

[DRAFT]
North Gresham Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting Minutes

2020-09-21

This meeting was held via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM on Monday, September 21. Present were Mike Elston, Linda Van Deusen-Price, Linda Parashos, John Weigant and Kim Kovacs. A quorum was established.

Linda Van Deusen-Price moved that the minutes from the August 10th meeting be approved as submitted, seconded by Mike; motion unanimously passed.

Park Project Update – Mike

Mike spoke with Ben this morning, who'd just returned from vacation. Everything has been pushed back due to the smoke from the wildfires. We're still looking at mid-October or a little later for them to build the playground. While they'll be the ones to install the equipment (a change from the earlier plan) we're still going to need crews to come in to help put bark chips down the following day. Ben will give Mike as much lead-time as possible. The equipment company wants their fence back and they want to get this over with. Mike doesn't see any way to delay it since we need to spend the money that's been allocated for the playground.

Linda V reminded the group that she'll be in St. Paul much of next month, so she's not sure she'll be able to participate, although if she knows soon she can maybe return earlier. Mike feels the build will likely occur after she gets back on 10/22.

Linda V also asked if we know how many people the donor agencies would be providing. Mike didn't know, and didn't want to reach out to them before we have a date. He thinks that the best way to do it would be to have shifts, where a few people would work, then swap out with another small group.

Joe Walsh sent Mike an e-mail saying that once we get the playground in place, Mayor Echols wants to do something, some kind of thank-you to thank the neighborhood association for doing this. We'll see how it goes; it'll depend on whether or not we can have a group get-together. It might make sense to wait until spring when we can have more people present. Kim mentioned that if we wait until spring we'll have a new mayor. Linda V felt that it might be better to have the current mayor involved, since she's been part of this process.

John asked about getting permission to get the park bench from his church installed there, and mentioned his request had been denied by the City. Mike felt we couldn't win this one – it's a state-wide specification - and that the subject should be dropped.

Mike will contact our donors and will try to get a group of people from the neighborhood, maybe a few from the neighborhood in each group. He doesn't have a problem coordinating the groups. Kim suggested putting together a Google form sign-up sheet for scheduling the volunteers. Linda V. expressed concern about turnout.



General Meeting

Kim wanted to discuss whether or not we wanted to have a General Meeting sooner rather than later, and if sooner, it'll have to be via Zoom. Mike said he wanted the meeting to be in person, even if that means putting it off until January. He doesn't see Zoom attracting people who aren't used to doing it. Kim said it might not be a bad idea to supplement the in-person meeting with a Zoom call-in for people who are reluctant to show up.

John asked if we wanted to do the meeting at the Eastrose Fellowship, and if we have a date. Mike said we don't have a date; we need to wait until we're out of Phase 1, but he likes the idea of having it in the community instead of at the police station. John said that the church has Wi-Fi so we just need to bring our laptops. Mike said just one laptop should be fine. He's attended several meetings where they've used in-person and Zoom, and it works fine with one person answering questions that come in over the chat. John said he just needs a date; the church is closed so he doubts there would be any conflicts.

The group unanimously agreed that we'd wait to have a General Meeting until we can do so in person.

Because Willy and Alesya weren't able to attend, we're assuming they're staying for another term. However, Linda P would be very interested in taking Land Use back over, if Willy isn't interested.

Mike said there haven't been many ENN notices lately, just one for a Taco Bell at 180th and San Rafael, which isn't in our neighborhood.

C2C Corridor

Mike and Linda V attended the meeting about this. This a Metro project that's been OK'd by Gresham through then-councilor Echols and another individual whose name they couldn't recall. They've been pushing to make sure that the residents of Happy Valley have a way to bypass I-205 to get to I-84 and the Gorge. They're going to improve 190th by Foster Road, down to 172nd/Happy Valley by Jenny Road, which will allow them easier access to other points north and east. They want to use 182nd/181st for this, and it presents issues. At rush-hour 181st is really backed up, and it'll restrict access to our one grocery store. There aren't many convenient crossings, but they don't intend to put in more crosswalks.

Shirley Craddick from Metro is really pushing it, too. The only thing that'll slow it down is if the Metro transportation bond fails to pass in November. Linda V. felt the larger issue was truck traffic, but regardless, she's not in favor of it. Linda P. said that Shirley is really supportive of Happy Valley and felt that was the larger push, and Mike agreed. Linda said a lot of people will lose their homes if the city needs to widen the road. Mike said that we're not getting a lot of help on this, that the people pushing the project seem to feel that his concerns aren't that big of a deal – but they don't live here; it's bad enough now, even before this plan goes into effect.

Mike mentioned that they seem to have tied this into helping low-income people, but he doesn't get that at all – there's nothing in this that'll help low-income folks.

John brought up the fact that there's no process for getting citizens involved sooner, and as a result these things get far down the road before we know about it. He brought up another project that got put in place, which he thinks was likely illegal since taxes were involved. He thinks we're victimized by the system, and the only thing we can do is change the system.

Mike spoke w/ Catheryn Nicewood from Rockwood and Kris Freiermuth from Wilkes East, and they both agree that this plan is a problem. Mike thinks the only thing we can do is get the word out to vote the Metro measure down. It's got other issues, like putting in a Max line through Lake Oswego to Tigard.

John suggested taking action as a board, such as a letter to the editor of the Gresham Outlook. Mike will ask Michael Gonzales if there are rules or guidelines about doing that. There's also a City Council meeting coming up during which we could voice objections, and that's something John may attend.

Other Business

Linda P. brought up the upcoming Candidate Forums on 10/5-10/6. She said she hadn't seen info on our Facebook Page or received an e-mail. We figured out that her new e-mail address hadn't made it to the NGNA mailing list. Kim wasn't sure why she hadn't seen the Facebook posting, but will check.

John asked about looking into John Deere Field as a potential neighborhood garden, but Linda V said that it's privately owned by the John Deere company.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19, unless we need to meet sooner due to plans for the playground. Linda V. will be gone 10/8 – 10/22, so likely will miss it.

Meeting adjourned, 7:00 PM