

## DRAFT Minutes | NGNA General Meeting

March 2, 2020

- Call to order, 6:01 PM
- Around the table introductions
- Quorum Established
- The minutes from the October 7, 2019 General Meeting were corrected by Bob Fowler, who said comments were attributed to “Pat Fowler” were actually made by “Pam Fowler.” John Weigant motioned for approval with corrections; Bob Fowler seconded; unanimously approved.
- Treasurer’s report – Linda VanDeusen-Price. Linda said that we still have \$169.75 in our account. \$100 will be paid out to retain characters for our National Night Out picnic in August. We’ll receive grant money from the City of Gresham in May for additional expenditures.
- Guest Speakers
  - Ricki Ruiz was to give a talk on Neighborhood Preparedness but was ill. Michael Gonzales filled in, but decided to let Blanca go first since she had another meeting to attend.
  - Blanca Gaytan Faran gave a presentation on the U.S. Census
    - Blanca passed out an information sheet and sent around a sign-in sheet. Resident Debra Connell asked why it was necessary to sign in again, and Blanca let her know that it was to show she’d provided the information to.
    - Blanca went on to say that she works for East County Rising, with offices at Burnside and 181<sup>st</sup>. She’s currently involved with We Count Oregon, a community-led effort to make sure hard-to-count groups are informed about the census. It’s a state-wide effort, with six staff members at the state level. We Count Oregon collaborates with 12 community-based organizations such as Unite Oregon and the Latino Network, each of which has a census coordinator – and she’s the census coordinator for East County Rising.
    - She explained the census is a process of counting the population every 10 years as mandated by the US Constitution.
    - This is the first time the Census Bureau is pushing for citizens to fill out the form online. We’ll be getting a mailing this month inviting us to complete the census, with the invitation linked to a specific address. If people don’t respond by May, census employees will follow-up. The census ends July 31 so please do it as soon as you can to avoid the need for people to come to your door.
    - April 1 is Census Day & there will be lots of cool events going on. On April 2, Commissions Stegmann’s office will be holding a kick-off event as well.
    - The primary way of completing the census will be online. You can also call in. A paper form will be sent out to people who haven’t responded. There will be support available through many organizations and through libraries.
    - The information on the census includes the number of people living at an address as of April 1, whether the space is owned or a rental, names of residents as well as their

date of birth, gender and race. There are no questions about one's country of origin, nationality/citizenship. This information is protected by Title 13; it can't be released or shared. Privacy is taken seriously. It is released 72 years after the data is collected but by then it's not relevant.

- Mike Elston asked Blanca to explain why it's so important. She stated that there are about 450,000 more people in Oregon than the last time the census was taken. More people means more wear & tear on the infrastructure. Having the population counted equates to more federal funds coming into Oregon, as well as additional representation in Congress. We want to make sure that as the state population grows, resources are allocated.
  - Blanca mentioned that they're concentrating on hard to count groups – people of color, immigrants, kids under five, renters. John Weigant added that the data collected is vital to city planning as well. Mike said that he knows there's a lot of distrust, but this is something that MUST be done; it's *our* money and we want it to come back to the community.
  - A resident asked what happens if a question is left blank. Blanca replied that they'd be called, and eventually someone would come to the door.
  - Blanca mentioned that they're hiring people specifically for outreach. All positions are part-time, temporary. They're looking for East County residents, particularly those who know other languages or have close ties to community organizations. They're having a hiring fair at the Fairview City Hall, 9:00-3:00, Saturday 3/7. They also are training census ambassadors to give "Census 101" presentations.
  - Mike requested that Blanca send him any information she has, and he'd make sure it gets sent around.
- Michael Gonzales on Neighborhood Preparedness
    - Michael was subbing in for Ricki Ruiz. Michael works for the Office for Neighborhood Engagement, helping to support projects in the neighborhood, neighborhood associations, etc. He spoke about the Neighborhood Ready Program and reviewed a workbook with the group.
    - Michael mentioned that the primary concept is looking out for your neighbors. A lot of it is understanding who's in your neighborhood, and paying attention to the "status quo" – what's normal, what isn't. You should know your neighbors beyond who's next door or across the street. You should be able to respond to your neighbors if they need help, and know what neighbors to contact if *you* need help. He encouraged the group to get out of the comfort zone of our houses.
    - Michael also encouraged us to get to know each other socially. The more you know your neighbors the more you'll find in common, which is important in combating the differences you've built up in your head.
    - He mentioned that not everyone will have resources in an emergency, but if you do, share.
    - Think things through – "If the power's out for a week or two, will I survive? Am I ready? If I *am* ready, how do I help my neighbor be ready?"
    - Michael mentioned that the My Gresham app should be used to help with enforcement, potholes, damage or disaster. He stated that the city relies on its citizens even more that we rely on the city. He stated that we're the city's eyes and ears.

