

## **Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association Meeting**

### **September 5, 2023**

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#### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Treasurer/Acting President Frank Carini at 7:02 p.m.

Frank Carini explained that due to personal reasons, Richard Sakelik found it necessary to resign as SONA President. Frank further stated that the decision was made by the remaining board members that he would be presiding over the September 5<sup>th</sup> SONA meeting.

There were 15 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 two guests from Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (TVF&R.) 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:**

Frank Carini called for any proposed corrections to the July 11, 2023 General Meeting minutes. Ed Schwarz proposed several wording/grammar changes to the minutes. Lori Carini made a motion that the changes be accepted. Scott Zurschmit seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Frank Carini called for any proposed corrections to the August 1, 2023 Special Meeting minutes. Ed Schwarz proposed a grammatical change to the minutes. Lori Carini made a motion to accept the change and Steve Rushton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Agenda:**

Frank Carini called for any changes or additions to the agenda. No members requested changes so the agenda was approved.

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

As of September 1, 2023 the balance in the SONA account is \$7,761.64. Since the last meeting in July, total expenses have been \$228.11 (\$27.18 for Zoom meeting costs and \$200.11 for the Ice Cream Social in August.) In July, SONA received the annual stipend from the city of West Linn of \$1,460.70.

An additional \$466.41 will be paid for the ice cream truck rental for total Ice Cream Social costs of \$666.41. Full accounting of the Ice Cream Social event will be reported at the next regular meeting.

#### **Presentation:**

Stefan Myers, Public Affairs Manager, TVF&R gave an overview of Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue's operations. He was assisted by Lt. Robin Peters of Station 59 in West Linn. Although TVF&R is usually known for response to fires, seven in 10 calls responded to by TVF&R are medical in nature. In the first six months of 2023, there have been 904 incidents in West Linn responded to by TVF&R. There was discussion of individual emergency preparedness and a review of the Ready, Set, Go! evacuation protocols. Stefan Myers stressed the importance of communication in emergency response situations. One option he suggested for our neighborhood's emergency preparation would be to obtain a satellite phone.

Stephan Meyers gave examples of how TVF&R coordinates with local cities, police, and the county sheriff when responding to their calls. He also discussed the expiration of the tax levy for TVF&R in 2025. A ballot proposal to continue funding is scheduled for the May 2024 election.

Questions from members included what individual neighborhoods can do in the event of an emergency. Also, there was a question regarding testing of fire hydrants. As this is the responsibility of the City of West Linn, Ed Schwarz volunteered to research this and report back.

#### **New Business:**

##### **A. Nominations and Election of SONA Officers to Fill Vacancies for Remainder of Current Term.**

Frank Carini restated the resignation of Richard Sakelik as SONA's President. He further explained the need for there to be an election to fill openings on the SONA board as a result. These positions would be held only through 2024 to complete the current two-year terms. Discussion included Frank Carini being considered to fill the existing position of President and additionally relinquish his position as Treasurer. Ed Schwarz was recommended as a replacement for the Treasurer's position. The discussion was opened to others interested in filling these board positions and completing the 2023/2024 terms. One member expressed interest in the Vice President position which has remained vacant for many years. It was suggested that anyone interested in filling the position of SONA's Vice President should look at the bylaws posted on the neighborhood association's webpage.

Lori Carini made a motion proposing Frank Carini fill the vacated position of SONA's President through the 2024 term and specified Frank Carini would relinquish his position as SONA's Treasurer. Scott Zurschmit seconded. The motion passed with 14 yes votes, 0 no votes and 1 abstaining vote.

Frank Carini made a motion nominating Ed Schwarz as SONA's Treasurer through the 2024 term. Amarillys Zurschmit seconded the motion. The motion passed with 14 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 1 abstaining vote.

#### **Old Business:**

**A. Ice Cream Social Event Results:** Lori Carini reported that SONA's Ice Cream Social was a success. Neighbors from primarily the Savana Oaks neighborhood and some from the neighboring Willamette Neighborhood Association participated. Based on the numbers of ice cream treats distributed by Ice Cream Express at the event on August 26, approximately 100 adults and children attended this event held at the White Oak Savanna Park. Activities included rock painting, creating bubbles with bubble wands, hiking the main trail through the park, and visiting the information booths. The TVF&R Station 59 crew also stopped by to share some ice cream and pass out hats to the children. There were also three separate drawings for \$25 gift certificates to Killer Burgers which has a location within SONA's boundary.

Lori thanked the volunteers and those who participated for helping make this a fun and successful community-building outreach to neighbors in our area.

**B. 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Salamo Road Streetscape Improvements Update:** Frank Carini reported the contractor (Icon) is now putting the new curbing on 10<sup>th</sup> Street in preparation for the roundabout on Willamette Falls Drive. They are installing stormwater pipes and grading along Salamo Road. There is also the clearing of vegetation near Greene Street for the sidewalk installation. This project is still listed with a completion date in "Late Fall" 2023.

**C. The White Oak Savanna Park Update:** Roberta Schwarz reported that she has reviewed the latest fee totals collected by the City of West Linn for System development charges (SDCs) or charges to developers for new developments to support the City's infrastructure costs such as parks. Roberta commented that based on the revenues collected thus far, she does not anticipate a shortage of funds to complete the natural play area proposed in the White Oak Savanna Park in 2027.

Both Roberta Schwarz and Ed Schwarz reported on an incident that occurred in the White Oak Savanna Park at the beginning of September 2023. Ferns were reported taken from the park by two individuals. West Linn Police were able to locate the individuals and an officer has reportedly instructed them to return and replant the ferns. Roberta stated it is illegal to remove any plants from city parks.

**D. SONA Facebook Webpage Update:** Frank Carini reported that he had met with Ed Schwarz and Lori Carini to discuss the steps needed to get the webpage updated and tied to West Linn's Facebook page. It was suggested that a few more members be recruited to be involved in the process. The goals would be to communicate SONA issues, meetings, upcoming events to our members and tie any relevant information to the city's main Facebook page. This is viewed as another means to get information out to our NA's members.

**Community Comment:**

Roberta Schwarz commented on the West Linn City Council's Work Session held in August 2023 to discuss City Council Rule changes. Six of the West Linn Neighborhood Associations sent their representatives to testify. Resolutions from the NAs or NA boards were also submitted to the Council. A seventh NA, which was unable to send a representative that night, emailed a board resolution to the Council. Roberta asserted 78% of all the households represented by the NAs in West Linn communicated to the City Council on this issue.

**Next Meeting:**

Frank Carini stated a Special SONA meeting will be held on October 3, 2023 to allow AKS Engineering and Forestry an opportunity to present the proposed development at 22910 Weatherhill. This will be a virtual meeting via Zoom.

Frank Carini, seeing no further business, adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Submitted by Lori Carini, SONA Secretary