

Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association Meeting

May 3rd, 2022

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Ed Schwarz at 7:03 pm. There were thirteen SONA members present in total for some part of the meeting. Three members were not present when the vote was taken to approve SONA support of a letter Neighborhood Association Presidents to the City Council. This left a quorum of ten members. Thirteen were present to approve the Minutes. This online meeting and agenda were posted on the City of West Linn's website and reminders were sent to members.

The Minutes from the March 1st SONA meeting were read, and one correction was made in number 2 of New Business about possible emergency supplies that are suggested for Emergency Preparedness. The Minutes were then approved by members with twelve ayes, zero no, and one abstain votes. The person who abstained said that he had not read the Minutes so he could not vote.

SONA Treasurer, Patrick McGuire, reported via email that the current SONA balance is \$5,827.14,

Old Business:

An update was given by Roberta Schwarz on the White Oak Savanna. Photos were shared of the Camassia which are now in bloom in the Savanna and of the work recently done by CHRZ Contractors to move boulders and large rocks to areas where they would not be in the way of the tractors for future mowing of the Savanna meadows. Information on the continuing research work on several various species of Oak Galls by Ph.D. students from S.U.N.Y. was also updated.

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day will be on May 7th. A packet of information on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness which included comprehensive information on Clackamas County, West Linn, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, and Red Cross emergency resources that was given via a Power Point Presentation by Lori C. at the March 1st SONA meeting was sent to all members with emails on file with the Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association. A heartfelt "Thank You" was given to Lori and Frank C. for their hours of work compiling this important information for SONA.

New Business:

1. Ed Schwarz updated the members about a 24 home Planned Unit Development proposal at the corner of Bland Cir. and Weatherhill Rd. He attended a pre-application meeting on this development. The developers will make a presentation at a future SONA meeting. They are tentatively scheduled for the July 5th meeting.
2. A discussion and vote were completed to approve SONA support of the letter (attached) from the Neighborhood Association Presidents to the City Council. This letter seeks to improve the working relationship between NAs and the city. The vote was unanimous with ten ayes, zero no, and zero abstain votes. The letter will be sent to the City Council showing the approval of the SONA members. The SONA President, Ed Schwarz, approved the letter along with other NA Presidents at the most recent Neighborhood Association Presidents meeting.

Next Meeting:

Ed Schwarz stated that the next Savanna Oaks NA meeting will be held on July 5, 2022 at 7 pm and will be a virtual meeting via Zoom.

Ed Schwarz, seeing no further business, adjourned the meeting at 8:14 pm.

Toward a More Effective Working Relationship: West Linn City Government and NA's

Overview

The West Linn Neighborhood Associations exist to facilitate and improve communications to and from the city and its leadership, facilitate healthy active neighborhood connections and to make it easy for residents to become engaged in the planning and policy making of the city ... all to improve the livability, character, and quality of life in West Linn.

"The City of West Linn encourages, recognizes and supports Neighborhood Associations (NAs) which are organized under provision of Chapter 2 of the West Linn Municipal Code." Each succeeding City Council reiterates their support for NAs.

However, city departments do not reflect this support when they operate independently in neighborhoods without involving the NA. This is a long standing pattern. It suggests that city staff are ambivalent about NAs, involving them only when they absolutely must and not as partners in a common effort.

A clear statement of intention by the City Council requiring early, effective and **continued involvement** of NAs would transform this ambiguous relationship into one of collaboration and shared effort.

Effective early involvement is one that seeks to listen and incorporate NA perspectives into the City plans. This will lead to more creative solutions and swifter implementation. Whereas failing to involve the NA encourages resistance, frustration and delays. Joint effort and ongoing communication serves the City.

NA/City Departments Working Relationship

To improve communication, transparency and collaboration between the City and NAs, the City Council directs the City Manager to ensure that city staff will involve NAs early in the planning and ongoing implementation of all projects that will affect their respective neighborhoods. These projects can range from the redesign of equipment in parks, before contracts are signed and before work begins, to major capital projects including streets and other facilities.

The intent is to encourage **ongoing collaboration** between city departments and NAs. The City Manager will report how these actions are implemented.