

North Gresham Neighborhood Association Board Meeting Minutes

2021-02-15

This meeting was held via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM on Monday, February 15. Present were Mike Elston, Linda Van Deusen-Price, Linda Parashos, John Weigant and Kim Kovacs. A quorum was established.

John moved that the minutes from the September 21st meeting be approved as submitted, seconded by Linda Parashos; motion unanimously passed.

Meeting Recap w/ GPD:

Mike thought the meeting went very well, and we did the best we could under the circumstances. Kim added that she'd heard nothing but good feedback and hadn't heard any complains. Linda V agreed, although she missed part of it because she was at another meeting. Kim also said that she didn't think we changed anything or anyone's minds, but it felt good – it was a feel-good meeting. She thought the police officer didn't feel like the neighbors had beaten up on him, but that we did get good feedback from him. Linda V agreed, and said he was able to communicate in our language. Mike said he thought it was a success, and also mentioned that he can't see how anyone could want to defund the police right now. He's hoping we can have more conversations with GPD in the future. John mentioned that if they were overstaffed, that would be one thing, but felt any more defunding would be unwise. Linda P. pointed out that she was glad Office Van Beek said that there are only seven patrol officers on the streets for the entire city. She felt it was something people needed to hear, and was glad he clarified it.

Community Enhancement Grant:

Use of our \$2500. Mike asked John where we're at with the signs. John said he hadn't heard from anyone. He's still prepared to make them, but the city needs to provide him with the standards. Kim asked if we were going to use grant money for neighborhood signs or park equipment. Linda V. said that Michael Gonzales suggested not asking for signs again for this grant. She did ask for a dedication sign for the park playground, since we hadn't asked for that before and we're still wishy-washy about getting the neighborhood signs up. So for this grant, we asked for park benches, tables and a dedication sign. With the reduced award she wasn't sure what the priority would be. Kim asked what the group thought about a dedication sign on a bench – she's seen that before. Linda V liked the idea and said she'd talk to Michael Gonzales about it, but we need figure out how much it'll cost. John said he could do the dedication sign, but wasn't sure on the specs; if they'd give him the specs and let him run with it he could do it. Linda P. asked if Mike has gotten any direction from Linda Hahn, director of Portland Public Arts. Mike hadn't. He's reluctant to throw another person into the mix and complicate the issue more. Mike wants to get a meeting with the folks at the city that do signs; we've been fooling around with this for a couple of years now & still have no idea what we can & can't do. He asked who'd be interested in a meeting. Both Lindas were. Linda P wanted to remind the group that Nike wants their trademark involved in any dedication sign. John said that wouldn't be a problem. If they can send him a vector graphic image, he can cut it. Kim voiced the opinion that she believes the city doesn't want us to do it, that they're really telling us no. John agreed, but Mike said he wants them to explicitly say that they don't want us to do the signs. He'll call tomorrow morning and find out who is involved in getting signs for the city. John reminded the group that his church has a great bench we can have; Kim said it's not going to happen. John said that the city needs to commit to doing it then. Mike moved on to picnic benches and tables, and thought the grant would cover two picnic tables, taking care of most of the \$2500. He would much rather have picnic tables than benches. Linda P. thought it



was important to have a dedication plaque – how do we pay for that? Mike will see what the city says, and then we can make a decision. John asked if we could offer them temporary signs and benches until they get around to installing something permanent. Mike said no; they won't do it due to liability and insurance.

Linda V. asked if we'll have to re-submit our request. Kim suggested finding out how much a dedication plaque would be, and then using the rest for picnic tables. She also felt the plaque was more important than another picnic table, since there are some out there already. Linda P and Linda V agreed.

Linda V. read a letter she received about the change in the grant amount, and wasn't sure if we need to re-submit our request. Mike clarified that we need to let them know how we're reducing our scope to fit the money, and suggested a plaque plus one picnic table. Kim said that it seems like we need to know how much each will cost before we can do that, and Linda V. said she'd already sent out that information via e-mail. Mike asked that she resend it and Linda said she would.

