

## **Willamette Neighborhood Association Draft Meeting Minutes September 11, 2019**

Kathie brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The quorum was met.

Treasurer report:

Elizabeth reported our balance of \$4,284.33 after receiving annual grant of \$1,400 from WL City Council.

July 10th meeting minutes: Julia moved to approve, 2nd by Mary, unanimous approval.

### **Mayor Axelrod Willamette Falls Locks presentation and Q and A:**

- Senate bill 256 established the Willamette Falls Locks Commission for the purpose of arriving at a "hand-off plan" and developing a financial model.  
On Sept. 11, 2019 the final disposition study was entered which halted the 2-year clock set in motion by Army Corps of Engineers whose plan was to build a dam if no alternative could be reached.  
The study commission has concluded the locks to be a highly valued public asset and that the locks should remain in public ownership. The commission is preparing a bill to present to the legislature during the short session in February, 2020.  
Funding model:  
Initial capital investment \$14 to \$15 million  
Army Corps of Engineer \$2.7 million (for seismic upgrades)  
Annual operation costs \$400,000 - \$800,000  
Hard maintenance every 5 - 10 years  
Funding to be largely fee-based relative to craft size set by marine board.
- Pros to operational locks:
  - 1.) Commercial use
  - 2.) Tourism and recreation - Portland Spirit
  - 3.) Reducing truck traffic on roads/highway
  - 4.) Post-earthquake supplies and transportation up and down river.PGE owns 60% of the waterfront but US Government owns the locks.
- Deb Mumm-Hill asked if what the ecological impact of reopening locks will be and if a study has been done on this. She asked if the city has an ecologist on staff. The Mayor responded perhaps this is the purview of the Parks & Rec.Dept. She also expressed concern about newly turfed softball field at Willamette Park, where rubber pellets are washing into the nearby wetland and could then run into the river.
- The mayor explained the Citizen Vision Goals (Oct. 16th, 2018) as aspirational goals, which were formerly part of the comprehensive plan. Neighbor Associations are to review and vote on them prior to presentation to planning commission for potential reinstatement to be used as a lens to assist in sound planning decisions.  
The WNA voted unanimously to reinstate these goals into the comprehensive plan.

### **Post office update:**

The Mayor informed us that he had notified the USPS that the 2 sites under consideration; behind Wanker's Corner on Stafford Road and the Tannler/Blankenship property were unacceptable. The post office is now in a holding pattern. They are currently in talks with Graymar to maintain current with building renovations and expansion.

### **Annual Postcard:**

The WNA decided to work with the city on the annual postcard.

It was decided with 12 yes, 2 no, 4 abstentions

WNA did not send out a postcard last year.

### **Main Street - Shannen Knight**

- Wednesday Market:  
Doesn't have accounting from 2019 yet. Elizabeth Traub, from Oregon City has potentially agreed to be hired as the next Main Street Manager.

- Proposed changes to parking on historic Willamette Falls Drive: reverse-in angled parking gains 17 spaces and head-in angled parking gains 14 spaces.
- Upcoming events:  
Willamette Wine Tour Sept. 20  
Halloween  
Holiday Bazaar

**Kathie read Sept. 3rd email from Lance Calvert regarding Willamette Falls "main street" project.**

- WFD will be open during construction. No long-term or overnight closures are planned.
  - Rumors about shuttle and remote parking are incorrect. There will be no shuttle.
  - Based on feedback to date; council is still considering the back-in versus head-in parking. The striping direction can be made last and also switched later, if need be, at minimal cost. Feedback comments from the August 8th Open house on the construction, are posted on WL City website.
- 13 open house participants submitted input on the project.  
Subsequent email was from Jenniann Workman.

It was announced that Lacey Sortman will be the new social media tech. Next Door rather than Facebook.

**Budget discussion:**

Expenses:

WL Food Pantry	\$1,000
Meeting refreshments	\$ 100
Main Street Xmas	\$400
Neighborhood signs	\$3,000

It was proposed that WNA reduce annual \$1,000 donation to WL Food Pantry by half, but after discussion, including input from regular food pantry volunteers among others closely associated that the need is growing and it is relied upon by West Linn residents. So donation will remain at same level.

**Traffic Safety update:**

There has been a suggestion to install stop signs at 2 sights on Willamette Falls: 6<sup>th</sup> St. and also Dollar St. Main Street and Transportation Safety Board will be at the Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> WL City Council meeting at 6pm.

**Announcements:**

Danny Schrieber announced that the living history tour would be taking place the following Saturday; Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>. Signed streets would be closing from 1pm to 5pm. He also reminded us the \$1,000 grants are available for improvements to historically designated homes.

Vision 5 Goals discussed and approved to be reinstated if approved by all the NAs.

**Citizen concerns:**

Karrie Oakes, Marylhurst NA President, commented on parking situation at Fields Bridge Park during peak youth baseball times. She pointed out that according to Ken Worcester with WL Parks & Rec, when the baseball park was approved, the school district had ok'd overflow parking to be allowed at the new school being considered for the property across Willamette Falls Dr. from the park. There was also discussion of Ordinance 15-58 which vacated the section of Dollar Street adjacent to Fields Bridge which ended that connection from Dollar Street there.

Discussion regarding Bolton Firehall improvements needed for multi-purpose facility will be on the Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> city council meeting agenda.

Kathie adjourned meeting at 9:07pm.

Submitted by Mary Baumgardner

