

## MINUTES FROM BNA MEETING, APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2019

- The Meeting began with introductions around the room and a quick review of the ground rules.
- Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed, edited and approved.
- Mayor Russ Axelrod was introduced and that began a conversation with him about the questions we drafted at our last meeting. Note: The following reflections are an effort to summarize the Mayor's comments and are not verbatim. The April edition of the West Linn Update provides additional perspective from the Mayor on many of these issues.
- Russ began with an update on the Post Office. Russ spoke with Kurt Schrader, the staff of Gramor Development, and post office leadership regarding the status of the post office and Gramor's intentions. He was told Gramor wants the post office in Central Village as a tenant. To that end Gramor had offered a six months lease extension, but the post office leadership had not responded. After a series of telephone calls, the post office accepted the six month lease extension. Meetings and conversation are planned w/ Rep. Schrader and others to keep the P.O. in West Linn at its current location or other locations which city staff are exploring.
- Question: Is the city top-heavy with managers and high salaries, with too few staff? How does West Linn stack up with other cities in this regard to the balance of managers and staff? If this is a concern you share would you support a compensation study?

West Linn has the lowest ratio of staff to population of any city in Metro. Salaries are in line or less than comparable cities. Now we're seeing salary compression which makes it more difficult to keep good people. We believe we have a "tight ship" in terms of staffing and salaries. A concern is what would we do if, after a compensation study, it shows that we were paying too low? We really don't have the means to pay a higher rate.

- Question: Too often it seems that the Bolton Neighborhood Association (BNA) is too late to be made aware of projects that affect our neighborhood to influence their planning or implementation. IE. Arch bridge and waterfront planning. Would you support a formal process to ensure that the BNA is involved early enough to help shape changes that will affect us?

The Arch Bridge planning was an absolute disaster. We learned that Chris Kerr and Chris Jordan had made deals as part of the waterfront planning which was one reason why the planning was done so badly. Presently the city has backed off waterfront planning due to the mill closure and the involvement of PGE. The plan is to focus on traffic planning first. There are no plans now for dealing with holding ponds yet. There will be community meetings with ample opportunity for people to comment and to suggest how this development should be done. As I understand it you would like no formal plans to be made without representatives from the Bolton neighborhood Association to be part of that planning. This is our intention as well.

- Question: How can neighborhood associations and the BNA be more of a resource to the city? More personal communication rather than mass emails. It would help to get to know staff better. Attacks on people and their motives is destructive and hinders or ability to work together on issues of common concern.

- Question: What is your position on 2005 tolling? As it stands now West Linn residents and businesses will be paying a toll to do daily chores, such as going to Home Depot, or Costco. What can West Linn do to influence decisions about tolling on the Abernathy Bridge and 205 to minimize its effect on West Linn residents?

As currently envisioned the tolling plan is a disaster. It will not happen. The Council agrees and will fight the current tolling plan. Any plan must address equity for West Linn residents.

- Question: Do you or the City Council intend to change the residential parking district?

No. There are some exciting and helpful ways to help with student parking, such as e-Bikes that PGE could subsidize, as well as better enforcement around Broadway.

- Question: What is your biggest concern for the health and future of West Linn?

Residential communities, such as ours, have limited tax resources to use for infrastructure to use for the Waterfront Master Plan and other improvement to our quality of life. Presently transportation is not well served. There is pessimism and stress in our culture that worries me about our youth and the overall wellness about our community and nation. I wish we could ensure more equity and affordable housing.

- Question: What are your thoughts about protecting natural resources and habitat as the waterfront development is being planned? What protections should be implemented?

We are committed to protecting both natural resources and habitat as we plan for and implement the waterfront development. This will be done.

- Question: How are park fees are being spent? Their use seems obscure?

I am not sure. I will look into this and share what I learn.

- Community Concerns and Discussion:

- a. Given the extensive agenda, it was agreed to extend our meeting to 9pm.
- b. Parking in and around the high school continues to be a major concern. We will invite Chief Kruger tour meeting to discuss parking issues and ordinances that address residential parking of many automobiles. Vince will continue to gather additional data on parking by the high school and share it at our next meeting.
- c. Jordan Ferris, candidate for the School Board made a presentation and answered questions.
- d. We need to gather additional information regarding Gramor's post office plans and the proposed development at the corner of Burns and Hood streets.

- Our next meeting May 21<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9pm by Bob McCarthy.

Peggy Kirkendall, Secretary