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YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

4 p.m. – WebEx

Present Youth Advisory Council Members: Annamika Konkola, Jake Frazier, Quinton Michael, Madeline Brown

West Linn Staff Members: Danielle Choi, John Williams

West Linn City Council Members: None

Absent: Declan Winder, Karina Rower, Nate DeMoro, Sabrina Zhang, AJ Tan, Caroline Nielsen

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by President Annamika at 4:02pm.

Public Comment: N/A

Discussion of quorum—no quorum today. Since we have John as guest speaker, we can continue for educational purposes without any votes or actionable items.

Project Check-Ins:

Quinton wanted to verify Jake’s email address to follow up about potentially booking a speaker for drug and alcohol fact week. Jake said that Caroline would know more about what TAB is doing, but she’s not here yet.

Danielle said that Luke Borland from Public Works would likely be available to come talk about Public Works projects at a future meeting. Annamika and Jake spoke about bringing him in as a guest speaker for the March meeting.

Annamika summarized YAC’s involvement in the City’s communications plan, in particular the social media needs of WLPD. Danielle gave an update describing the social media plan: 3-4 officers will be trained in social media, and Danielle will train YAC. They will work with YAC to push content out using a social media management program that Danielle can supervise and approve. There will be an application process, and Chief Mahuna can choose the team he

prefers to work with PD. Annamika asked about timelines, and Danielle expressed concern — PD will need time to be trained, and YAC will be adjourned for summer in a few months. Danielle said she will circle around with more information when she has it.

Jake asked if there were other departments that could use help with media. Danielle gave a breakdown of staff coverage for various departments, but reiterated that PD has the greatest need.

Jake asked about YAC sponsoring another Drug Drop-Off event in April with the help of SRO Johnson. He asked about promoting it through the newspaper. Danielle explained the Communications budget, and said that this is something the City could help promote if YAC wanted to sponsor such an event. She also suggested reaching out to Holly Bartholomew, who writes for the Tidings, to suggest it as a local interest piece.

Guest Speaker: City Manager John Williams joined at 4:20pm. John introduced himself and offered to talk about I-205 tolling. He explained ODOT's plan, and expected impacts on West Linn, as well the Council's stance against it. He mentioned the public comment period is open following the Environmental Assessment. He encouraged them to make their opinions on what they'd like our transportation to look like known, and to contact state legislators if they feel strongly about an issue.

Annamika brought up a community rec center. John outlined the obstacles the City has faced in the past, but said he would love to have a real run at getting one built while he is City Manager. He discussed possible locations, and explained the cost differences between a rec center with and without an aquatic center. The added expense of maintaining an aquatic center has caused this project to be voted down in the past. He estimates the cost of a rec center at 15-25 million, and said that grants and bond measures are potential ways of financing it.

Annamika asked if it would be easier to get a rec center built by dropping the idea of an aquatic center. John said that was likely, and described the kind of public support needed to get a project like this on the radar.

Madeline asked about whether the City could work with the school district to share a pool. John said other communities have done just that, but there's nobody currently advocating for it.

Jake asked if the space John proposed for a center might take away from Music in the Park concerts. John confirmed it would, and we would have to find another venue for that event.

John mentioned that they are probably wondering about Oppenlander, but that the City is still unsure whether we will actually end up owning it giving ongoing litigation. If we did, it would open up a lot of options.

Jake asked about potholes on roads. John talked about plans for Rosemont Rd and Hwy 43. 43 is not owned or maintained by West Linn. He explained the City's funding sources for road work.

Danielle asked if John could talk generally about funding and financial challenges in West Linn. John explained that most cities get much of their funding from industry, but West Linn is largely residential. He explained about Oregon's cap on how much cities can charge residents in taxes.

John encouraged YAC to contact legislators regarding issues they care about. Jules Walters is now in the House and is already familiar with YAC's work. YAC thanked John for joining them today.

Annamika asked about following up on goal-setting recommendations for Council. Danielle explained that goal-setting had been delayed by the March election, and we'll need to wait for new Councilmembers before following up.

Annamika asked if there was any other business, and Danielle mentioned that some community members had approached Mary from Council regarding a teen lounge. Jake asked about location, and possibly using Waterfront property. Danielle said she believed utilities would be a challenge for that area. Annamika suggested bringing this idea back at the next meeting to gauge interest.

Other Business: Annamika asked if there was any old business to cover. None.

Adjournment: President Annamika adjourned the meeting at 4:50 PM