

Community Task Force on Camping
DRAFT Minutes
Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 2:00pm
Community Room, West Linn Library

Link to video:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/12Q1CK07ktsiYleirf8Z4I3NEdP5T4TmhYhFYLE_8xBUdCJ7vLh22CPid_Hlhez-.k_vsEa4f-nYtGYxl?startTime=1691701163000

Community Task Force on Camping:

Bill Monahan, City of West Linn Attorney
(For Doug Erickson, Director of Library & Community Services)

Present Task Force Members:

Vince Miles, VP Bolton Neighborhood Association
Kathie Halicki, Willamette Neighborhood Association President
Robert Jester, Barrington Heights Neighborhood Association President
Christy Dunham, Bolton resident who lives on Territorial Drive between the two bridges
CJ Koll, Hidden Springs Neighborhood Association President
Bill Monahan, City Attorney
Chris Verbeist, West Linn Food Pantry

Community Member via Zoom:

Beau Genot had no comments

Absent Task Force Members:

Christy Russell, Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Church (*excused*)
Bayley Bogguss Knutson, just past President of Sunset Neighborhood Association (*excused*)
Phil Rees, West Linn Food Pantry (*excused*)
Scott Reavley, Senior Pastor New Life Church(*excused*)
Shatrine Krake, WL Chamber of Commerce(*excused*)
Doug Erickson, Community Services and Library Director(*excused*)

Present West Linn Staff:

Melanie Nelson, Assistant to Library Director & Library Operations Supervisor
Rebecca Mayer, Library Circulation Supervisor
Peter Mahuna, Chief of Police

The task force voted 5:0 to the following steps to identify a property.

1. Have COWL staff identify who owns property along WFD (Odor, PGE or Private) so the task force may look at locations other than the yard debris currently under lease with PGE. The task force would like to discuss this info at the next meeting (8/24). If such info is NOT available, it was agreed to cancel and meet on Sept. 7th. All meetings were moved from 2:00pm to start at 3:00pm.

2. Ask staff that originally worked on year-to-year lease with the PGE and property (yard debris area) to see if the lease may be modified. It was agreed that the best location right now may be yard debris or along WFD in that area.
3. CJ proposed future meetings to 3:00pm. As mentioned above, if staff info isn't ready on 8/24 meeting will be cancelled & next meeting will be 9/7/23 at 3:00pm.

Below, please see additional notes from Bill Monahan:

I informed the subcommittee that I do not have authority to commit staff to undertake tasks but that we would provide you with the direction given so you can discuss with John. The first item refers to all properties on WFD from about 4th Street to the Arch Bridge. The subcommittee would like GIS staff to identify the properties that have frontage, flat cleared land, and perhaps a parking lot. Property ownership information is needed and probably present use. The subcommittee is looking for "pockets" where one or more camping sites might be designated. Of course, the city would need to take the information and negotiate control over the site(s). The group is looking for a 12-24 month arrangement as it thinks that is needed to bridge to when the law is better defined or changed, or funding for another solution is found.

Regarding the PGE leased land, the group would like the city to contact PGE to find out if it is willing to modify the lease to expand the use to allow camping, and possibly to enlarge the area. I emphasized that the public works staff member who made the initial deal is probably the right person to initiate contact. The group expressed a desire to have someone else assist so that the message is conveyed accurately. I noted that would probably be you. So, the group would like to have that process started.

If there is not information to share on August 24 that meeting should be cancelled and moved forward to September 7. CJ is a teacher so a 3 p.m. starting time accommodates his schedule. he also suggested the meetings be set for one hour rather than 90 minutes.

I will add that the group appears to be comfortable having 1-2 parking spaces for autos (and possibly RVs) designated at the Police Station parking lot as well as a similar arrangement at the Library. Chief Mahuna would accept have parking at his property but would like a list of guidelines that someone parking there between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. must adhere to (and probably a similar set for the Library). If 2-4 spaces for campers in vehicles can be defined, the city may only need to designate a couple or few actual camp sites. the group seems to favor having port-a-potties and wash stations provided at least at the camp site.

Upcoming meeting: Thursday, August 24th at 2:00pm, Community Room, West Linn Library

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Nelson
Assistant to the Director/Library Operations Supervisor
08.14.23

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