

# WEST LINN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS MEETING- NOTES

July 15, 2021

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	CJ Koll, President Hidden Springs NA
Abby Farber, President, Rosemont Summit NA & NAP Secretary	Robert Jester, President, Barrington Heights, Hidden Creek Estates, & Tanner Woods Subdivisions NA
Bob McCarthy, President, Bolton NA	Other Guests: Mayor Jules Walters, Dylan Digby, Assistant to the City Manager

1. **Call to Order** - The Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by NAP Chair Ed Schwarz. A quorum of members was present.
2. **Approve Agenda** – A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
3. **Approval of Meeting Notes** – The notes for the March 2021 meeting were approved. The notes for the May 2021 meeting were unavailable; the NAP Secretary Abby Farber reported that she was unable to find them.
4. **Community Comments** - There were no community comments.
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - a. **Discussion on whether to switch to in-person meetings.** Members discussed whether the NAP should resume holding in-person meetings. Several remarks included: people prefer using Zoom as they don't have to travel; health concerns were still an issue. One member asked if more people would attend if the meetings were in person again; Ed Schwarz noted that the Zoom attendance and in-person attendance were about the same. The group decided to keep the meetings as Zoom sessions for the immediate future.
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. **City Council Goals:** Mayor Jules Walters did an in-depth presentation on the City Council final goals (and shared this link to the goals on the City's web page:  
[https://westlinnoregon.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/city\\_council/page/53317/2021\\_council\\_goals\\_final.pdf](https://westlinnoregon.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/city_council/page/53317/2021_council_goals_final.pdf)

The Mayor noted that the issues of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) had not been in the goals prior to her being on Council. She's now working with staff to ensure that DEI efforts

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are being incorporated into all work done by the City. She and other Councilors are also continuing to work to obtain stakeholder feedback and reach people who don't usually engage in this work. Building Bridges, another organization focused on bringing in voices of BIPOC people, suggested using different methods to reach people – PTA/PTO groups, ally groups, the West Linn Alliance for Inclusive Community; as well as using means besides the NAs to connect such as picnics, public events, and door-to-door canvassing. Bob McCarthy noted that they are trying to do the same thing with the Bolton NA, such as holding an ice cream social.

Mayor Walters also discussed making West Linn affordable and accessible to all, including safety, ease of movement and transportation. She noted that many transportation-related projects were getting under way, such as the Metro bill, the I-205 projects and construction in the Rose Quarter. Things are starting to move quickly and it's vital that West Linn's issues be closely considered. Robert Jester noted that there was little information about connectivity from "upper" West Linn to the "lower" part of the city – especially down to the Tenth Street exit. Bob McCarthy also noted paving issues on Route 43 in several areas. Mayor Walters noted that ODOT has made Route 43 an "orphan" highway, much like 82<sup>nd</sup> street in Portland. Portland City Councilor Joann Hardesty is pushing for ODOT to take responsibility for these ODOT roads that used to be taken care of by the State and the cities don't have the resources to fix them. Karie Oakes suggested getting Lake Oswego involved since 43 also goes through that town.

Mayor Walters next discussed recreational opportunities such as making the Willamette River more accessible, as well as adding spaces for indoor recreation that could also be used to handle emergency situations and community gatherings. While there is nothing concrete beyond existing facilities, this topic is of great interest to the community and the Council.

The next goal the mayor presented was that of the Community Development Code as well as House Bills 2001 and 2003 which promote accessible and affordable housing. West Linn is in the process of amending its Codes so that so that it is definitive and clear. The CCI has a role to play in this and the vacancies have finally been filled. During this an examination of civic infrastructure needs as well as a public works facility needs to be done. A discussion of an alternative site for the public works facility ensued; nothing is certain yet. Additional information was included about water infrastructure, water main improvement process, a repair to the Abernathy bridge, was presented.

The next goal was Sustainable and healthy environment. The Mayor noted that most everyone agrees that Climate Change is real and that the effects (the February storm and the summer Wildfires) are also real. The City is in receipt of applications for the new Emergency Manager position. The Transportation Advisory Board is calling for multi-modal,

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intercity shuttle options, sidewalks, and bike lanes. The city also wants to build out the fleet of electric vehicles and received a grant from PGE for additional charging stations. The mayor noted that the Sustainability Advisory Board is doing a wonderful job and has collaborated with other members of the county. Goals include more LEED-certified buildings, protecting the wetlands, respecting wildlife, respecting the indigenous history and culture of the waterfront.

