

Bolton Neighborhood Association (BNA)
June 21, 2016

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm in the West Linn Library by Vice-Chair, Steve Miesen. Approximately 14 people were in attendance. Mr. Miesen read the minutes of the May 17, 2016 BNA meeting. The minutes were approved with one correction to replace the word, "renovation" with "restoration" regarding the proposed Nature in Neighborhoods grant.

Mr. Miesen introduced Eileen Stein, West Linn's new City Manager. Ms. Stein began by requesting those present to introduce themselves. She then shared some additional details about her professional career. Ms. Stein worked for many years in the realm of public works and believes this working knowledge has been especially helpful in her role as City Manager in communities experiencing rapid population growth. She noted that the collegial relationships she has forged with her counterparts around the state will most likely benefit West Linn. As a "Practitioner in Residence" at Portland State University, Ms. Stein is in a position to secure and utilize public administration interns for special projects.

Two BNA members expressed at length their observations and concerns about traffic issues in the Bolton area. They are concerned that until the traffic snarl that occurs where Hwy 43 and Willamette Falls Dr. meet, any development around the Arch Bridge would be premature. Ms. Stein acknowledged the need for West Linn to be "at the table" whenever transportation planning is occurring. She explained that ODOT is a decentralized system so it is very important to be connected to adjacent intergovernmental bodies, as well. Staying on top of these traffic issues will be a high priority in her administration.

BNA's desire to utilize the old fire station as a community center was also expressed.

Ms. Stein shared her views on the importance of citizen participation and the need to be responsive to community residents. She urged BNA members to be mindful of their conduct both in formal and informal settings. In her initial meetings with city staff, several expressed concern for their personal safety as a result of the recent acrimony with the prior administration. Ms. Stein noted that while older residents may simply be voicing their opposition, younger persons have been known to act on that anger. She cited a specific example in Sisters that resulted in a disastrous case of arson. She is hopeful that by meeting with the neighborhood associations early as she starts her position, she can forge a positive and productive working relationship.

Ms. Stein closed her remarks by stating that she appreciates the exceptional quality of life West Linn residents enjoy and is eager to work to retain those unique aspects in the face of tremendous growth and change occurring in the surrounding area.

The meeting concluded at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kris Duncan
Secretary Pro Tem