

# **Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association Meeting**

## **May 14, 2024**

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### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by SONA President Frank Carini at 7:05 p.m. Frank Carini welcomed SONA members, neighbors from the Willamette neighborhood, candidates and guests from the community.

The first half of the regularly scheduled SONA meeting was a candidate forum consisting of registered candidates running for the open councilor seat on the West Linn City Council. The election for this position will be held on May 21, 2024. The candidate forum segment was jointly hosted by the Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association, President Frank Carini presiding and the Willamette Neighborhood Association, President Kathie Halicki presiding. Three of the five candidates participated in the forum and they were Brian Beedle, Kevin Bonnington, and Mark Perlman. Karen Lopez Carson was not able to participate as originally indicated.

### **West Linn City Council Candidate Forum**

During the candidate forum portion of the meeting, there were 15 SONA members present and three additional community members along with the three candidates in attendance. Board members from the Willamette Neighborhood Association and members of the Willamette NA were also in attendance.

The format for the forum allowed each candidate three minutes to introduce themselves, followed by questions submitted by members of the two neighborhood associations. Questions for the candidates alternated between the Savanna Oaks NA and the Willamette NA and allowed two minutes for each candidate to answer. SONA Treasurer Ed Schwarz was the timekeeper.

Questions for the candidates included some of the following: Did the candidates have 50 to 60 hours of time each week to devote to the work required of a West Linn City Councilor; How would they seek to improve the West Linn City government as a councilor; Have they ever been involved in any West Linn City boards or commissions and if so, how has this shaped their view of city government; Should a community recreation center be built before addressing West Linn's aging water pipes and an old public building; What is the role of West Linn in fighting tolls if a vote of the people is not allowed first; What do they think about the current leadership of the West Linn Police Department; How familiar are they with the West Linn Municipal Planning Code; How many meetings have they attended of their own neighborhood association; How would they implement a communication plan in West Linn during a severe storm; and Does each candidate think a West Linn City Councilor, who has accepted campaign money from a developer, should be recused when a development proposal is submitted from the same developer/source that has already contributed to their campaign?

### **Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association General Meeting – Establishing a Quorum**

After thanking the three candidates and those who attended the candidate forum segment, President Carini determined that there were 13 SONA members still in attendance at 8:32 p.m. 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.

### **Approval of the Agenda and Approval of the Minutes from March 12, 2024 Meeting**

There were no changes made to the May 14, 2024 agenda and it was accepted by unanimous consent. There were no corrections made to the SONA draft minutes from the March 12, 2024 General meeting and the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Ed Schwarz reported that as of May 1, 2024 the balance in the SONA account was \$7,186.51. Since the last meeting on March 12, 2024, expenses have consisted of two Zoom invoices for \$13.59 each.

### **Old Business**

#### **A. Ad Hoc Committee Proposal for Activities and Spending in 2024 – Lori Carini**

Lori Carini reported that the Ad hoc committee met via Zoom on March 26, 2024. Ed Schwarz, Roberta Schwarz, and Mike Noel were in attendance. Various neighborhood outreach activities were discussed; however, it was decided the best use of SONA funds and resources would be to host a September 2024 Ice Cream Social from 1-3 p.m. in Douglas Park. Various ideas and activities were presented by committee members. Proposed exhibits, demonstrations, and activities at the SONA Ice Cream Social included pinatas, bubble wands, and rock painting for the younger attendees and origami, marimba, and Bob Ross painting demonstrations for all ages in attendance. Mike Noel also suggested a booth that had information and an actual example of a "Go Kit" for emergency preparedness. Lori Carini suggested that maybe TVF&R or a representative from the Red Cross might be willing to participate at the booth. Ed and Roberta volunteered to purchase various types of ice cream cones for the event.

Secretary Lori Carini made the following motion: SONA approve \$600 to be allocated for the budget of an Ice Cream Social to be held at Douglas Park on a Saturday in September. Scott Zurschmit seconded the motion. The motion passed with 10 members voting yes, 0 members voting no, and there were no members abstaining.

The Ad Hoc Activities and Budget Committee also briefly discussed updating a SONA postcard that would provide both information about SONA and the Ice Cream Social. This postcard could be mailed prior to the outreach event in September. Secretary Carini also highlighted the need to update SONA's sandwich board signage with current information printed on reflective panels so people could see the information at night.

#### **B. 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Salamo Rd. Streetscape Improvement Update – Frank Carini**

President Carini reported that the project along Salamo was essentially completed. The Public Works Department is finalizing some punch list items.

#### **C. Savanna Oaks Community FireWise Assessment Improvements Update – Frank Carini**

West Linn's Parks and Recreation Department Director, Megan Big John confirmed that her department would be mowing the White Oak Savanna park as well as clearing behind homes along Greene Street this summer.

#### **D. The White Oak Savanna Park Update – Roberta Schwarz**

Roberta Schwarz reported that donations from both neighbors and SONA would cover the costs for the White Oak Savanna Grandfather Grove Trail extension. Currently, June 11<sup>th</sup> is the anticipated construction start date for the trail. Roberta also suggested that SONA members be invited to walk the new trail together once it is completed.

### **Community Comment**

Questions were asked about who is responsible for clearing the City's retention ponds next to houses when they become overgrown. A SONA member expressed his appreciation for Parks and Recreation's recent clearing of overgrown vegetation along neighborhood walking paths/trails.

### **Next Meeting**

President Frank Carini stated the next SONA meeting will be held on July 9, 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 9:05 p.m.

Submitted by Lori Carini, SONA Secretary