

Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association Meeting

March 12, 2024

Call to Order:

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

There were 12 SONA members present at the onset of the meeting and three additional members joined later online for a total of 15 members present. This met the quorum requirement of a minimum of ten members to approve the SONA agenda and minutes. SONA's online meeting announcement and agenda were posted to the City of West Linn's website. SONA meeting signs were placed throughout the neighborhood and email reminders were sent to members.

Minutes:

Frank Carini called for any proposed corrections to the January 9, 2023 General 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. Joe Conrad, the new Public Works Environmental Services Supervisor, needed to reschedule to a later meeting date, so his presentation needed to be removed from the agenda. To replace this agenda item, Frank Carini stated he could report on responses provided to the questions generated by SONA members and submitted to Joe Conrad prior to the current evening's meeting. Public Works Communications Specialist Luke Borland provided answers to the submitted questions.

Under the topic of Old Business, Carini requested the addition of an update to proposed activities and spending for SONA in 2024 based on discussions from the January 9, 2024 General meeting. Frank Carini proposed to update the agenda to reflect the changes.

Rich Faith moved to accept the proposed agenda changes and Scott Zurschmit seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Ed Schwarz reported that as of March 1, 2024 the balance in the SONA account was \$7,213.69. Since the last meeting on January 9, 2024, expenses have been monthly invoices totaling \$27.14 for Zoom.

New Business:

A. Presentation by TVF&R regarding Measure 34-332 (Local Option Levy proposal for the May 2024 ballot) by Jacob Fuhrer, TVF&R Public Affairs Officer, and Lt. Robin Peters, from Station 59 in West Linn

Lt. Peters updated SONA members on events that impacted our area. He reported that the storm in January 2024 did not result in the devastating destruction that was experienced in the ice storm of February 2021. He attributed this was in part due to the extensive clearing of dead foliage and trees along with better emergency/storm preparation by residents prior to this past January's storm. Lt. Peters also noted that despite numerous road construction projects, there have been no significant accidents or injury incidents as a result.

Jacob Fuhrer focused his talk on the replacement levy, Measure 34-332 which would allow funding to permit TVF&R the ability to retain 92 existing firefighters and add an additional 36 firefighters and paramedics over the next five to ten years. Fuhrer reported that call volumes have increased by 23% during the past five years and to address projected increase in demand, a corresponding increase in firefighter and paramedic positions will need to be funded.

This replacement levy has a rate of 69 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation for five years. If approved, the Measure 34-332 would also allow funding for small capital equipment purchases such as firehoses, thermal imaging devices, cardiac monitors, defibrillators, and water tenders for areas without fire hydrants. This proposed levy would replace the existing levy which expires in June of 2025.

SONA members asked questions which included the ability of fire trucks to navigate the new West Linn roundabouts and the difference between prior bond funding in 2020 and the current replacement levy proposed.

B. Savanna Oaks Community Firewise Assessment Overview - Roberta Schwarz

Roberta Schwarz explained the highlights from the Firewise assessment completed by Jennifer Warren, Oregon State Fire Marshal and Ben Sproul, Department of Forestry. This site assessment of the SONA community must be completed every five years for the Firewise status to be renewed.

Roberta presented a few PowerPoint slides that focused on the report's observations/recommendations and examples of defensible spaces (0-5 ft. from home) since the neighborhood is in a wildfire designated environment. Some of the recommendations included substituting less combustible roofing materials such as Class A fire rated asphalt shingles, keeping gutters free of debris, using fiber cement siding, and replacing mulch next to homes with rock or pavers. She also stated that residents should not store combustible items under decks and should also provide clear address signage for houses so firefighters can easily identify and find homes.

The report further recommended that the city of West Linn clear vegetation down 100 ft. from the back of homes along Greene Street which borders the White Oak Savanna. Home hardening was stressed in the report and examples were given to keep yard areas "lean, clean, and green." Some of the examples provided included keeping trees trimmed, removing dry vegetation, and the ongoing removal of pine needles in yards. Roberta Schwarz offered to email the report to anyone interested in obtaining a copy.

