

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 2, 2025
To: West Linn Historic Review Board
From: Rory Bialostosky, Mayor
Subject: Historic Review Board 2025-27 Priorities and Work Plan

As part of our effort to maintain greater communication with our community advisory boards, the City Council would like to share with you the Council Priorities for 2025-27 (attached) that align with a work plan we are providing to each of the community advisory groups. Council wants to ensure that limited City and volunteer resources remained focused on the primary goals of the Council and delivering quality core municipal services. The City's Municipal Code section 2.020(2) provides these workplans as a way for Council to provide direction and focused alignment on the city's priorities. We believe these work plans are a positive step in this direction and hope that you find it helpful in your efforts in influencing policy for the City.

We also want to take time to emphasize our overarching goal of belonging and reaching out to the community. Community advisory groups are a key part of connecting with our community and we greatly value the role you play in this. We hope the HRB to find new ways to engage and involve a broad range of community members in the important work that you do and considers ensuring belonging and inclusivity in all the work that you do.

The mission of the Historic Review Board is to identify, preserve, and protect the integrity of West Linn historic resources.

Based on your annual report we received from your group and in furtherance of the Council's adopted Priorities, the Council would like the HRB to focus attention on the following work this year:

1. Review Historic Land Use Applications

Evaluate historic land use planning applications as needed, in accordance with Chapters 25 and 58 of the West Linn Community Development Code.

2. Fulfill Duties of a Historic Landmarks Commission as required by the City's 2007 Certified Local Government including providing meaningful public participation for all nominations to the National Register of Historic Places originating within the City and making recommendations to the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation.

3. Guide and review the Historic Home Evaluation of the Robinwood Neighborhood.

4. Provide support for documenting the West Linn Paper Mill history by assisting organizations and stakeholders to collect historical information, records, and photographs.

5. Identify Historic Preservation Projects and Grant Opportunities

Identify potential historic preservation projects and relevant grant opportunities for consideration by the City Council.

6. Advise on Wayfinding and Branding Initiatives

Provide recommendations to the City Council on the City's wayfinding and branding initiative, with a focus on enhancing connections between historic landmarks and integrating local historic narratives.

7. Support Waterfront and Vision43 Planning Efforts

8. Work to improve diversity, equity, inclusivity and belonging in the community and consider recommendations and actions through an equity lens*

*denotes a direct 2025-27 Council Priority

If something arises during the year that you believe necessitates a change to this work plan, please feel free to have your chair forward your request to the Council in writing for our consideration and we will provide you with feedback. CAGs may request funding or sponsorship for events, activities, or programs not specifically listed in this workplan through their Council liaison or by providing a request in writing.

As always, a heartfelt thank you for your dedicated service to West Linn,

Mayor Bialostosky



2025-2027 West Linn City Council Priorities

These critical community topics are those that the West Linn City Council intends to focus its time on over the 30-month time span from January 2025 to December 2027. The list will also be used to define Community Advisory Group (CAG) priorities and will be considered when developing, adopting, and implementing the City's 2026-2027 budget. Priorities may be amended or modified by Council in the future as needed. The items are not listed in a priority order.

Transportation Safety and Funding

Strategies

- Safety: assess, prioritize, and find funding for needed safety projects city-wide.
- Tolling: lobby against tolling of I-205 unless it is part of a regional program. Lobby for mitigation of community impacts from tolling.
- Transit: advocate for transit improvements within West Linn as well as connections to area transit providers. Consider senior, teen, worker, tolling diversion, and last mile services.
- Highway 43: Advocate for needed repairs and more significant improvements to state-owned Highway 43 and investigate the possibility of transfer along with improvements.

Council Role

- Work with state legislators, ODOT, and surrounding jurisdictions to ensure any tolling plans are less impactful to individual communities, provide sufficient mitigation measures for diversion traffic, and address equity concerns.
- Advocate for traffic safety and road maintenance funding stabilization and enhancement, including lobbying ODOT/State Legislature regarding Highway 43.
- Direction to CAGs and decision-making on local funding and project options, including Safe Routes to School projects.

Community Advisory Group Roles

- TAB to review staff recommendations on West Linn pedestrian and traffic safety needs and potential funding sources, provide recommendation to Council.

(Refer to end of document for list of Community Advisory Groups + acronyms)

Explore Feasibility of Indoor Recreation/Community Center

Strategies

- Continue to explore creation of a new indoor recreation and civic center to serve a wide variety of ages, community needs, and recreation interests.
- Outstanding community and stakeholder involvement to ensure decisions are grounded in community perspectives.

- Explore partnerships that can reduce cost impact to taxpayers and ensure financially sustainable operations in the long term.

Council Role

- Leadership role in community engagement and outreach to potential financial and operational partners.
- Continue to work with Indoor Recreation Center Task Force and other stakeholders to assist with planning and advocate for a potential ballot measure.
- Direction to CAGs and decision-making on partnership and funding options.

Community Advisory Group Roles

- PRAB representation on Indoor Recreation Center Task Force; SAB role in advising on sustainability features of facility (future project phase); YAC general involvement.

Clarify Community Advisory Group Work Programs

Strategies

- Provide clear direction to CAGs in accordance with West Linn Municipal Code.

Council Role

- Meet with CAGs periodically to agree on work programs, which should focus on Council Priorities and items within the adopted City budget.
- Individual Councilors serve as liaisons to individual CAGs, as provided for in the West Linn Municipal Code. Council utilizes CAG report form to assist.
- Consider eliminating PSAB due to overlap with Police Review & Recommend Committee.

