

## **Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association Meeting**

### **November 7, 2023**

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

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Carini at 7:00 p.m.

There were 13 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. During the meeting three additional members joined online. There was also one guest from the community. 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 September 5, 2023 General meeting minutes. Lori Carini proposed a correction to the spelling of a member's name in the minutes. Lori Carini made a motion that the minutes reflect the correct spelling of the name. Henry Achar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Frank Carini called for any proposed corrections to the October 3, 2023 Special meeting minutes. No changes were proposed to the minutes. The minutes were approved by consent.

#### **Agenda:**

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

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

Treasurer Ed Schwarz reported that as of November 1, 2023 the balance in the SONA account was \$7, 268.05. Since the last meeting on October 3, total expenses have been \$13.59 for Zoom. All expenses associated with the SONA Ice Cream Social have been paid.

#### **New Business:**

##### **A. Presentation by Jose Benavides, Community Service Officer, City of West Linn Police Department followed by questions and answers.**

Community Service Officer Jose Benavides presented a PowerPoint slide show that explained the role of Code Enforcement in the city of West Linn. This division which handles non-emergency, city code violation related calls can be reached by contacting the non-emergency line of the Lake Oswego Communications (LOCOM) dispatch center at (503) 635-0238.

West Linn's Community Service Officers (CSO) not only investigate potential municipal code violations in West Linn, but they also work with other City departments such as the Building Department, Planning Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Engineering and Public Works Departments. CSOs investigate animal related complaints and take appropriate measures which could require legal action. Depending on the violation or case, most actions involve contacting individuals by letter and follow up with telephone calls to find acceptable steps to resolve the code violation. Sometimes cases do involve citation, fines and/or court action, but this is not a common outcome.

Officer Benavides explained that many calls involve residents' concerns regarding parking, vehicles, animals, and noise complaints; however, many calls involve complaints about noxious vegetation, tree, and fence issues. Questions from attendees included the following: street permits required for pod containers, dumping of mulch/rock on streets,

trimming of trees or shrubs, line of sight issues for drivers, unpermitted tree cutting or removal, sidewalk repair and clearing responsibilities of homeowners, illegal sign placement, and overgrown weeds or other noxious vegetation.

**B. Response to issues raised on October 3, 2023 Special meeting.**

After October's meeting involving the presentation by AKS Engineering and Forestry/David Weekly Homes for a proposed middle housing development based on SB 458 requirements, SONA members discussed the following issues of concern involving increased housing density, neighborhood access, traffic, livability, and infrastructure. Participants highlighted inadequate street lighting along Weatherhill in addition to bottlenecks and unsafe traffic flow patterns leading in and out of the neighborhood. Also discussed was the impact on West Linn neighborhoods' infrastructure and livability (i.e., utilities, lack of green spaces, schools, unimproved streets) since R-7 zoned neighborhoods must now allow for SB 458 middle housing.

A motion was made by Ed Schwarz and seconded by Brenda Perry to direct the Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association President to communicate to the West Linn City Council via written and verbal testimony problems with SB 458 developments in the following areas on behalf of SONA: density, access, traffic, livability, and infrastructure.

The motion passed unanimously with 16 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstaining votes.

**C. Proposal to move SONA meetings to 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month from current 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month in 2024.**

President Frank Carini proposed moving SONA meetings to the second Tuesday of the month for January, March, May, July, September, and November's General meetings. Reasons for the recommended changes included fewer conflicts with elections and adjacent holidays. Frank Carini made a motion to change the date of the SONA General (regular) meetings from the first Tuesday of the month to the second Tuesday of the month. Ed Schwarz seconded the motion.

The motion passed with 14 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstaining votes. \* Note: Two SONA members left the meeting before this vote was taken.

**Old Business:**

**A. TVF&R Presentation Follow-up – Fire Hydrants – Ed Schwarz**

Ed Schwarz reported the city of West Linn has a maintenance schedule that checks fire hydrants on a rotating schedule of every one to three years, depending on where the fire hydrants are in the system. If residents have a concern involving a fire hydrant, they can contact the city of West Linn.

**B. 10th Street and Salamo Rd. Streetscape Improvements Update – Frank Carini**

Frank Carini reported that landscaping and paving has been taking place at the roundabout on 10<sup>th</sup> St. and Willamette Falls Drive. On the Salamo Road bike/pedestrian pathway, grading was taking place for the installation of drainage. No date has been given for completion except for "end of fall" timing.

**C. The White Oak Savanna park update – Roberta Schwarz**

Roberta reported on three items involving the White Oak Savanna park.

On Saturday, October 21, 2023 an event using SOLVE volunteers removed ivy growing on four trees in the White Oak Savanna. They used the methods that local West Linn resident Steve Miesen has been teaching people to use for the past two decades in several of West Linn's parks. Steve won SOLVE's Volunteer of the Year Award which is quite an honor.

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, Roberta reported that Willamette Primary School fourth and fifth graders volunteered to do the annual planting of Sword ferns and Camassia bulbs. Six teachers and twelve parents also volunteered to help. Over 20,000 hours of volunteer restoration work has been completed in the White Oak Savanna during the past fourteen years.

Roberta and Ed Schwarz also met with a representative from the Oregon Department of Forestry, Ben Sproule and the Oregon State Fire Marshall, Jen Warren so that they can perform SONA's five-year assessment for the renewal of the Firewise certification for 2024.

A formal Firewise assessment report will be forthcoming.

**Community Comment:**

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has not yet released the results of the possible herbicide findings for the property sprayed on Tannler Drive across from the White Oak Savanna park.

**Next Meeting:**

President Frank Carini stated the next SONA meeting will be held on January 9, 2023. This will be a virtual meeting via Zoom.

President Frank Carini, seeing no further business, adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Submitted by Lori Carini, SONA Secretary