

**GRESHAM REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GRDCAC)
April 10, 2019 DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING LOCATION

Gresham City Hall, Conference Room 2A & 2B
1333 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham, OR

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Joan Albertson
Richard Anderson, Chair (arrived 8:15pm)
Christopher Bentley, Vice Chair
Ryan Johnson

COMMITTEE ABSENT: Paul Drechsler
Amelia Salvador

COMMISSION
LIAISON PRESENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Josh Fuhrer, Gresham Redevelopment Commission Executive Director
Robyn Stowers, Senior Project Coordinator
Amy Evans, Recording Secretary

GUEST SPEAKERS
PRESENT: Charlene McGee, Multnomah County Health Department
Nita Shah, Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon (MESO)
Carmen Madrid, MESO
Seth Ring, MetroEast Community Media

A. Call to Order

Vice Chair Bentley called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Announcements

Item #5, "Partner Updates" took place before Item #4, "Draft Urban Renewal Capital Improvement Program" in order to have a quorum.

Although Tameka Brazile is listed on the Meeting Agenda as the presenter for Multnomah County, Charlene McGee gave the presentation in her absence.

2. Public Comment

None

3. MEETING MINUTES: February 13, 2019

Motion was made by **Mr. Anderson** and seconded by **Ms. Albertson TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2019**

The motion passed as follows:

ALBERTSON	YES	DRECHSLER	ABSENT
ANDERSON	YES	JOHNSON	YES
BENTLEY	YES	SALVADOR	ABSENT

4. Draft Urban Renewal Capital Improvement Program Fiscal Years 2019/20 – 2023/24

Josh Fuhrer, Gresham Redevelopment Commission (GRDC) Executive Director, presented the PowerPoint presentation (PowerPoint attached as Exhibit A).

Motion was made by **Mr. Anderson** and seconded by **Ms. Albertson** **TO RECOMMEND THE DRAFT URBAN RENEWAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FISCAL YEARS 2019/2020 - 2023/24 TO THE GRESHAM REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

The motion passed as follows: Unanimous

ALBERTSON	YES	DRECHSLER	ABSENT
ANDERSON	YES	JOHNSON	YES
BENTLEY	YES	SALVADOR	ABSENT

5. Rockwood Rising Nonprofit Partner Updates

Emily Bower, GRDC Senior Project Coordinator, Introduced guest speakers **Charlene McGee**, **Nita Shah**, and **Seth Ring** (Powerpoint Presentations Attached as Exhibit B)

Ms. McGee presented a PowerPoint about Multnomah County’s REACH 2.0 program.

- Data shows that the black community in East county does not feel wanted or heard, especially in places like Fairview and Gresham.
- With funding and support from the ACHEIVE coalition and the CDC, REACH strives toward reaching health equity.
- 50% of factors affecting health outcomes are social/economic/physical environment conditions.

Ms. Shah and **Ms. Madrid** presented a PowerPoint about MESO’s work with small business owners in and around Gresham.

- MESO started in 2005 from the Black United Fund of Oregon when gentrification was forcing smaller businesses in North Portland to close up shop and move away.
- MESO’s core service is business development, especially in MWESB businesses.
- In 2010 became an SBA micro lender. In last 3 years, MESO has given out 514 loans totaling over 6 million dollars, with less than 1% in default rate.
- MESO is a USDA micro lender and community advance lender, and most often offer IDA 3-to-1 saving loans for small businesses.

Mr. Ring presented a PowerPoint about MetroEast Community Media’s “Rockwood DIY” space at 484 SE 187th.

- The Rockwood DIY space exists to provide media resources and education to the people of the Rockwood neighborhood, specifically its youth and its traditionally underserved communities.
- The “Welcome to Computers” class taught digital literacy to adults, and gave each graduate a free computer from FreeGeek
- The “Smartphones for Seniors” camp paired senior adults with youth for intergenerational education.

