

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by President, Kathie Halicki.

The **minutes** were approved as appeared on WL meetings page.

The **treasury** continues with a balance of \$3,503.17.

Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation: Sandy Carter presented a slide show of the history of the Willamette Locks which first opened in 1873. The locks were a major factor in the economy of the river accommodating agriculture crops and industrial loads. Occasionally large projects such as the repair of the Canby Ferry used the locks to access repairs in the lower river.

Bernert boats worked above and below the Falls. As commercial traffic slowed in favor of roads and rails, the Locks were closed for lack of money for maintenance. Lock Fests began in 2004 to alert the public to the uses and history of the Locks.

Jody Carson and Sandy Carter realized the need for community support to reopen the Locks and eventually founded the Heritage Coalition to promote the Locks as part of an historical stretch of the Willamette from Estacada to Newberg. This group solicits funds from the public and grants for the following projects: a newsletter, the Bernert tugboat, the Grindstones at Willamette Park.

They hope the locks might be reopened in the near future.

Backyard Habitat: Spokesman Kate described this program as a way to support wildlife with native plants. Consultants will advise those who subscribe on how to transition to a garden environment more compatible with climate, birds, animals and water usage. With slides and handouts, she encouraged the audience to subscribe to the program, turn lawns into meadows, eradicate noxious invasives, be careful with toxic products, and become a posted certified habitat. current code to join: BHCP100

Friends of Willamette Wetlands: Founded in 2024, this group endeavors to protect from development the area marked as wetlands around the former industrial holding ponds. Over 30 acres are involved and provide homes to many bird species, otters and beavers. The group will hold a fund raising anniversary in April.

West Linn Food Pantry: The Pantry thanks the community for all its generous support of food and funds. The lean time of the year approaches: March, April, May.

WES: Some questions were submitted to the WNA and here are answers from WES.

1. the new station will have 4 pumps. 3 exist now.
2. construction will begin this spring or next spring
3. the existing structure will be removed and replaced with appropriate natural plantings.

Next month: WNA will discuss community donations.

The orange netting is being removed at Fields Bridge Park by Canby Excavations contracted for this purpose.

The meetings adjourned at 8:25.

Elizabeth Rocchia

Secretary