



BOLTON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MINUTES: Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Library /Zoom Hybrid Meeting

Meeting Called to Order: Patrick Hogan: 7:06 PM

Welcome to Attendees: 13 in person & 6 online members, 1 guest speaker

Draft October 15, 2024 Minutes: Approved.

Draft Agenda: Motion made and passed to add time to discuss annual report. Agenda approved.

Treasurer's Report: Alfred Brown: Bank Balance: \$3738.97 Expenses include printings and pumpkin contest prizes and treats.

Updates:

- **Library Art:** Art by Noel is a beautiful exhibit currently hanging in the community room at the library. Round of applause and appreciation given for Kathryn Frederick, our very own local artist, for her stunning works of art.
- **Communications Coordinator:** BNA Facebook followers up to 74, list serve up to 163! Keep up to date by jumping on the city website and signing up to stay informed about the neighborhood. Also, a reminder given by Lisa Wolff about the meeting held by city council tomorrow, Wednesday Nov 21, to hear from community about potential school closures. Location changed to the community center.
- **Bolton Volunteer Garden (BVG):** Vince Miles reported a possible water leak we found at the BVG. City responded they checked the location and saw no water usage on the meter when the backflow assembly was turned off. They believe it to be ground water coming up into the box and noted the many springs close by leak water year round. We also have asked the city to have the health of the willow tree evaluated, due to the many dead limbs we recently trimmed; city responded they will look into it. Our park clean up efforts have yielded about 10-12 loose cubic yards of debris.
- **Fall Carved Pumpkin Contest:** October 27th's Carved Pumpkin Contest was a chilly event this year! Regardless, it was a pleasant visit with neighbors, and pumpkins were carved and fun prizes won! Many people planning on coming said they stayed home due to the heavy rain and cold. If chilly weather is keeping people away, suggested to possibly hold this event inside next year. Thanks given to Starbucks and to Market of Choice for their generous donations of coffee and cookies! We appreciate the support of our local businesses and all the work everyone put into making this neat event possible!
- **Jet Skiers:** Bolton resident Christian Selleron spoke of his tremendous efforts, including legal action taken, since 2021, in helping eradicate the illegal (very loud) pro jet skier from the river around Mel-

drum Bar Park. So much thanks and appreciation given for all his work. Residents noted how much more peaceful the river was this summer in Bolton, likely due to the cease and desist letter, as it seems for now he is staying away; Christian has established the framework for making sure this doesn't happen again, and if it does, we know what to do.

New Business:

- **Darren Wyss; Waterfront Project Presentation:** Darren Wyss, Project Manager for the City of West Linn, spoke about the timeline of the project since its inception, and its current status.
 - Project started 10 years ago with the Arch Bridge concept plan.
 - The vision of the project set to repurpose a designated 275 acres of land into 3 districts (North from the 205 bridge isolated between the bluff and the river).
 - Four guiding principles of the project brought about by public engagement:
 - better river access
 - transportation improvements (i.e. safer streets, better trails, parking)
 - reinvestment opportunities (i.e. hotels, housing, businesses)
 - historic character of the area is protected and honored.
 - 2016-19 there was outreach to residents, surveying, market analysis, and meeting with stakeholders and talking to property holders.
 - It was established with ODOT a roundabout is the best choice for the intersection of Hwy 43 and Willamette Falls Drive.
 - Project was stalled during Covid.
 - 2023-24 saw the drafting of a vision plan put together by a team of consultants based on community involvement, including surveys with ideas of what the community wants and needs.
 - Post-Covid there has been move to push the project forward with funding. Most of the land designated for this project is owned by PGE, and other private ownership, so most of the cities control in this area is through zoning and partnerships.
 - Project being done with direct consultation of the tribes and property owners in these districts, and also public input and involvement. (DEQ requirements also dictate what can be done.)
 - Public review includes a recent survey on the website as they move into zoning analysis, with a goal of making sure the zoning is reasonable, and attainable. Underlying importance of making sure what they heard is reflected in the vision plan. Hoping for private interest to show proof of concepts for these great plans the city is trying to implement through city projects.
 - 2025 Goal is to finish the vision plans for recommendation to city council for implementation (of zoning, codes, transportation updates, parking, and properties). Maintaining a strong private/public partnerships is required to bring these ideas to life. Recognition this could be a major tourism draw with our beautiful Willamette Falls and Oregon history as centerpiece. Go to the website to learn more and sign up for updates on the project to stay informed. <https://yourwestlinn.com/waterfront-community-vision>

- **Christi Lanz; Small School Alliance (SSA) Presentation:** Earlier this year, the WLWV School District set up a task force (SSTF) to decide if Bolton, Cedaroak, and Stafford Primary Schools should stay open. The decision by the School Board is slated to be made in January. Decision criteria focus is on core costs, renovation needs, and impacts on programs when schools become "too small." SSA questions if with a deficit of about 14 million, 1.4 million in savings is enough to justify the harm it will cause the students and the community.

