

**Waluga Neighborhood Association Annual General Meeting
October 5, 2016
Our Savior's Lutheran Church**

Board Members Present	Cindy Maddox, Co-chair; Will Mahoney-Watson, Vice Chair; Sandy Reay, Sec./Treas., Bruce Goldson, Jim Newcomer, Rett Russell
Board Mem. at Lg	Dick Benedetti, Michael Sorrell
Program Guests	Brant Williams, Stacy Bluhm, Brian Copeland, Vaughn Brown

7:00 – Meeting called to order

Cheryl and Cindy opened the meeting by welcoming approximately 45 participants and then introduced the Board members and Members at large. Cindy asked for any nominations from the floor. The assembled voted on the following slate of board members for 2017. Cindy Maddox and Cheryl Uchida, Co-Chairs, Will Mahoney-Watson, Vice Chair; Sandy Reay, Secretary/Treasurer, Bruce Goldson, past chair; Jim Newcomer, Rett Russell, Carol Lavender. All were approved. Board at large members will be appointed by the board at the next board meeting. Dick Benedetti has agreed to remain as Traffic/Police Liaison and board at large.

Highlights of the Year

Cheryl gave an overview of the WNA activities and accomplishments: The annual picnic was a success; we will be amending our By-Laws and presenting them in one year; through NEP grants this year, we were able to get approval for two additional streetlights installed on Douglas Way; improved storm drain on the pedestrian pathway in front of Lake Fir apartments on Quarry Road; the Friends of Waluga Park will have work parties on October 15 and November 5; Emergency Prep and Traffic concerns continue to be active endeavors.

Boones Ferry Road Project Presentation

Cheryl introduced Brant Williams who, along with others, gave the City's presentation on the most recent information on the project. He said they are finishing up the design and construction will start in 2018. Construction will cause lots of construction impacts for at least 2 years.

The purpose of this meeting is to review the improvements, describe changes to BFR that will affect traffic, gain an understanding of how traffic will change and to hear, discuss and note residents' concerns. The budget is limited, so the project can't address all of the issues of the neighborhood. The project extends from Oakridge/Reese Rd. south to Madrona St. Plus, a signal light at Lanewood St. at the school to help buses and school crossings. There will be new, wider and safer sidewalks, new street lights and street trees and additional plantings, landscaped medians, left turn lanes at intersections, new pedestrian crossings, bike lanes on both sides of BF, improved storm water treatment facilities, underground utilities, expanded sidewalk areas with furnishings, art, plaza areas and new crosswalks. Changes to BFR will make traffic flow safer: 3 new traffic lights at Madrona, McDonalds, and Lanewood will be installed with synchronized traffic signals for better traffic flow, U-turns at signalized intersections, and reduced speed from 30 to 25 MPH .

The major change to the Lake Grove neighborhood is the Lanewood intersection. The school driveway will be realigned and a new traffic signal and signalized pedestrian crossing will be installed.

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Brian Copeland of DKS Traffic Engineering said they have analyzed the traffic flow for the next 20 years and there be capacity on BF to handle the volume. Medians will handle the congestion that comes from cars turning left and holding up traffic in the middle of the roadway. This is Phase 1 of the BFR Project. Phase 2 is BF north of Reese/Oakridge to Kruse Way. Additional parking on Oakridge and at Round Table Pizza location is 3rd Phase, maybe 2nd, depending on funding.

Neighborhood questions

These are addressed in the Meeting Summary below.

Waluga Neighborhood Meeting Summary (prepared by Vaughn Brown)

After some neighborhood association annual meeting business, Cheryl Uchida introduced PAC members present, Brant Williams and the project team. Brant thanked attendees for taking the time to get informed. He then gave a project purpose, streetscape elements and schedule overview. He noted that the City was very aware of existing issues related to traffic exiting Quarry Road and cutting across lanes to get into position to make a left turn on Boones Ferry Road. He explained that there is no safe way to place an impediment to that movement in Boones Ferry Road. The project will realign the intersection to improve sight lines for exiting traffic.

Brian Copeland walked through future traffic volume changes due to the project. The numbers are based on our Metro regional forecasting model refined to look at local streets. The basic takeaways are:

- While there are existing and projected heavy traffic volumes on Quarry and Oakridge, the project will not increase those numbers significantly (from 640 without the project to 700 on Quarry and from 355 to 425 on Oakridge) – about 1 car per minute during the PM peak
- Other volumes will not change much due to traffic adjustments along Boones Ferry Road

Brian opened the meeting up to questions and comments. Audience discussion focused on other concerns and ideas for controlling cut-through traffic.

- How do you monitor or model cut-through traffic?
 - *Traffic counts before and after the project is the least expensive way to get a sense of traffic changes. GPS data is another more expensive way.*
- Why is there such a big difference between north and south Quarry Road numbers?
 - *Traffic is likely coming down Quarry and turning onto Oakridge to access Boones Ferry Road. There is also bus traffic on Oakridge heading up Quarry.*
- The project will help buses with traffic signals and sidewalks.
- Can lights be timed for school hours to help with bus flow?
 - *Yes, lights can be timed differently for different periods of the day.*
- Why are trees (old growth) being cut when they provide clean air and habitat?
 - *Project design is very sensitive to saving trees even though over 100 trees will be removed to provide adequate roadway and sidewalk widths along Boones Ferry. Those trees will be replaced with more appropriate varieties. More new trees will be planted than are being cut. There aren't any old growth trees being removed by the project.*
- How much wider is Boones Ferry going to be?
 - *It was noted that the existing lanes are around 12 foot wide today. With the project's narrower 11 foot travel lanes and the addition of the median and bike lanes, the new roadway section may be about 20 feet wider but these widths will vary. (The existing roadway width without left turn lanes is 50 feet. The new width without a left turn lane will be about 64 feet with the project improvements.)*

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- Is the neighborhood traffic increase due to cars being forced off Boones Ferry Road by project changes?
 - *Increases in traffic volume in the neighborhood are mostly due to access changes (median) rather than congestion or capacity constraints on Boones Ferry Road. Boones Ferry is projected to carry approximately 600 more cars in the PM peak hour than it currently does.*
- Does the Fire Department review project plans?
 - Yes.

A list of traffic and safety improvements was suggested by participants.

- Encourage vehicles to use Oakridge instead of Quarry to make a right onto Boones Ferry
- Install a traffic signal at Quarry
- Close off Quarry access to Boones Ferry
- Widen Oakridge and remove on-street parking (Note: some residents on Oakridge objected to this suggestion)
- Install speed bumps in the neighborhood
- Educate/encourage drivers to use Kruse Way instead of cutting through the neighborhood
- Install traffic circles on Quarry and more effective speed bumps
- Improve pedestrian walkways along Oakridge between Boones Ferry and Waluga
- Increase enforcement of existing traffic laws in the neighborhood
- Don't make any one street take all the cut-through traffic – spread out the impacts fairly

Brant closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their thoughts and suggestions. The team will take them into consideration and report back to the neighborhood. He assured the group that the team understands the traffic concerns expressed by neighbors and is committed to addressing those concerns.

Neighborhood traffic issues that need attention and follow-up:

- Cut-through traffic on Quarry and Oakridge
- Walkways for safe pedestrian movement on Oakridge and Quarry
- Traffic from southbound Quarry cutting across Boones Ferry to make a left turn onto Bryant.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Reay, Secretary

Next Board meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2016, OSLC, 6:45-8:45