Gresham Redevelopment Commission Advisory Committee
April 10, 2019 Draft Meeting Minutes
Page 3 of 4

- The variety of video game, music video, and podcasting camps gave school-age children weeks of educational opportunity during school breaks, and taught valuable STEM skills in new and exciting ways.

GRDCAC Discussion

Ms. Bower opened the floor for questions.

Vice Chair Bentley said Ms. McGee mentioned gaps in transportation, like driving kids to and from school, and that people of color have an unusually high disparity as far as traffic fatalities, etc. What are the gaps we see in Gresham, and how do we address these?

- **Ms. McGee** said, this includes things like sidewalks and kids walking to school. For example, there was a walk organized by Pizza Yaki on April 4th, and there was a fatality. So, fatalities for people crossing the street are a large concern.
- **Ms. Bower** said, we were connected with REACH in its first years. Much of what we did was work with community liaisons to understand where the barriers were in both food access and active transportation. This included lack of sidewalks, bad crosswalks, no signals, and much more. Jay Higgins is project manager for the active transportation plan and continues this work.
- **Ms. McGee** said, specific to policy, there's actually a national ranking called City Health Ranking. Multnomah County is currently ranked at the "bronze" level but has a goal of growing to "gold" level. Street safety is a big part of that.

Ms. Albertson said, I was just hearing about budget cuts that the county's going to make. How are those cuts going to impact the work you're doing?

- **Ms. McGee** said, we have a 5-year plan for extensive cuts and decreases in revenue and services. Regarding REACH, cuts will affect the services. There will be more people depending on the services that the health department provides. However, this department received the least number of cuts in the county, which is some good news for programming.

Mr. Johnson said, I really appreciate the work that you all do. Seth, MetroEast is a hidden gem of Gresham. I became a member so that I could continue to take classes, borrow equipment, etc. My wife and I learned photography because of the classes MetroEast provides.

Mr. Fuhrer said, thank you for all the work you're doing. I'm struck by Charlene's slides that listed the community benefits of Rockwood Rising. All three of your organizations, and POIC as well, are touching all the levels on Mazlowe's hierarchy. I was just on a panel about the economy of East County, which often presents as a very dire story. Most of the solutions we've had for East County so far only touch on the very bottom, "survival" level of that pyramid." What I appreciate about each of these organizations is that you start there, but help people move up the pyramid toward self-actualization. There's a methodology to the work that you're doing which touches on all the parts of the pyramid, which is to me how you break the generational cycles of poverty. All of these organizations start at that bottom level with people, and then don't stop until they get to the top. Part of the reason you each have such an impact you do is that you work in this way. My question is, since we're putting Rockwood residents through programs that use this method, do we think people still feel unwanted in the city? Is there a way to measure the perception in the community now?

- **Ms. McGee** said, we would love to measure that. We do have an evaluator, although not a mechanism to account for public perception. What we look at is health and economic data. We have the benefit of this being a 5-year project. And the longer you stick with it, the more

measurable the outcomes. But it's interesting to think about measuring this, and collaboration between the Multnomah County Commission and the Gresham City Council might be helpful in creating a mechanism to measure impact.

- **Mr. Fuhrer** said, yes, I think it would be good to have a quantifier but also a qualitative measurement of the impact of the community engagement.
- **Ms. Bower** said, the data we have comes from research that Portland State University helped us with. They had qualitative indicators and questions that we might consider as we move forward. They also have similar data from other cities, which might act as a great starting point.
- **Ms. Madrid** said, I went to conference in Detroit last year, and their quantifier was mapping out was credit scores. Where scores were typically high, there was statistically lower crime, poverty levels, and unhealth. They also talked about the variables in a credit score that affect people of color (moving a lot, DUIs, and domestic violence situations). It was a conference on credit building and how it relates to community health and wealth generation.
- **Ms. McGee** said, there is interest from Oregon State University, PSU, and Oregon Health Authority to quantify (and qualify) these kinds of public health concerns.

10. Good of the Order

B. Adjournment of meeting

Hearing no further business, **Vice Chair Bentley** adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

RICHARD ANDERSON
CHAIR

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Evans
Recording Secretary