

Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association

January 13, 2021

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

Special Session – Executive Board

7:00 p.m. Meeting Called to Order

The board members, two spouses and Sue Hughes participated in the meeting.

7:10 p.m. Artwork Endorsement Presentation

The Gresham Japanese Garden group has focused on Tsuru Island and Ebetsu Plaza for volunteers wishing to beautify Main City Park. Jim Card and other volunteers have demonstrated a passion for developing attractive changes and making improvements.

Now that most areas have received needed attention, the maintenance shed/barn, is the next focus for Ebetsu Plaza. Sue Hughes is requesting a grant from the community, which holds \$50,000 for disbursement. Her marketing design business strongly relates to this project.

The Garden has received funds on several different occasions. Two years ago, Internet coverage was instituted throughout the park. A greenhouse grant was received a year ago. This year, the group has requested \$6,950 to paint a mural on the façade of the barn. With seventeen applicants vying for a portion of the funds, competition weighs on the participants. Sue explained her strategy for seeking and hopefully obtaining a City grant.

Joe Walsh oversees the grant monies. Sue will meet with him next week to present her ideas along with endorsements from various organizations, including one from Judy Han, chair for GOPA, Gresham Outdoor Public Art. GOPA presided over the mural at Jazzy Bagels. The downtown location is very user friendly and will benefit those with special needs as far as its accessibility.

All volunteer hours are embedded into this. Even though \$12,000 of labor would conceivably amount to the total, more realistically, volunteer labor will amount to about \$5,000. A mural artist has been selected with a plan to use high school students to assist with the painting. A water theme, using flat art, will highlight elements imaging the city and the area.

Sherwin Williams intends to donate all the paint. Most of the money garnered will pay for the artist, his labor and his design. Sue will project manage the endeavor to ensure a professional endeavor.

The artist(s) will paint the design onto the garage door facing the plaza. Jim Card wanted a mural, so Sue felt compelled to investigate this possibility. She sent him the names of four different mural artists with representations of their work. Jim chose her son-in-law's artwork without knowing the artist's background. This particular painter does the most outdoor work of

the four artists she had chosen to represent the mural. Sue demonstrated work he had done in downtown Portland. Although her group cannot pay him what he wanted, Sue feels she can build relationships with students from Gresham, Barlow and Springwater high schools to help augment the painting hours required to complete the artwork. The template for the mural will look more like a paint by number, a simpler solution to obtaining labor for the painting.

Joe Walsh will bring up the question of longevity as the area is in a southwest-facing space which makes it more prone to direct sunlight. The painting is estimated to last for at least 20 years with needed touch-ups. A clear coat will also cover the mural in the event of graffiti. So far, despite some vandalism in the park, the barn has not been graffitied. Hopefully, the Parks Department will address any violations.

The whole front will be covered with a design. The two rhododendrons, planted in front, will also be incorporated into the scene. This is a high traffic area in which the mural will not be hidden inside a building but will rest in a core area downtown.

Tracy asked, "Can there be a handshake agreement with students in the event of vandalism?" It would appear important to address this before any vandalism should occur.

With Sue's search for an endorsement, Theresa moved that the executive body approve and endorse this project. Sandy seconded the motion. The GBNA executive board expressed unanimous approval. Jim Buck is composing a letter on behalf of the board. He will send it to Sue by tomorrow for her to present to the City.

To address the artistic nature of the plaza, it was mentioned that a Rick Caswell sculpture of cranes along with the bronze salmon have served to enhance the appearance of the courtyard. The plaza has become one of the most visited area in Gresham. Both Ebetsu Plaza and Tsuru Island have gained much attention as they have become jewels of the City Park.

7:35 p.m. Adjournment

Before closing the meeting, Sandy expressed gratitude to Sue for her volunteer work; we all concurred.

Jim Buck announced we are scheduled to meet on February 10. Rep. Ricky Ruiz has confirmed his intention to attend the meeting. He will also address measures 5 and 50 to learn where funds can be acquired for projects the local government has proposed.

Meeting Recording:

https://greshamoregon.zoom.us/rec/share/RmJPLeA8jJ_uFmz0SjVeGAvSEVkwQ6hpxDhM7RegU31aDlr1WDDLqvjF1awkftbB.L1JFyPk9nxRrB3nk?startTime=1610590781000