

City Manager's Weekly Report

Date: January 30, 2020

To: Mayor Axelrod and City Council, City staff, and West Linn community

From: John R. Williams, Interim City Manager *JRW*

Calendar notes

- Council Goal review and discussion will take place February 3rd in the Council Chambers.
- Next week we hope to send out a new Doodle Poll for times that Council can meet in a teambuilding retreat. We are waiting to hear from Clackamas County mediation staff on their availability, and then will get the calendar options out.
- The monthly volunteer work party at Mary S. Young will be happening Saturday, February 1 at 9 AM. It's a great opportunity to help take care of this wonderful park; all that's needed is work gloves, sturdy footwear, and a can-do attitude. Well, maybe raingear too. More information is available [here](#).

Informational updates

- **Citizen Advisory Group Training.** Over 20 citizens attended the annual CAG training Wednesday evening. Topics covered included a general overview of how city services are provided, the Council/ Manager system of government, legal issues relevant to citizen volunteers, and a difficult conversations training provided by staff from Clackamas County's Community Dispute Resolution Services team. There was plenty of time for Q&A and I think folks left with a good understanding of their role and resources available to them. The meeting was videotaped and the video, PowerPoint, and handouts are [available on the City website](#) for those unable to attend.
- **Locks legislation.** The legislation to create a new Willamette Falls Locks Authority has been designated [HB 4150](#), and we are optimistic based on conversations with legislators. It has an initial hearing Tuesday, February 4 at 5:30 PM but there will be extremely limited time for testimony, so a very short list of key stakeholders will be there. We will keep Council posted on progress; with the short session and many other issues on the table, we are hoping this bill moves very quickly. I will also distribute a great one-sheet handout that our team has prepared, which is being printed up on the new Willamette Falls Paper Mill reHARVEST™ paper. If you hold the sheet up to the light, you can see the agricultural pulp and straw material they are using. Very cool!
- **Metro T2020 decisions approaching.** The Transportation Funding Task Force and Metro Council will be discussing possible additions to the regional funding measure project list as well as possible funding sources and the overall package size at meetings in February and March. We will be doing



a short presentation on West Linn's Highway 43 project at the February 19 Transportation Task Force meeting, to be held at the Metro Regional Center at 5:30 PM. The Task Force is expected to finalize recommendations to the Metro Council in March. We continue to encourage letters of support from interested citizens, businesses, and organizations. Anyone interested in helping can contact me or City Engineer Lance Calvert for more information.

- **Early Release STEM programming at the library.** On early release Wednesdays, library youth staff lead STEM programming for primary school students. These activities highlight science, technology, engineering and math concepts using hands-on, experimental learning. There are 12 early release days throughout the school year and to accommodate the demand 2 programs are offered on these afternoons (1pm and 2pm).

The Library's most recent early release event was Catapults 101 where children learned both the history of the catapult and the science behind how they work. Next they created their own catapult with popsicle sticks and rubber bands, and tried to 'defend the castle' by launching marshmallows over castle walls. At times, children needed to adjust for weight, height, and speed in order to get their marshmallow over. When asked if they had fun and what their favorite part of the program was, one young patron said, "Of course! The best part was that everyone could defend the castle, everyone could win!"

Thanks to all the library staff involved in these great activities.

- **HB 2001/2003 Rulemaking Update.** On Wednesday I went to Salem for the first meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee I was appointed to advising on implementation of HB 2001 related to increasing housing choices throughout Oregon. This group, one of four working on rulemaking for HB 2001 and 2003, will be making recommendations to DLCD staff on rules related to how infrastructure limitations may impact local code work required by HB 2001. This first meeting mostly laid out the main issues to be addressed over the course of seven meetings between now and June. As always, information on all the work underway is available at [DLCD's website](#).
- **WFD Construction Update.** Construction continues along the north side of Willamette Falls Drive, this week with the asphalt milling and excavation of the business front parking spaces from 12th to 10th Street. City staff continues to maintain daily communication with business owners and concerned citizens to mitigate the disruption construction can bring as much as possible. Communications and Engineering staff walked the site again this week to check in with business owners. Parking continues to be a challenge, but staff are working to coordinate night and weekend parking alternatives. Les Schwab and Pacific West Bank have already graciously agreed to let residents park in their portion of the parking lot during their off business hours – we are creating and coordinating flyers for businesses to post with this information, concept drawings, and the positive benefits of the project for businesses to post for their customers.

City staff have also started a shop local campaign to highlight businesses and encourage West Linn residents to shop Willamette Falls Drive while construction takes place. Business owners can [opt-in](#) to be [featured on the City Facebook](#), [website](#), and construction email. The first highlighted business is Morrows Flowers which has been very positively received by the Historic Willamette Main Street Group, business owners, and citizens of West Linn.

Lastly, any communication from citizens can be directed to the project specific channels – email: WFDproject@westlinnoregon.gov, hotline with pre-recorded construction updates: [503.723.2525](tel:503.723.2525), and online through our service app at WFDproject.com. You can also sign up for regular construction email updates [here](#).