Mike said he spoke with the guy responsible for the well project and thought he might be able to get him to do a couple of benches along the pathway, but we'd deal with that later.

Mike will contact the city tomorrow to talk about signs. It needs to be decided before the next Board meeting so we can get this off the table. He'll also call Joe Walsh to let him know we're working on it, so the grant paperwork will be along in a bit.

Mike asked if anyone noticed there's still a well project going on out there. He's not sure what they're doing, but they were supposed to be done long ago. John said they'd gotten their drill bit out, and Kim said she saw a lot of water flooding the street recently, so perhaps there's progress.

General Meeting, 3/1:

Speakers – Mike spoke w/ Teresa Hall at City Hall, and she's contacted both the new mayor and Councilor DeNucci, and he's hoping to get them as speakers. That way, at the next General Meeting in June we can have the other two new council members. He was thinking 10-15 minutes each, plus a little time for Q&A. Linda was thinking 20 minutes speaking plus 10 for questions. Mike thought there wouldn't be enough time, since Tina Osterink wants time for the Urban Tree Project. Linda P said Tina had specifically mentioned our neighborhood and the playground. Mike would like her to come and let us know how we can get involved.

Mike mentioned that as a group, we can't keep on taking responsibilities. The neighborhood and community need to help.

Linda V asked if that would be too many speakers? Kim thought it would be cutting it close. Mike said we can hold the tree project off until summer. John asked if there was talk about putting trees around the proposed pumphouse, to camouflage it, and he wondered if the two projects are linked. Mike said he'd ask Tina tomorrow, and also that the guy from the pumphouse owes us. Mike said OK, let's put the tree project on the summer meeting.

Positions – Linda P. said she'd like to resume Land Use, since she's been doing that job anyway. The city has a new system, and Linda's learned how to use it. Kim asked if the positions are through October, or if they're now a year-long position? Linda P. thought it was January to January, and Kim said she'd check with Michael. Mike asked if everyone is going to stay on. We don't know about Alesya or Willy, so that would be one at-large position plus Vice President. Mike hadn't heard of anyone interested in joining the Board.

Bylaw Change – Linda P had sent a paragraph from another neighborhood association (Hogan Cedars) that was much more straight-forward, and everyone liked that. Linda P. wondered if Gelinda would be interested in one of those positions, since her children are a bit older. She hasn't spoken to her about it. Linda V. wondered if we can make replacements without having a General Meeting? Kim said no, but technically the positions are "up." If they don't come to the meeting to say yes, they want the position, then they're not in consideration.

Linda P. said the verbiage should be run by Michael before we have the membership vote on it. Linda V moved we accept the wording as written for the potential bylaws change, and Mike seconded. All in favor. Kim will run it by Michael tomorrow.

Linda P requested that he give an update to the playground under "old business" – Kim added "along with the drill..."

John said he has a video projector and/or suggested using Zoom to show photos of the playground. Mike thought that was a good idea; we have the presentation the City did, but it was really just them slapping themselves on the back for getting it done. Kim said that if we're going to do that, let's practice before the meeting. Mike said he'll be working with the county on vaccine events, so his time will be limited.

Other Business:

Discussion about getting vaccine shots.

Linda would like our tiny City Park sign on Glisan replaced with something larger. Most of us hadn't ever noticed it. Mike said he'd bring it up with the city.

Kim asked about whether or not we'd be putting out yard signs to advertise the meeting, or stick with Facebook/NextDoor. The group said Facebook/NextDoor was fine, and didn't plan on putting out the yard signs.

Kim moved to adjourn, Linda V seconded. Meeting adjourned, 6:55 PM

General Meeting over Zoom, Monday, March 1, 2021, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Board Meeting over Zoom, Monday, March 15, 6:00-7:00 PM