

## Marylhurst Neighborhood Association October 23, 2018 Meeting Minutes

President Oakes called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm, noting a quorum present with six members and two guests present. With no objections, the Labyrinth Clean-up agenda item was moved to later on agenda to allow presentations first.

**Minutes** of September 25 were not available to approve.

**Treasurer's Report** Treasurer Cathy Boucher reported a balance of \$6519.36. Next month's statement will reflect \$48.44 for plants to beautify Marylhurst Heights sign area. President Oakes thanked her for buying and planting the plants. Boucher suggested investing in mulch, weed barrier and possibly a planter box.

**Presentation of Steel Interstate Coalition Project** West Linn resident Robinson Foster explained the strategy of the project is to ask to look at alternatives in response to HB 2017 that suggests highway tolls. Alternatives are rebuilding railway corridors to decongest highways and foster lower cost/mile than highways; improve the railway system and Willamette Falls Locks; explore land ferry. This is different than high speed trains. Tracks can be used for land ferry and freight trains. November 16, 2018 is the Oregon Transportation Commission vote on tolling. Reopening locks have economic benefits of redevelopment of 111 acres to the west. Tolls just move congestion to city streets.

A member shared positive experience taking the bus to work. Another member asked , how does tolling get decided, what are we doing? Councilor Cummings reported the City has been voicing concern that local streets are not made for by-pass (cut through) traffic.

Willamette Neighborhood Association passed a resolution for Oregon Transportation Committee to learn more about alternatives to tolling and for the state and federal government to allocate funds to Oregon Department of Transportation to conduct business feasibility assessment of them. Mr. Foster asked that MNA consider a resolution and use it as an example. President Oakes suggested continuing discussion at a future meeting.

**Presentation of Small Donor Election Program** Luke Hanst of Oregon Public Research Interest Group (OPRIG) spoke of the disparity of campaign contributions where 422 large donors total \$59 million versus 30,000 small donors total \$2.5 million. Candidates for office have become dependent on large contributions. Supreme Court ruled capping large donations violated free speech. This legislation proposes candidates who agree to accept contributions of \$250 or less see it matched six to one with limited public funds. Candidates must show a wide base of support before being eligible for funds. Portland and Seattle passed similar legislation. It helps grass roots candidates. It's likely to pass Oregon House of Representatives. Senator Peter Courtney is on the fence. Mr. Hanst urged members to contact Senator Rob Wagner and he handed out "Small Donor Elections" about the program and a template letter to a legislator requesting support for the program. See both for details and more information.

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A member asked, where will the state find the money? Answer: about 1% of the budget. Is there a cap on how much money the state would pay? Answer: not now, but it is a good idea.

**Marylhurst Neighborhood Plan Policy for Sidewalks** City Council wants each neighborhood association to consider its plan for sidewalks. President Oakes explained neighborhoods may want to specify where to locate sidewalks and not want infill and redevelopment be required to build “sidewalks to nowhere” in areas without existing sidewalks, in order to fit in with the neighborhood. Members reviewed the transportation section of the Marylhurst Neighborhood Plan. Policy #4 is “Develop and maintain safe and convenient places for pedestrians, including sidewalks and paths.” The question is whether to amend it. One member suggested action item #2 “Work with the City to establish a list of prioritized needed sidewalks.” President Oakes suggested forming a committee.

**Election of MNA officers** Postponed due to lack of candidates.

**Labyrinth Clean-up Report** Rand New was the only MNA member to show up to weed and he is planning to do it again this Saturday. President Oakes thanked him and asked members to join him. Member Cary Cummings offered to look into a more permanent material to replace the faded green plastic on the labyrinth sign.

**City and community announcements** City mailings to MNA were available for members to read.

MNA will not meet in November and December unless needed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.