

# WEST LINN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS MEETING NOTES

Thursday, September 17, 2020

7:00 PM – Via Zoom Video Conference

## Attendees:

Ed Schwarz, President Savanna Oaks NA and NAP Chair	Kathie Halicki, President, Willamette NA
Karie Oakes, President, Marylhurst NA & NAP Vice-Chair	Julia Simpson – Vice President, Willamette NA
Abby Farber, President, Rosemont Summit NA & NAP Secretary	Lauren Beeney, President, Hidden Springs NA CJ Koll, Vice President, Hidden Springs NA
Robert Jester, President, Barrington Heights, Hidden Creek Estates & Tanner Woods Subdivisions NA	Richard Sakelik, City Councilor & NAP Liaison
Robert McCarthy, President, Bolton NA	Jerry Gabrielatos, City Manager John Williams, Assistant City Manager

1. **Call to Order** - The Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by NAP Chair Ed Schwarz. Brief introductions of participants were made.
2. **Approve Agenda** –An additional agenda item, the introduction of the new City Manager, Jerry Gabrielatos, was added to the agenda. A motion was made to approve the proposed agenda with that addition. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
3. **Approval of Meeting Notes** – Suggestions were made to the draft notes from the July 2020 meeting, A motion was made and seconded to approve the amended notes for that meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.
4. **Community Comments** - There were no community comments.
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
  - a. **City Manager Jerry Gabrielatos** introduced himself and noted that he feels that communities work best when people from both neighborhoods and City staff are active and involved. He is working to attend all the NA meetings, and all the NA presidents welcomed him and invited him to attend their monthly meetings.
  - b. **City Code and Temporary Signs.** Ed Schwarz screen-shared the pamphlet from the City that details the rules for posting political/temporary signs. The pamphlet was reviewed in detail. John Williams noted that if people see a sign they feel is out of compliance, that the individual should not remove the sign themselves but instead call Code Enforcement, who will remove the sign and store it in the basement of City Hall. John also noted that the sign ordinance applies to all signs, not just political ones.

Chair – Ed Schwarz (Savanna Oaks) | Vice Chair – Karie Oakes (Marylhurst) | Secretary – Abby Farber Rosemont Summit)

Email: [neighborhoodassociations@westlinnoregon.gov](mailto:neighborhoodassociations@westlinnoregon.gov)

Web: <https://westlinnoregon.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhood-association-presidents-group-home>

# WEST LINN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS MEETING NOTES

Thursday, September 17, 2020

7:00 PM – Via Zoom Video Conference

- c. **Political Activities by NA officers – what's OK, what isn't.** Ed noted that there were a couple of areas to discuss. One – candidate endorsements by NA officers – these are allowed but unless the NA has voted to endorse a candidate, the endorsement has to be by the individual officer and indicate that the title used is for identification purposes only. The second issue is that of inviting candidates for office to speak at an NA meeting. There is no formal opinion from the City Attorney on this, however it seems to be the opinion of City Hall staff and NA presidents that each NA is not under obligation to invite candidates to speak. However, this opinion is not legal advice.
- d. **West Linn Post Office:** Bob McCarthy noted that the BNA has been active with various elected officials to get them to weigh in on the issue. It's not clear how long Gramor is going to stay engaged in allowing the PO to stay – as of the September meeting the lease was extended through February. John Williams noted that the PO really wants combined facilities (retail as well as sorting) and doesn't want to commit to something that would result in higher cost. The PO has told John that there will be some kind of facility in West Linn; Bob McCarthy noted that it seems that there's a continuing delay. Richard Sakelik noted that there probably won't be any changes or move forward until after the November elections.

e. **Emergency Preparedness and Updates on Wildfires.**

**(note that this discussion took place during the wildfire emergency when portions of Clackamas County were under evacuation orders, West Linn issued an emergency declaration and air quality was hazardous.)**

John Williams reported that the City based its emergency declaration on that of Lake Oswego's. Outdoor burning, use of all grills, fire pits and outdoor smoking was banned. He noted that while the City Manager could make the declaration, that the City Council has power to revise it. City staff focused on education – letting people know if they were engaging in prohibited activities – instead of enforcement and fining people. Abby Farber asked about the loss of emergency service communication. John said that a fire had taken down a power pole that had a link between Oregon City and West Linn. The City technology staff are looking at backup systems to prevent this from happening again. Robert Jester asked that city staff also update their voice mail messages so instead of just hearing that a staff member is "out", have a message about who else to call. Both Jerry and John agreed that this is a good suggestion.

6. **Other Items of Interest**

- a. **Update on CCI Activity** – Ed Schwarz reported on the CCI meeting of August 25, which was a review and recommendation of the Citizen Vision goals. The original goals, from 2003, were updated in 2018; These goals will be submitted to City Council; a hearing may occur as well.

# WEST LINN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS MEETING NOTES

Thursday, September 17, 2020

7:00 PM – Via Zoom Video Conference

- b. **City Council Update** – Councilor Sakelik discussed issues including the selection of a firm to do the Diversity and Equity audit. The council voted to approve street widths of 28 feet. The Police Accountability and Oversight Task Force will have its first meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## 7. Neighborhood Updates

**Savanna Oaks** – Invited all candidates to a candidate forum; all but 2 candidates attended, and the NA is very pleased with the turnout. The White Oak Savanna Park is currently closed due to the wildfire emergency and COVID-19.

**Barrington Heights, Hidden Creek Estates & Tanner Woods Subdivisions** – is going to have their annual meeting in October.

**Bolton** – This NA meets every month; last month's meeting was hearing from candidates. The major issue they have is struggling with the planning commission over the timing of submitting comments and difficulty of NA officers to keep abreast of changes and demands. The NA is speaking with the City Manager to ensure that the NA opinions can be expressed.

**Hidden Springs** – Had their first Zoom meeting last month. CJ Koll chaired the meeting, which had a fairly good turnout. The NA voted to fund three park benches. They are going to meet again in October to hear from local candidates.

**Marylhurst** – had a meeting in August – the major issue is the possible construction of a 160 foot communications tower on Captain street, on property owned by ODOT. Residents of the area are very concerned, as it is very close to homes and could prove a hazard if it fell. The City Attorney is exploring annexing the property to put it in the City's jurisdiction. The NA sent a resolution to support annexing and purchasing the property as it appears in the City's Master Plan. The NA will stay on top of this issue.

**Rosemont Summit** has held a candidate forum and will be holding another in October. All candidates were invited to speak.

**Willamette** – The Food Pantry is seeing unprecedented need, with cars lined up for people to pick up food. Kathie encouraged everyone to drop off donations. The Pantry will accept many different kinds of items including food, persona hygiene products, cleaning products, and book and toys. The NA had its very first Zoom meeting – all candidates but 3 attended and it went very well. Kathie gave an update on the construction work on Willamette Falls Drive.

**Parker Crest, Robinwood, Sunset, Skyline Ridge** – not present.

- 8. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be on November 19, 2020.
- 9. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM by Chair Ed Schwarz.

Chair – Ed Schwarz (Savanna Oaks) | Vice Chair – Karie Oakes (Marylhurst) | Secretary – Abby Farber Rosemont Summit)

Email: [neighborhoodassociations@westlinnoregon.gov](mailto:neighborhoodassociations@westlinnoregon.gov)

Web: <https://westlinnoregon.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhood-association-presidents-group-home>