Community Advisory Group Roles

- Implement work programs developed by Council.
- Develop proposals for Council consideration in annual work programs.

Fund Drinking Water System Capital Needs

Strategies

- Ensure continued maintenance and operation of the City's drinking water system at the highest possible level.

Council Role

- Continue to advocate for funding of the Abernethy Bridge water transmission main as well as any other water mains affected by I-205 construction. Lobby ODOT and State Legislature for fair funding of project.
- Communicate value of clean drinking water.
- Decision-making on rates and project funding.

Community Advisory Group Roles

- UAB to review water system needs against funding resources following adoption of the Water Master Plan and recommend any needed funding changes to Council.
- SAB and UAB to consider conservation pricing options and make recommendations to Council.

West Linn Waterfront Vision

Strategies

- Complete Waterfront Vision Plan to move towards creation of a world class destination for people to work, live, and play.
- Strengthen and sustain visioning and implementation partnerships with tribal communities.
- Explore recreational, historical, environmental, and educational tourism opportunities with community partners.
- Following adoption of vision, carry through implementation measures including zoning, work with property owners, and planning for infrastructure improvements.
- Complete renovation of Historic City Hall building into Museum and Cultural Center.

Council Role

- Leadership in partnering with tribal entities.
- Work with property owners on future of Blue Heron Mill Pond site and entire waterfront area.
- Research potential return of Willamette Meteorite.
- Decision-making on project and clear direction to CAGs.

Community Advisory Group Roles

- PC advisory and formal recommendation on adoption to Council.
- Consultant team and staff to involve HRB, SAB, TAB, ACC, EDC, YAC, PRAB as needed to provide recommendations on specific elements.

VISION43 Project

Strategies

- Adopt Master Plan vision to revitalize the Highway 43 corridor, creating a sense of place and local identity, ensuring safe crossings, promoting vibrant commerce, and enhancing pedestrian and neighborhood connections.
- Following adoption of VISION43, carry out implementation measures including a Tax Increment Financing feasibility study and an assessment of city-owned properties in the corridor including Bolton Station.
- Prioritize and work to fund infrastructure improvements such as crosswalks throughout the corridor.
- Ongoing engagement and outreach with neighborhood associations, residents, and commercial property owners.

Council Role

- Policy direction and Councilor liaison involvement with VISION43 project.
- Ensure extensive community involvement in the VISION43 process and attend neighborhood association meetings to discuss.
- Consider Tax Increment Finance District as a funding source for revitalization in Hwy 43 area.
- Decision-making on project.

Community Advisory Group Roles

- PC advisory and formal recommendation on adoption to Council.
- Consultant and staff to involve EDC, CCI, TAB, PRAB, SAB, and YAC as needed to provide recommendations on specific elements.

Environmental Protection & Sustainable City Operations

Strategies

- Develop and prioritize list of highest impact sustainability measures with consultant assistance, based on cost and staff capacity for implementation.
- Consider grant funding to implement more complex projects.
- Consider sustainability measures, balanced with cost implications, in any new public buildings.

Council Role

- Review past building sustainability certification policy and provide direction prior to construction of new Operations building.
- Work with local business owners to encourage installation of EV charging stations.
- Direct staff to review policies related to alternative fuel, electric, and hybrid vehicles including a cost/benefit analysis for future purchases.
- Clear direction to SAB and PRAB on priorities and work program.

Community Advisory Group Roles

- SAB advice to Council on high-impact projects, with consultant assistance.
- SAB and PRAB to recommend ways to reduce gas powered equipment use in West Linn (e.g. electric equipment incentives) and find funding for this work.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

Strategies

- Prioritize diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging as the heart of our work as a city. Our core values of inclusivity, collaboration, and accountability steer our actions, interactions, decisions, and policymaking to build an engaged and welcoming workplace, community, and a cohesive city.
- Increase access and opportunities for the West Linn community to feel welcome, educated, and engaged with the City.
- Intentional and meaningful engagement and collaboration with tribal communities.

Council Role

- Leadership in improving accessibility to the community to participate in community advisory groups and neighborhood associations through education, outreach, feedback loops, and creative solutions.
- Provide and participate in educational opportunities with the Council and community.

Community Advisory Group Role

- All CAGs hold a role in improving DEIB throughout the organization and community and should be considering their recommendations and actions through an equity lens.
- Participate in educational opportunities on DEIB topics both personally and as provided by the City.

Construct New City Operations Facility

Strategies

- Complete design and cost estimates for Salamo Road city-owned property.
- Fund project and construct project.
- Clear communication with community on rationale, funding, and timeline.
- Assessment of next steps for current City operations property following move out.

Council Role

- Provide direction on balance of cost with other considerations including long-term facility sizing, environmental sustainability, building amenities, and resiliency.
- Leadership on community outreach in support of the facility's construction.
- Adopting budget inclusive of the project.
- Decision-making and clear direction to CAGs.

Community Advisory Group Role

- SAB advice on sustainability elements.
- UAB consideration of rate and project impacts.
- PC decision-making on development review application prior to construction.

All priorities will involve extensive community engagement and involvement, including efforts to reach those not typically involved with city government. Priorities may also require evaluation of additional revenue resources by Council.

Community Advisory Groups

ACC = Arts and Culture Commission

CCI = Committee for Community Involvement

EDC = Economic Development Committee

HRB = Historic Review Board

PC = Planning Commission

PRAB = Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

PRR = Police Review and Recommend Committee

SAB = Sustainability Advisory Board

TAB = Transportation Advisory Board

UAB = Utility Advisory Board

YAC = Youth Advisory Council