

# **Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association Meeting**

## **May 2, 2023**

---

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by President Richard Sakelik at 7:02 p.m. There were 20 SONA members present at the onset of the meeting. This met the quorum requirement of a minimum of ten members to approve the SONA agenda and minutes. In addition, there were three guests from the community in attendance. SONA's online meeting announcement and agenda were posted to the City of West Linn's website and email reminders were sent to members.

### **Minutes:**

A motion was made by Ed Schwarz and seconded by Henry Achar to approve the minutes from March 7, 2023 meeting. No changes were proposed. The motion passed with unanimously.

### **Agenda:**

Roberta Schwarz requested that there be discussion and possible adoption of a resolution to remove the White Oak Savanna from the list of potential West Linn parks where pickleball courts could be placed. President Sakelik agreed this issue could be added to the current agenda as the first discussion item under New Business. Roberta moved that a new item be added to the agenda under New Business to allow discussion for a resolution that advocates for the removal of the White Oak Savanna from the Parks and Recreation Department's list of parks being considered for pickleball courts. Kimberly Shettler seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

As of May 1, 2023 the balance in the SONA account is \$6572.56. The only expenses since the last meeting are for Zoom meeting costs.

At the request of Pacific West Bank, the following needs to be inserted into the SONA's minutes so that changes may be made for those with signature authority on SONA's account: Treasurer Frank Carini stated, "On our account at Pacific West Bank, we will be removing the previous officers; Ed Schwarz and Patrick McGuire. We will add our new President, Richard Sakelik. Frank Carini, Treasurer, has already been added to the account."

### **Community Comments:**

SONA President Richard Sakelik welcomed mayoral candidates, Rory Bialostosky and William Relyea along with four new neighborhood members in attendance and three additional guests. President Sakelik also mentioned the new SONA meeting signs placed throughout the neighborhood to increase awareness of our neighborhood association.

### **Mayoral Candidate Forum**

Since a special session for a City Council meeting was also scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup>, President Sakelik determined mayoral candidate Rory Bialostosky could be the first to introduce himself and answer questions from the audience during the first 30 minutes of the meeting. This would enable Bialostosky time to attend the City Council's meeting.

After a brief introduction and statement about his qualifications for office, candidate Bialostosky addressed questions from the audience which included pickleball courts, public camping, I-205 tolling impacts, legal issues related to public records requests, Oppenlander Field litigation and the recent slate of car break-ins.

Mayoral candidate William Relyea also provided a brief introduction which included his qualifications for the office of mayor. Relyea addressed similar questions previously posed from the audience.

## **NEW Business**

### **A. SONA discussion on the following topics:**

#### **i. Potential Pickleball Courts in White Oak Savanna**

Discussion centered on the West Linn Parks and Recreation's list of potential sites for pickleball courts. The White Oak Savanna was among those parks identified. Members expressed numerous concerns and a resolution was proposed stating specific reasons why pickleball courts should not be placed in the White Oak Savanna. A motion was made to adopt the attached resolution by Ed Schwarz and seconded by Rich Faith. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **ii. Social with Willamette Neighborhood Association**

Members discussed the possibility of a neighborhood outreach event for later in the summer. An ice cream social was the favored volunteer activity. There is a possibility of coordinating this event with the adjacent Willamette Neighborhood Association. Suggestions for venues included Willamette Park and the White Oak Savanna. Various ideas for an ice cream truck, kid friendly activities, and an information booth were also considered.

#### **iii. Working Group**

Lori Carini suggested that SONA schedule a work session to further discuss the following issues: the logistics for a summer social event, the possibility of social media expansion, and other means for increasing membership and neighborhood awareness of SONA. President Sakelik asked if any members would be interested in attending a work session and two members responded that they would. The date for the work session will be determined within the next month. Work session results, related research, and recommendations would be reported at the next regular SONA meeting before any final actions could be decided upon.

#### **iv. Tolling – SB 933 Support**

President Sakelik reported discussion on this issue should be delayed due to Governor Kotek's recent decision to pause for two years the current I-205 tolling plan. He recommended SONA could resume discussions when new tolling issues/plans were revealed.

#### **v. Utilization of Funds in SONA Account**

Discussion centered on future expenditures that would benefit SONA and the neighborhood in general. Some members suggested donations to local charities; however, SONA is restricted on contributions to non-profits. Others advocated for purchasing emergency preparedness equipment such as an AED, solar powered radios, or solar powered rechargers for cell phones to be used should an emergency arise. The purchase of additional signage to advertise meetings and aid in disseminating SONA information was also recommended.

#### **vi. SONA postcard**

President Sakelik showed online an example of the SONA postcard which should be mailed out by the city in the next few weeks. It will be sent to residents living within the SONA boundaries. The postcard highlighted the purpose and activities of the NA and provided a QR code to direct people to the City of West Linn's website for additional information on SONA's webpage.

## **Old Business**

### **Update on the White Oak Savanna**

Ed Schwarz reported that 15 volunteers participated in removing blackberry starts in the White Oak Savanna on Earth Day, April 22, 2023. SOLVE helped coordinate this volunteer event. Ed shared some photographs of volunteers working that day and seven of the volunteers were from Reed College's SEEDS group.

President Sakelik reported that Ken Warner, Parks and Recreation Director, confirmed with him via email that this year's mowing costs (up to \$1500) would be paid for by the city. Sakelik confirmed with Roberta Schwarz that she could continue coordinating with the contractors used previously to do this and assist in getting the invoice to Ken Warner for payment.

Mowing in the White Oak Savanna will be slated sometime later in July.

### **Next Meeting:**

Richard Sakelik stated that the next Savanna Oaks NA meeting will be held on July 11, 2023 as a virtual meeting via Zoom.

Rich Sakelik, seeing no further business, adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Submitted by Lori Carini, SONA Secretary

Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association

May 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS** the members of the Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association reviewed the April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, City Council's Work Session discussion of potentially developing an additional pickleball court in West Linn and their Agenda Report listed the White Oak Savanna as a potential site; and

**WHEREAS** the 2019-20 Year Master Plan for West Linn Parks, Recreation, and Open Space lists the White Oak Savanna as a Passive Oriented Park on the attached map; and

**WHEREAS** the 2019- 20 Year Master Plan defines Passive Oriented Parks as "more natural sites that provide trail related recreation opportunities and passive outdoor activities such as wildlife watching, nature interpretation, and picnicking. Several sites also provide river views or river access"; and

**WHEREAS** the same document states "Protecting a System of Natural Area Opportunities to be outdoors or in nature was identified as a top benefit of West Linn's parks and recreation system as noted in the Online Questionnaire results. Workshop participants emphasized the need to invest in natural area protection, especially in light of pressure from new development."; and

**WHEREAS** the West Linn Parks and Recreation Department website lists on the Park and Facilities List one of the attributes of the White Oak Savanna as a "Natural Area"; and

**WHEREAS** the development of pickleball courts in the White Oak Savanna would take away from its natural beauty, disturb the over one hundred vertebrate species which have been identified in this area, and improperly place an active recreation sports court in a Passive Oriented Park.

**NOW, THEREFORE, SAVANNA OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION RESOLVES:**

Section 1. That the City of West Linn respect the designation of Passive Oriented Park and not allow development of pickleball courts in the White Oak Savanna.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF MAY 2023 AYE 20 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0  
Rich Sakelik

Rich Sakelik, President  
Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association