

**Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations  
November 12, 2019 – Oregon Trail Conf Room, Gresham City Hall**

***Meeting Minutes***

<b>NEIGHBORHOOD</b>	<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>NEIGHBORHOOD</b>	<b>ATTENDEES</b>
<b>Centennial</b>	INACTIVE	<b>Northeast</b>	INACTIVE
<b>Central City</b>	INACTIVE	<b>North Gresham</b>	
<b>Gresham Butte</b>	Jim Buck, Theresa Tschirky	<b>Northwest</b>	John Bildsoe, Dave Dyk
<b>Historic Southeast</b>	Allan Krim, Lynn Ebinger	<b>Gresham Pleasant Valley</b>	Kent Liebelt
<b>Hogan Cedars</b>		<b>Powell Valley</b>	Jim Boersma, Jeff Muceus
<b>Hollybrook</b>		<b>Rockwood</b>	
<b>Kelly Creek</b>	Carol Rulla, Mel Roemmich	<b>Southwest</b>	Gail Cerveny
<b>North Central</b>	Mary Gossett	<b>Wilkes-East</b>	Greg Hartung, Kris Freiermuth
<b>Staff &amp; Guests:</b>	Michael Gonzales, Office of Neighborhood and Community Engagement (ONCE) Manager Mary Philips, Senior City Planner Josh Williams, Senior Development Planner Allison Don, Administrative Analyst, Office of Governance and Management		

Carol Rulla called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. A quorum was present. The 10/18/19 minutes were adopted as presented. No members of the public asked to provide comment.

Development Code and Process Updates (DCPU) project

Mary Philips, Senior City Planner, and Josh Williams, Sr Development Planner, were introduced. Mary presented an overview of the Development Code and Process Updates (DCPU) project. A handout was provided (see attached). Mary noted that there were three phases to this effort:

- Phase 1 is focused on time-sensitive, high priority, policy-neutral simplification of development code, including Corridor Design District, Tree Code and Historic Resources reorganizations.
- Phase 2 is focused on design district guidelines and standards, and tree code policy updates.
- Phase 3 is a re-organization of the code, reformatting, and remaining policy updates.

Additional detail regarding the first phase were discussed.

In relation to a clarification for downtown district residential to commercial conversions allowing gravel parking lots, Carol Rulla and John Bildsoe asked about ADA requirements related to gravel parking lots. Mary noted that requirements for ADA-compliant parking spaces would not be impacted.

Carol Rulla asked a question about conditions for de-listing properties designated as a historic resource. Mary noted that the proposed change was intended to bring City code in line with state law which only allows de-listing for specific reasons. John Bildsoe asked if there are tax implications for listing or de-listing; Mary noted that the local program does not have tax impacts (though the federal program does).

Additional detail regarding proposed changes to the historical resources and tree code were discussed in detail.

Kris Freirmuth asked a question about whether properties on the historic registry can be moved. Mary confirmed that there are procedures in code which would apply to the review of a proposed move.

John Bildsoe asked a question about whether there are policies related to the number of trees allowed for cutting. Mary noted that there would not be changes to this policy. Lynn Ebinger followed-up on the definition of a significant tree; Mary noted they are specially-designated trees that meet certain criteria. Jim Buck and Kris Freirmuth provided examples of significant trees.

Carol Rulla asked about whether the removal of the parking requirement for ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units) needed to be in Phase One. Mary confirmed that it did. Effective 1/1/2020, state law will prohibit the ADU parking requirement from being enforced.

Josh Williams provided updates on the corridor and multi-family updates to design districts.

John Bildsoe asked about a reduction in the number of pages in code. Josh confirmed that there would be a reduction.

Mary noted that next steps for Phase One include additional public outreach, leading to a City Council hearing in April 2020. A proposed schedule for outreach was provided in the handout.

In response to a comment about engaging with land-use chairs, Carol Rulla suggested that neighborhood presidents and other board members beyond land-use chairs may be interested in the public outreach planned. Coalition members agreed that all board members should receive initial notification to be able to opt in.

### Coalition Recommendations for the 2020 Council Work Plan

Allison Don provided an update on the annual Council Work Plan process. She provided an overview of the Work Plan program, and provided a copy of the 2019 Work Plan.

Gail Cerveny suggested that the City should partner with Multnomah County regarding creating a back door for exit safety at the Gresham Library.