- b. **Questions after the Mayor's presentation** included why the fees for garbage removal increased (according to the Mayor, the fees charged by the service provider increased. Another question was about the costs of replacing sidewalks and trees due to the storm damage – the Mayor said there was not a final figure but \$1M is the current estimate. Ed Schwarz also asked for confirmation on who was the Council liaison to the NAP (it is still Councilor Relyea.) Karie Oakes asked for clarification on the staff added during the latest budget process (2 park maintenance workers, an Emergency Coordinator, and a business development position. Ms. Oakes also asked if the City was still working with Michael Fesser – the Mayor responded yes, as well as the Building Bridges group. The Mayor also noted that on Juneteenth the City did a proclamation; due to Covid there could be no celebration, but they are hoping to do a Pride parade next year and a celebration of Juneteenth.

## 7. Other Items of interest.

- a. The last NAP elections were a year ago in July; Kathie Halicki pointed out that we were going to discuss this during the September meeting, and to table the item. Which we did.
- b. **CCI** – has not met in June, new positions were filled.
- c. **Other items of interest from NAP members:** Stipends from the city should be (or have) appeared in the NAs' bank accounts. Parker Crest did not receive one as it did not hold any meetings. The NAs should have received an email re Oppenlander Field. Kathy Halicki noted that the WPGA golf tournament would be happening in September and expressed concern about the impact on traffic. Dylan Digby noted that the promoters were going through Clackamas County for permits, and that the City has asked for traffic control. CJ Koll noted that many years ago another golf tournament occurred and that it might be useful to find out what traffic control options were used.
- d. **Update from City Council Liaison** – Councilor Relyea was not in attendance.

## 8. Neighborhood Updates

- a. **BHT** – Robert Jester noted that their secretary had resigned. The NA is holding its annual meeting and elections in September and will replace her then. The NA has continued interest in how they can partner as a NA or HOA with storm damage repairs. BHT is also

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interested in a multi-purpose pathway from Salamo to the bottom of the hill. He appreciated that the Mayor and Dylan Digby were listening to this.

- b. **Bolton** – Will have officer elections in November. Bob McCarthy invited anyone interested in the work reconfiguring 205 to speak to him. The NA will hold an ice cream social on 7/16 at Hammerle Park; Bob will let us know how it worked out.
- c. **Hidden Springs** – CJ Koll noted that members of the NA were working diligently to clean up green spaces and develop a plan with Ken Warner of the Parks Department. The NA had a planning session on June 24<sup>th</sup> (during 100-degree weather) and filled up the city's dumpster with debris. A SOLVE event was to be held on July 25<sup>th</sup> at the Appaloosa Green Space behind the Horton Reservoir. In August they plan to do a community walk from Sunburst to Palomino to get more neighbors involved and meet people.
- d. **Marylhurst** – Karie Oakes noted that they did not have a quorum at their last meeting so instead had an informal discussion including old business and the loss of the NA treasurer who moved. CJ Koll asked if the plan to annex the property where the communications tower was planned was under way; Karie noted that the tower would not be happening and that the City did annex the property.
- e. **Rosemont Summit** – Abby Farber noted that the NA had contracted with the Northwest Youth Corps to conduct work to eliminate ivy and other invasive plants. SOLVE events at Sahallie Illahee Park continue, and the NA has paid for additional park benches to be added to the space.
- f. **Willamette** – Kathie noted that the NA had their first in-person meeting and that City Manager Jerry Gabrielatos attended. She noted that items of discussion were the Willamette Falls drive plan, the Dollar Street school, the abandoned gas station which might be used for a bar and food carts. She noted that the Food Bank was in need of fresh produce, as the supplier had stopped making donations. CJ Koll asked about the Dollar Street school; Karie noted that it was with the Planning Commission and that long meetings combined with incorrect Geotech reports were making it difficult for the public to stay for the entire meeting.
- g. **Savanna Oaks** – Ed Schwarz noted that storm cleanup is ongoing and that multiple dumpsters were filled with debris. The NA also hired the Northwest Youth Corp to cut high grasses and provide fire mitigation. Paths to all the benches were cleared as well. All this work was paid for by donations including a woman from Mary's Woods who gave \$2,000. The NA shared some of the cost of mowing the lower meadow with the City; they hope that the City can pay for it in full in the future. Kathie Halicki noted receiving calls about weeds

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on a property across the street from the park; Ed noted that this has been an ongoing problem.

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

**8. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM by Chair Ed Schwarz.

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