

SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING
Thursday, January 21, 2021
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Rewatch the Zoom Meeting:
[Link to January 21 SWNA Meeting](#)

Draft Minutes

Pre-Meeting Intro: Getting Acquainted with the Zoom Platform – Brandon

1. Meeting was opened by President Gail Cerveny at 7:05.
Approximate attendance - 20 - 30 people
2. Guest Speaker: Mayor Stovall shares his vision
 - a. His background: Lived here for 16 years (from Kansas City, Kansas) - windsurfer and snow skier
 - b. Vision: "We are at a precipice to leverage our history to move forward"
 - c. Problems: crime - to address crime, we need to address the poverty that is behind it: we need opportunities and assets - pull people from poverty to prosperity - "I know the journey personally."
 - d. Police: address bias when found and support all members of community

Questions for Mayor Stoval

Question: How to reduce poverty?

Answer: Studies have shown that lack of childcare and lack of access to transportation are two key causes of poverty.

Question: Portland businesses are plagued by vandalism - how to keep this from migrating to Gresham?

Answer: Effort is to be proactive. We touch base with the groups that are doing the negative actions you've seen in downtown Portland. We focused on ensuring free speech but make sure there is an understanding that others' rights are respected.

3. Guest Speaker: Multnomah County Commissioner Lori Stegmann with assistant Nathan Clark

- a. Stegmann's background: grew up in Rockwood; went to Mt. Hood; PSU; small business owner for 20 years; served on Gresham City Council several years
- b. Multnomah County Services received by Gresham residents:
 - 1) General Overview: safety net provider/social services/local public health authority for COVID in contrast to City of Gresham which provides infrastructure systems
 - 2) Multnomah County has a \$2 Billion budget which, in summary, covers:
 - 20% health department (mental health; drug/alcohol; food handler license; WIC program)
 - 15.8% Non-departmental - joint office of homeless services (\$172 million total, including \$117 million for homeless services - \$300,000 given to Gresham for Dahlgren's position and an outreach position)

- 13.4% Department of County Assets - internal operations
- 11% DCHS: helping family, youth, seniors, disabled, SUN (Schools Uniting Neighborhoods), school based health centers for K-12
- DCM - Assessment / Property Taxes; Sets up command centers such as COVID temporary command center; Eagle Creek Fire Center
- NCSO 9% \$164 million - sheriff's dept and 3 correction centers; also land and waterway patrol; search and rescue crews
- DCS Dept of Community Services 8% \$146 million: includes animal services, elections office, some land use planning, 26 bridges
- DCJ - \$108 million - works with struggling youth
- Library - 5%
- District Attorney - 2%

3) How do other counties pay their fair share for items like infrastructure and homelessness?

Answer is a combination of both asking, showing by example, and cooperation for shared concerns. For example, one of Stegmann's priorities is municipal broadband (internet access becoming a public utility). For a \$150,000 feasibility study, we got money from various municipalities, including Gresham, Troutdale, etc. Portland was the last to come on board and share in the cost.

4) What are the decision points in locating the new Gresham flagship library?

Answer: The library will need about 10 acres and be close to public transportation. Among the areas currently being looked at for redevelopment are the properties adjacent to Gresham City Hall, the shopping center where the sporting goods store is, and the Kmart area.

5) Will the funding of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Department stay the same or be reduced?

Answer: March 9 - The board will receive a general fund revenue forecast update. The Chair wants all departments to present her with a 2% decreased budget proposal. The four commissioners then debate on add backs.

March 9 - The board will receive a general fund forecast update.

April 22 - The chair releases her budget, followed by a public hearing.

May 27 - The board votes on the actual budget.

To see a copy of the current budget: <https://multco.us/budget>

6) February 4th East County Issue Forum...and vaccination updates. (Check the multco.org website for zoom instructions.)

Feb 4th forum will be 3:00 pm and will be a collection of COVID updates with presentations from our federal lobbyists, JOHS, DCHS (access to basic needs and services for community members) and vaccination updates

7) How is Multnomah County handling the homeless situation?

- a) If you see issues in unincorporated Multnomah County, call 503 988 4300 (Sheriff's Dept) There is a difference between the city of Portland and Multnomah county - what you see in Portland is a Portland issue.
- b) Mentally ill people can't be helped unless they are harm to themselves or others
- c) Other factors: economic mobility ; economic marginality index - i.e. kids aging out of the Foster program
- d) The budget to address the homeless issue has these general guidelines:
 - ⅓ safety off the streets (100 die every year)
 - ⅓ prevention
 - ⅓ housing assistance

"It's horrific now, but without these investments, the problem would be twice as bad."
- e) The problem is bigger than the budget; need wrap around services (drug / alcohol / behavioral resource center in downtown Portland)
- f) How is the garbage of homeless camps handled? Portland contracts with Rapid Response to clean ; "Hope Team" gets involved and looks to provide social wrap around services.
- g) It is important to hold people accountable for their actions. However, if you believe drug and alcohol addiction is a disease, you look at this issue differently.

4. Motion to approve minutes of October 15, 2020 SWNA meeting was made and minutes were approved

5. Treasurer's Report Dana Duval - \$488.40 in account; there has been no spending since the last meeting.

6. Land Use Report and Discussion - Steve Bennett

Developments and issues in and near our association area:

- a) Developer wants to finish work on West Pleasant View Drive (near 190 Pleasant View) - section of street is a mess and needs fixing - but weather has delayed efforts.
- b) 2525 Pleasant View SW Thomas way - planning department has approved plans; utility and streets being completed; construction will begin winter or spring
- c) 3838 Rodman - preliminary approval ; no building permits have been given yet for planned 12 single family lots
- d) Wilmar Nursery Jenn Butte - developer submitted in late 2018 but there has not been a formal development application submitted for this project - projected 300+ units
- e) Proposed development at 3535 Powell (across from W. Powell Loop) - 30 lot subdivision; attached residential lots; permanent dead end street; removal of 267 full grown fir trees; near habitat conservation area; 8 acres; near floodplain; includes single dead-end lane. Dec 14 completed application; presently being processed and will be decided on April 13, 2021. Deadline for comments is not known. Key issues: floodplain; conservation area

7. Motion to adjourn at 8:30 - Approved.