ban.

Greg will send out an email with more information about the LO tour of resilient homes.

Greg will approach the school district admin office about whether they might be willing to pursue having schools serve as community centers in the event of emergencies.

Greg will send Mark's e-mail address to Samantha.

**Samantha Thoreson** - will reach out to OSU Extension about making a presentation about composting at the Adult Community Center.

Samantha will get in touch with WL Refuse and Recycling to see whether we can obtain stickers that we can distribute with information about what can be recycled to place on bins. She will also contact Mark Puhlman about when he can demonstrate battery-powered landscaping equipment.

**All members** - Be ready at the May meeting to sign up for time slots at the Old Time Fair on Saturday, July 11.