

Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2024

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by SONA President Frank Carini at 7:03 p.m. Frank Carini welcomed SONA members and Associate Planner Chris Myers, City of West Linn.

Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association General Meeting – Establishing a Quorum

At the onset of the meeting, 13 SONA members were present. President Carini determined that a quorum was established. 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 July 9, 2024 Agenda and Approval of the Minutes from May 14, 2024 Meeting

There were no changes made to the July 9, 2024 agenda and members approved the agenda by unanimous consent. There were no corrections made to the SONA draft minutes from the May 14, 2024 General meeting. The minutes were also approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Schwarz reported that at the end of June, 2024 the balance in the SONA account was \$3,932.68. Since the last meeting on May 14, 2024, expenses have consisted of two Zoom invoices for \$13.59 each. There was a \$100 donation from a SONA member for SONA's Ice Cream Social to offset the cost for an origami demonstration/activity which was deposited in the NA's account. Treasurer Ed Schwarz dispersed an approved payment that paid 56% of the total cost for the Savanna Oaks Grandfather Grove Trail Extension totaling \$3,326.65.

New Business

A. Presentation – Vision 43 Project Overview – Chris Myers, Associate Planner, City of West Linn

The city of West Linn has been working on the Vision 43 project since October of 2023 and it is anticipated that the project plans will be completed in October 2025. Chris Myers explained that he is not talking about the physical road itself which constitutes Highway 43 since it is a state owned and maintained roadway. Myers explained that he is referring to the various types of land use allowed along the Highway 43 corridor and the connectivity between the neighborhoods that run parallel to this corridor which is about 3.3 miles long (from the border of Lake Oswego/West Linn to the I-205 overpass.) Pedestrians and cycling are key issues for this project; therefore, crosswalks will be an important consideration during the planning phase.

Vision 43 plans will incorporate input from the community. Myers stated public engagement is important and he ultimately will hold or engage in at least 30 events where he intends to present information and receive feedback from community members.

Myers reported the plans will be more than merely creating a pass-through for traffic. Instead, the final vision document will be a guide for future planning in the next 20, 30, or 40 years. This vision plan will help determine important considerations such as the type of businesses, services, pedestrian facilities (e.g., crosswalks, neighborhood pathways) and areas for cycling. These plans could require revisions of the existing mixed-use zoning code. The city of West Linn has hired MIG Inc. to assist in the code revision process, prepare a physical rendering of the Hwy 43 corridor vision/plan, and conduct traffic studies.

Eventually planners will look at the feasibility of a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District for this area. For more information and updates Myers encouraged people to go the City of West Linn's webpage at yourwestlinn.com.

Those members in attendance asked the following questions: How is ODOT integrated into this process? How can a plan be developed if the road is owned/maintained by ODOT? Will there be traffic studies for this corridor? What issues should be considered for another TIF District?

B. Discussion of the November 2024 Election for 2025-2026 SONA Officers – Frank Carini

President Carini explained that there would be nominations at the September meeting for board members who would serve as officers starting in January 2025. Those SONA members elected to the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer normally serve a two-year term. Contact Frank Carini or Ed Schwarz for more information. SONA’s bylaws are on the City’s webpage.

Old Business

A. Ad Hoc Committee Update on Ice Cream Social – Lori Carini

Lori Carini reported that the Ad hoc Committee met at Douglas Park in West Linn on May 29th. Lori Carini, Ed Schwarz, Roberta Schwarz, and Mike Noel were in attendance. They reviewed and discussed the various plans and activities that needed to be accomplished before the SONA September 14, 2024 Ice Cream Social. This neighborhood outreach event will be held from 1-3 p.m. in Douglas Park. Lori confirmed that Yuki Martin would provide an origami activity and demonstrations. An Oregon State Extension Master Gardener volunteer would be requested to host a gardening information booth that highlights garden/yard preparations for winter and plants that would also do well in our climate and area. There will be an emergency preparedness table that will provide an example of a “Go Kit” and information on how neighbors can assemble an emergency kit for their home.

Roberta and Ed reported that they have already purchased the ice cream cones for the event. Roberta further described the four different prizes (an outdoor canopy/gazebo and three restaurant gift certificates) that would be part of a raffle for those in attendance and she explained participants must be present to win.

B. White Oak Savanna Park and Grandfather Grove Trail Extension Ribbon Cutting Update – Roberta Schwarz

Seventeen local families contributed along with SONA approved funds to pay for the Grandfather Grove Trail Extension project. Ed Schwarz showed various pictures he had taken during the construction of the trail. Ed and Roberta assisted in prepping the area for the trail construction crew. Tigard Sand and Gravel provided the 40 tons of ¼ minus for the trail. Cedar Mountain Construction completed the project in two days.

At the end of this new trail is the White Oak Savanna Grandfather Grove, which is shaped by a circle of trees. This grove is important to the Grand Ronde Tribes and it is considered sacred land as is the entire area since ceremonies were once performed here. Donations made by neighbors will fund a bronze plaque commemorating the Grandfather Grove. The wording for the plaque has also been approved by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde.

A tribal council member and his son will also attend the ribbon cutting and this will be an opportunity for everyone to see the placement of the plaque. The date for the ribbon cutting is July 20th from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and the public is invited. There will be guided hikes along the new trail and free ice cream, as well as a raffle.

Community Comment

There were no comments or questions from those in attendance.

Next Meeting

President Frank Carini stated the next SONA meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. This will be a virtual meeting via Zoom.

President Carini, seeing no further business, adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.
Submitted by Lori Carini, SONA Secretary