

# CITY OF GRESHAM

## Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association

*June 10, 2020*

Officers present: Jim Buck, President; Sandy Davidson, Vice-President; Theresa Tschirky, Treasurer; Tracy Slack, Land Use Chair; Lynn Saint, Secretary.

### 7:02 p.m. Meeting Called to Order

About 11 individuals participated throughout the meeting. Michael Gonzales sat in as an observer and a facilitator for the City ZOOM connection.

### 7:03 p.m. Special Meeting

Because grant requests are due on June 15, this meeting was called to make a quick decision about the request for funds. Within a week of the deadline, it is anticipated that a verdict will be reached regarding the requests. Checks should arrive by the end of the month.

The GBNA board members have copies of the proposal to invest in trees and shrubs for the Saddle Trail. These plants should replace alders that have died off. The bulk of the purchases should amount to \$1,000.

Because this is a matching grant application, donated labor expenses will comprise close to \$4800. Once trees and shrubs have been planted in the ground, the City will take responsibility for their maintenance.

Ebetsu Plaza is still receiving commendations for the attractive displays, thanks to GBNA activity in improving the area.

### **Saddle Trail**

Jim B. ran up onto the **Saddle Trail** and indicates the need to cut back blackberries. A caution was advised that newly planted seedlings might end up getting cut along with the blackberries. Others need to join in this effort. Dawncrest neighbors and boy scout troops remain possibilities for volunteer labor. Designated areas might require about 10-12 workers.

The City has done some planting on the Saddle Trail. Cutting, along with herbicide treatments, will kill off some of the more invasive plant species. Sometimes, chemicals can be applied to the root stocks. The City has used water safe herbicide for Tsuru Island. Herbicide treated areas can be safely entered within one to two weeks.

Questions about blackberry eradication exist. What will happen with the blackberry vines? Blackberries need to be stacked and decomposed. We may try to dig out the roots, but the larger ones will be cut off. When blackberries come from a very short stock, there is a greater possibility of getting rid of them. Diligence involves monthly visits to where the blackberries are growing. Ongoing maintenance needs to protect plantings to prevent others from overwhelming them.

**Walter's Road and along Johnson Creek**, towards the park, could use revamping. Seedlings and restoration work have been initiated but the blackberries are overcoming the newer plants.

**Timing** is an issue. We need prospects for survival on what we will be planting. Plants cannot be watered over the summer. For that reason, we will clear in late summer and try for planting in the fall. Material may not arrive before July.

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**Bare root seedlings** must be planted within a few days of delivery. The materials can stay viable under burlap for about a week. If they are stored with humidity and moisture, they can survive. Fall plantings will prevent underbrush from choking them out. We may have to work in some damp weather which would be a plus.

A **motion was proposed** to approve the matching grant proposal. All ayes. The motion passes.

## **Trail Crew**

One of the participants asked about creating a **trail crew**. Individuals are trying to do a good work along the hillside trails. They need to be included, not overlooked, by the City. Direction and support are needed. According to the GBNA member, many people are discouraged with the lack of oversight by the City. Looking into this as an option for interactive volunteers could be a viable addition to GBNA.

Further discussion ensued about looking for more volunteers, extolling the benefits of working alongside one another, recruiting people to see the vision of GBNA.

The meeting ended when the ZOOM connection completed its cycle.