- o Closed Meetings: Small Schools Task Force(SSTF) meetings are closed to the public, potentially violating ORS public meeting laws.
- o What are the cost for renovation, and are these renovations critical, or can some of them be delayed. Also possibility for new grants, and rebates through the IRA can be found to make schools more green.
- o Full service community schools, based on Dr. Betty Reynolds ideas, are a new idea for a solution found this week by the SSA. These are public schools in partnerships with the city to give more offerings to the community.
 - Offerings could include: more school programs, tutoring, preschools, health clinics, classes, emergency shelters.
 - These kind of projects can be funded through grants and could give WLWV school district and the city of west linn to work together. (This idea immediately resinated with our group and we immediately decided to draft a letter recommending this solution to budget short falls to maintain Bolton Primary.)
- o SSTF is only collecting public opinion and only look at data. These amazing group of parent volunteers selected by the PTA's only have a narrow scope they are allowed to consider and have no authority, just passing information to the LRPC that will then report back to the school board with recommendations.
- o Check out the group West Linn-Wilsonville Education 4 all who are also working hard to keep the community informed about school meeting and looking at solutions to challenges facing our schools. Visit West Linn-Wilsonville Education 4 all website: wlwved4all.org.
- o West Linn Holiday Parade, December 14. Show pride and spirit in our smalls school by joining the parade! Wear holiday clothing with school spirit attire and meet at 4:00 at Willamette Primary School. Go to wlwved4all.org to see the flyer for more info and let them know you're coming.

Reminder: Everyone can help our small to schools by staying informed and speaking up: 3 more meeting before a decision is supposed to be made. Go to the school board, and tell them what the school means to you and why small schools shouldn't close, and help look for solutions to problems. Email board members, attend board and community meetings, sign the petition to delay decisions: (<https://www.thepetitionsite.com/755/958/936/slow-down-the-school-closure-process/>), follow SSA on Substack (<https://substack.com/@wsmallschools>), and on Facebook (Go to Facebook and search Small Schools Alliance).

Please visit WLWV website for the districts plan; make sure to view FAQ's section as well as the data presented by FLO Analytics: <https://www.wlww.k12.or.us/Page/17358>.

Important dates: WLWV School Board Meeting: Monday December 9 at 6 p.m.

(Look for dates for January school board and LRPC meetings as dates become available)

- **Letter to the WLWV School District and School Board:** We drafted a letter, revised and then made a motion which passed unanimously, with one member abstaining, to send this letter to the district recommending Bolton Primary as a full service community school: "Bolton Neighborhood Association fully supports maintaining and improving the 3 high-performing schools; Bolton Primary School, Cedaroak Park Primary School, and Stafford Primary School. They are critical community resources and consideration should be given to their becoming full-service community schools to fill unmet community needs."
- **Annual Report:** City Council asked NA's what issues they should be thinking about and possible solutions, as well as any additional information the BNA would like the city to be aware of as they review

our report. Please email us any ideas or suggestions.

Issues brought up: Resolving speeding on side streets; possibility of speed meters collecting data, and wondering why we can't use speed bumps like on Pimlico, as they seem to be effective. Also looking for a resolution from the city about putting the 3 way stop at the corner of Cascade and Burns and if they are going to remove parking spots on Burns as they said they would. Member also wondering about possibility of painting the curb yellow on this corner.

- **December meeting:** Motion made, passing all in favor of not having a December BNA meeting.
- **Next Meeting:** January 21, 2025

Future Agenda Items:

- Continue the conversation about possible school closures in West Linn with the community members. Keep everyone informed and continue to help the community find solutions to keep schools open.
- Vision 43: Chris Myers will be back soon to show us some initial renderings of Vision 43 project the city put together through community input. Visit <https://yourwestlinn.com/vision43>

Announcements:

- West Linn Garden Club meets the 1st Monday of each month at West Linn Lutheran Church. Become part of one of the oldest garden clubs in Oregon!
- Work Party at Maddax Woods every 3rd Saturday 9-12am. [Bring your work gloves and join us!]
<https://volunteer.solveoregon.org/opportunity/a0CVL00000D5RCF2A3/maddax-woods-monthly-cleanup>
- Get the West Linn Weekly Newsletter. <https://westlinnoregon.gov/e-news>

Adjourn: 8:57 pm Thank you, everyone, for participating.

Reminder: Stay up to date with your Bolton Neighborhood by visiting our community website at <https://westlinnoregon.gov/bolton> and on our BNA Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BoltonNeighborhoodAssociation?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

See BNA Hot Topics: <https://westlinnoregon.gov/bolton/hot-topics-announcements> :

Patrick Hogan, President at: BoltonNA@WestLinnOregon.gov

Bolton Neighborhood Association Board Members

Patrick Hogan, President; Vince Miles, Vice President; Alfred Brown, Treasurer;

Amanda Brookshire, Secretary; Lisa Wolff, Member at Large

Background overview of the meeting conversation on the Small Schools Task Force (SSTF):

The WLWV school board appointed a long range planning committee (LRPC). FLO Analytics was contracted to give enrollment projections. Their data was presented in July, and after analysis, the district decided to look into the viability of the smaller schools in our community (i.e. possibility of closing small schools to save money). The LRPC had district staff establish a small schools task force made up of 12 people (3 from each of the proposed schools to be closed, and 1 from each of the remaining schools) to give recommendation back to the LRPC in December as to if/which school should be closed and how boundaries should be adjusted. The LRPC is scheduled to make a recommendation back to the school board in January.