Carol Rulla highlighted several of the current work plan initiatives.

Jim Buck suggested a focus on financial sustainability was important. Carol Rulla concurred, advocating that it become a public project. Theresa Tschirky agreed, noting that many revenue sources were not sustainable; she also noted that it was challenging to engage citizens in budget advocacy with the current process.

John Weigant noted concern that the CIP (Capital Improvements Program) discussed recently at Council did not include the 185<sup>th</sup> and Marine Drive intersection in North Gresham neighborhood, and was not coordinated with the City of Portland.

Kent Liebelt mentioned that the Pleasant Valley Transportation System Plan (TSP) advisory committee work included many stakeholders, but did not include representatives from the City of Portland, Multnomah County, or Metro.

Kris Freiermuth asked about the City of Portland Water Purification plant. John Weigant concurred with concern that City of Portland was not sufficiently engaged with Gresham planning issues. Gail Cerveny noted that this issue is not just with transportation, providing the example of emergency planning with the City of Portland evacuation plans. Theresa Tschirky proposed a work plan topic regarding coordination with Multnomah County and Metro and other regional bodies.

Carol Rulla advocated for a reporting function for the status and outcome of work plan items. Theresa Tschirky concurred.

Dave Dyk noted that there could be benefit to reducing the number of work plan priorities. Allison noted that this is likely the direction that Council has signaled. John Bildsoe noted the example of the industrial lands planning item on the current CWP as an issue that has been difficult to track.

Jim Buck advocated for a parks focus on engagement with Metro to benefit Gresham through Metro funding.

Gail Cerveny advocated for Council to meet with neighborhood associations to review the budget and provide input into key decisions and trade-offs (for example, with limited general funds).

Carol summarized Coalition recommendations for the 2020 Work Plan as encouraging a focus on financial sustainability and transparency with the community.

#### ONCE and NA news

- Michael Gonzales reminded NAs that the City offers liability insurance to NAs, and offered to help associations who were not currently participating. He distributed the form to complete for the insurance broker and went over the sections needing completion.
- Carol Rulla noted that the City Manager had provided a written response to Coalition concerns raised during the September meeting and asked if the Coalition would like to invite the City Manager to join the Coalition for a follow-up meeting. John Bildsoe noted a concern for follow-up on all heavy industrial sites, not just the Vance site. Coalition consensus was to wait until after the December City Council Retreat to evaluate whether or not the 2020 Work Plan would address remaining concerns.
- Carol Rulla provided a brief update on the parks policy advocacy positions that the Coalition had previously advocated. Carol noted that the Metro bond measure had passed. At a recent meeting with the City Manager:
  - The City Manager committed to Participatory Budgeting (PB) training for city staff and neighborhoods in anticipation of seeking additional parks funding through a PB process under the Metro bond. Michael Gonzales will arrange the training.
  - An RFP (Request for Proposals) for a feasibility study will be initiated this fiscal year.
  - The City Manager will look into a parks funding strategy like Play East.
- Carol Rulla asked if the Coalition would like to adopt a policy position of support for the Gresham Parks Coalition petition regarding parks funding that Councilor Eddy Morales distributed at the October Coalition meeting. Carol noted that the Coalition had already supported two of the three petition items – support for the Metro bond measure and for a feasibility study – and the remaining consideration was whether to support a request to increase in Gresham parks funding now. A straw poll was taken with 4 NAs in support of signing the petition and 5 NAs in opposition; a majority declined. Discussion indicated several neighborhood leaders preferred to wait until completion of the feasibility study prior to weighing in.
- Carol Rulla noted that City Management is holding off backfilling many positions as a cost control measure. Some staffing updates include:
  - Lina Sizmin is only doing NA work in the morning and Mediation work in the afternoons. When she is working in the Mediation office, she is signed in to a different account and cannot respond to NA messages until the next morning. NAs should be sure to cc Michael on emails to Lina, especially for urgent requests.
  - Carol learned from Chief Sells that Police is currently down 5 positions and Fire is down 12 positions.
  - Additionally, a third traffic enforcement officer will be added in the new year. Chief Sells indicated that the additional officer will come from existing resources.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52PM.

Minutes prepared by Dave Dyk, Coalition Secretary-Treasurer

Next meeting: **Tuesday, December 10** – City Hall Oregon Trail Room