C. Review of Responses Provided by Public Works Communications Specialist Luke Borland to Questions posed by SONA Members to the Department of Environmental Services – Frank Carini

President Carini reported that he received emailed responses from Luke Borland addressing several questions submitted by SONA. West Linn's Division of Environmental Services is responsible for stormwater systems, street sweeping, and oversight for the environmental compliance for the city of West Linn.

One of the questions asked about how to participate in the Red Box program when neighbors want to clear debris and vegetation from public areas. Tarra Wiencken from the Department of Parks and Recreation is the person to contact for more information about this service. Another question requested contact information for any garbage issues along West Linn's streets. Neighbors should contact Jeff Randall, Public Works Transportation Supervisor, for any trash related issues.

One of SONA'S members, Mike Noel, submitted pictures to Joe Conrad that documented Mike's own efforts to pick up trash along Salamo Road and Bland Street. Approximately six weeks prior, Mike started picking up trash primarily along Salamo Road and its median. In his first two-hour session, he filled two 30-gallon trash bags. After a few weeks of almost daily "trash" collecting, he is now using small white garbage sacks to collect garbage along his Salamo route. Pictures shown at the meeting presented various types of plastics, cups, beer cans, Reddi-Wip cans, small silver nitrous oxide canisters, and other assorted bottles/cans that had been collected. Near the Safeway on Salamo, many small liquor bottles had also been gathered.

Mike Noel will be meeting with City Councilor Carol Bryck to discuss his efforts to help remove trash from West Linn streets. Mike stated he would like to encourage other neighbors and NAs to also join in helping keep West Linn streets trash free.

Old Business:

A. 10th Street and Salamo Road Streetscape Improvements Update – Frank Carini

Trees have been planted; however, Public Works is waiting for warmer improved weather conditions before any more paving or any concrete work along the Salamo Road pedestrian/bike path.

B. The White Oak Savanna Park Update – Roberta Schwarz

Roberta Schwarz stated that the upcoming SOLVE event on Saturday, March 16th would mark the White Oak Savanna park's 30th SOLVE sponsored event. Removal of invasive blackberry plants will be the focus of this clean-up event.

Roberta also reported that she had received a total of \$2,600 in pledges to help fund the proposed Grandfather Grove Trail Extension in the White Oak Savanna. She stated that the city of West Linn indicated that they may require additional insurance by the contractor to complete a project of this nature. However, Roberta anticipated that if everything was approved, then the trail extension project could start as soon as June 11, 2024.

C. Potential Future Activities or Presentations – Lori Carini

SONA Secretary Lori Carini discussed the need for members to decide which activities or topics of interests should be recommended for the remaining 2024 year. Lori suggested examples such as an emergency preparedness activity which could focus on neighbors making "go kits" for their personal use in the event of any emergency such as a wildfire or earthquake. The Red Cross, TVF&R, and Clackamas County all have website information and materials to assist with activities such as this. Secretary Carini offered another possible activity that would involve the hosting of a SONA information booth at one of the summer concerts. Also discussed was the need for new SONA postcards and updated signage to promote and advertise speakers or activities.

D. Ad Hoc Committee to Propose Activities and Budget for 2024

Lori Carini proposed that SONA President, Frank Carini form an ad hoc committee (allowed according to SONA bylaws) to meet in a few weeks to discuss further recommendations for neighborhood outreach activities and a proposed budget that would be presented for consideration at the next SONA meeting in May.

President Frank Carini said he would invite any members present or who have expressed interest in the past to participate in the newly formed Ad Hoc Activity/Budget Committee. Several members expressed interest. Lori Carini stated she would be contacting those members. She will also be sending the committee meeting dates and times to everyone who wants to participate.

Community Comment:

Roberta Schwarz reported that she is still waiting for a final report on the findings and possible actions to be taken by the DEQ and Department of Agriculture regarding the vegetation spraying on the Tannler property across from the White Oak Savanna park. The incident originally occurred in June 2023.

The recent open house for the proposed West Linn Waterfront Project was discussed by those members who attended the event.

Next Meeting:

President Frank Carini stated the next SONA meeting will be held on May 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. This will be a virtual meeting via Zoom.

President Frank Carini, seeing no further business, adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Submitted by Lori Carini, SONA Secretary