- Each page of the notebook was reviewed, including how to make a map of who's who in the neighborhood and a list of emergency phone numbers.
  - Other resources were also discussed, such as the Neighborhood Enforcement Team (NET) and NextDoor. He elaborated that they have limited input on NextDoor, as it's really designed for neighbors to talk to each other and not as a platform for city government. He'll post information but generally doesn't see comments.
  - One of the residents complained about the traffic on 192<sup>nd</sup> and stated that he's never seen a patrol car there. Linda Parashos gave him a card for the radar trailer.
- Kirk Park update – Mike Elston
  - Playground:
    - Mike said that he received notification from our playground equipment supplier that all the prep work will be done by April 1. The community build event will likely be the weekend of April 4 – 5. Everything is in place.
    - The playground will be located just east of the soccer field, kind of in the middle of the park. No trees will be removed, and they'll add trees along the sidewalk to increase shade.
    - This has been two years in the making. We originally asked for \$105,000, and ended up with \$115,000.
    - Mike mentioned that a young boy named Kirk was killed while playing in the street on Hassalo in the 1980s, prompting the creation of the park. This effort is to ensure the park is being used for play.
    - We'd like the community to help unbox the equipment and put it together. We'll keep everyone updated via Facebook and NextDoor. Bring the kids, the grandkids... it'll be fun.
  - Wellhead/pumphouse update
    - There has been one meeting so far.
    - Gresham is trying to get away from Portland Water. The feds want Portland to put in filtration, and it'll cost at least \$500,000, which we'll end up paying for. Gresham and Rockwood are putting together a system so we won't need to participate.
    - The city has identified deep aquifers they can tap into. They plan to dig six wells, and Kirk Park will be the first. It'll be located where Hassalo ends at 188<sup>th</sup>. The people who live near the drilling site may hear noise from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM.
      - This time frame isn't what we were told originally, we were told 8:00 – 5:00. Mike will be having a conversation with them about it.
    - Gelinda Chernault asked if they'll be cutting down trees, and Mike said no – but she said they cut down trees today. Again, this wasn't what Mike was told, and he'll look into it.
    - Michael Gonzales mentioned that the urgency is that, although we're under contract with Portland Water through 2026, if we decide to not use their water we need to let them know this summer. Linda Parashos added that the City of Tualatin had already given notice.
    - Linda Parashos asked about a path going to the playground. Mike is trying to get the city to put in a path from 188<sup>th</sup> as part of the pumphouse installation.
    - Mike also mentioned there had been discussion about putting in toilets, but because of issues with homelessness and drugs, it didn't seem viable at this point.

- There was some discussion about the building size. The city had said at the meeting that it would be 1000 square feet, but it's the size of a bathroom on the map. Mike will get them to make it as small as possible.
  - John Weigant requested a tour of an existing wellhead, and Mike said he'd ask. Mike also stated that since ground hasn't been broken yet, now's the time to ask if there's anything we want/don't want.
  - Mike stated that the drill is going down 700', and "they don't call this area 'Rockwood' for nothin'..." If we need hay bales around the drill to mitigate the noise, that's what we'll do. A resident asked if we should be concerned about noise, or noise and vibration? Mike said likely both, although another resident clarified that the city wouldn't be using an impact drill.
- Open Forum
  - One of the residents thanked the Board for their efforts in getting the playground in Kirk Park. He said his granddaughter would use it for many years to come. Mike said there are other things we can do in the neighborhood; if we come together we can be the "squeaky wheel."
  - There were complaints about stolen cars left near the church at 192<sup>nd</sup> & Hoyt, as well as off 192<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Another resident asked if there are any plans to mitigate the traffic around the playground, such as speed bumps or a crosswalk. We all thought that was a good idea; Mike will investigate.
  - There was discussion around the recent shootings in our neighborhood.
  - There was also talk about speeders. Linda Parashos mentioned that the radar trailer produces a printed report given to the police. The printout helps the police decide where to allocate resources for traffic stops. When it was put on 192<sup>nd</sup>, they determined the street didn't have enough traffic to justify extra patrols.
  - Someone asked when NET should be contacted. The response was for drug deals, nuisance/zombie houses. Code Compliance deals with stolen/abandoned cars, potholes and other neighborhood code issues. It was advised to report these types of issues using the My Gresham app for faster response.
  - Linda Parashos mentioned that they're looking for new recruits for the Citizen Volunteers in Policing, and that she has application packets with more information. She briefly explained the types of activities they conduct.
- Meeting adjourned 7:48

Next general meeting: Monday, June 1, 2020, 6:00 – 7:45 PM, Eastrose Fellowship Unitarian Universalist Church, 1133 NE 181<sup>st</sup> Ave., Portland, OR 97230 (note new location).

NGNA Board Meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 6:00 PM at the Rockwood Village Condos clubhouse, 18550 NE Wasco St. Portland Oregon, 97230.