

Community Task Force on Camping
DRAFT Minutes
Thursday, July 27, 2023 at 2:00pm
Community Room, West Linn Library

Due to technical difficulties, there is no audio or video recording of this meeting

Community Task Force on Camping:

Doug Erickson, Director of Library & Community Services:

Present Task Force Members:

Bayley Bogguss Knutson, just past President of Sunset Neighborhood Association
Vince Miles, VP Bolton Neighborhood Association
Kathy Halicki, Willamette Neighborhood Association President
Robert Jester, Barrington Heights Neighborhood Association President
Scoot Reavley, Senior Pastor New Life Church
Christy Dunham, Bolton resident who lives on Territorial Drive between the two bridges
CJ Koll, Hidden Springs Neighborhood Association President
Bill Monahan, City Attorney
Shatrine Krake, WL Chamber of Commerce
Christopher Beist, Willamette Resident
Attending online was Holly Bartholomew, West Linn Tidings

Absent Task Force Members:

Christy Russell, Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Church (*excused*)
Phil Rees, West Linn Food Pantry (*excused*)

Present West Linn Staff:

Doug Erickson, Community Services and Library Director
Melanie Nelson, Assistant to Library Director & Library Operations Supervisor
Rebecca Mayer, Library Circulation Supervisor
Peter Mahuna, Chief of Police

The group discussed city owned properties indicated on the city map as an “orange/rust” colored areas:

- Space off 1-205 (old rest area) future site of Operations building (currently located on Norfolk in Sunset Neighborhood).
- Police Station
- Yard debris recycling center on Willamette Falls drive: currently leased from PGE

Pastor Scott Reavley with New Life Church asked if it was possible to have 2 or 3 smaller designated spots?

Resident, Mike Willett (attending on Zoom) Police station?

Bayley Bogguss Knutson, Sunset Neighborhood: Has the Task Force included any people who have experienced houselessness?

Doug Erickson & Peter Mahuna reported that the demographics of the houselessness in West Linn are males age 25-65 years old. A few females who are house challenged traditionally (in West Linn) are using their motor vehicles to sleep in.

Christy Dunham shared there will be many challenges in courts to this new law/regulation.

The Task Force agreed to eliminate any city owned property that was not “reasonably accessible” - so properties that are on the top of the hill in West Linn or far away from public transportation.

Regulations state: 7pm to 7am a camping or resting area, must vacate area at 7am.

The Bolton Neighborhood Association addressed City Council with a letter (attached). Please see Bill Monahan, City Attorney notes below.

Upcoming meeting: Thursday, August 10th at 2:00pm, Community Room, West Linn Library
Zoom link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/g06HELpS_mi57F6OGXHK983I8ZOPnaSGXWo6kZHVILeZ9XOfyPUGBXuPH77cqTHY.9agg4mDyXt0Bvs1-

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Nelson
Assistant to the Director/Library Operations Supervisor
07.31.23

July 27, 2023, Camping Meeting from Bill Monahan, City Attorney

Site	Pros	Con	Other details
Barrington Height Site for public works		No access there now	Next to ODOT property (it was previously a rest area, closed after numerous issues).
		Hilly terrain	Overall comment for any site - may need to invest funds to build stairs or make other investments to make suitable
		Difficult for emergency vehicle access	
		Accessibility for someone wanting to camp here is limited	
Barrington – 2 lots off Imperial	Close to road	Next to a stream, close to ravine or canyon	
		Has limited space, blackberries, terrain issues (only limited flat terrain) – not safe	
Barrington sites - overall			Doug and Robert visited each site in this area and did not find any they determined to be suitable – either for emergency services to access a site or for a homeless person to access the site for up to 12 hours to camp.
Several one or two space areas distributed throughout the city	May be able to find sites that are small but serve the purpose for one or two campers	May have issues of policing several sites rather than one	

Site	Pros	Con	Other details
Police station (continued)			Chief Mahuna said if the subcommittee selects this site, he will work with that.
Robinwood Station	One committee member feels only Robinwood Station appears reasonable	Close to the Marylhurst preschool	
	Flat land, close to a driveway, may be able to get 2-3 spaces for camping on flat ground	The building and community garden take much of the land	
		There is a lease agreement with FORS (the terms of that agreement need to be considered)	
		May not be room for up to 5-10 spaces – possibly 3?	
Other sites shown in “rust” color	None were identified as possibilities		
Doug noted that if the identified city controlled sites are exhausted – should the subcommittee look at parks to identify whether any small portion of a park can be used	Upper elevation parks were identified as not being suitable – the subcommittee agreed		

Site	Pros	Con	Other details
	Lower elevation parks could be explored further as the next steps		
		Willamette Falls Park will be under construction for the next year	
		West End Bridge is under construction	
Other issues	Issues raised		
	Bailey noted that the subcommittee does not have a representative who has experienced homelessness – suggested the perspective would be helpful		
	Mike Willett – questioned whether the police station option requires more consideration. He feels this might be the most viable to address citizen concerns, to be monitored, etc.		Doug reviewed the concerns expressed at the initial meeting. There are 17 spaces that serve police needs, etc. It is a safe place where people come to serve divorce decrees, etc. Only one entrance in and out. Police leave quickly 24 hours a day so there could be safety issues. Other social workers have said that people could have issues that are triggered by closeness to police.
			Bailey spoke of the privileged perspective that some have and

Site	Pros	Con	Other details
			that some may not appreciate the lack of shelter, warmth, food, and the economical concerns of those experiencing homelessness.
			Mike responded that he feels the lens should be from the perspective of the citizens of West Linn. He is concerned about the safety of the community – says the issue is mental health and drug use of individuals. He feels the police station has everything someone will need as well as safety.

DRAFT