

**GRESHAM REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2021 – PAGE 1 OF 6**

A. CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDING OFFICER

Chair Travis Stovall called the Gresham Redevelopment Commission (GRDC) meeting to order on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 2:02 p.m. via Conference Call +1 253 215 8782 Meeting ID 955 8439 1775 or <https://greshamoregon.zoom.us/j/95584391775>.

Chair Stovall called the roll.

COMMISSION PRESENT: Commission Chair Travis Stovall
Commission Vice Chair Eddy Morales
Commissioner Dina DiNucci
Commissioner Vincent Jones-Dixon
Commissioner Mario Palmero
Commissioner Sue Piazza (left meeting at 2:18 p.m.)

COMMISSION ABSENT: Commissioner Janine Gladfelter

STAFF PRESENT: Emily Bower, GRDC Executive Director
David Clyne, City Manager Pro Tem
Corey Falls, Deputy City Manager
Kevin McConnell, City Attorney
Eric Schmidt, Community Development and City Services Director
Sharron Monohon, Budget and Finance Director
Amy Evans, Program Technician
Cecille Turley, Program Technician and Recording Secretary

**1. INSTRUCTIONS TO CITIZENS ON SIGNING UP FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY REGARDING
AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Stovall read the instructions.

**B. CITIZEN AND COMMUNITY GROUP COMMENTS FOR AGENDA (EXCEPT PUBLIC
HEARING) AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Lynn Snodgrass, Chief Executive Officer of the Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center, provided comment that she had intended to give at the Gresham City Council's January 19, 2021 Zoom meeting, but was unable to give due to a technical difficulty with Zoom. Her testimony is as follows:

Mayor Stovall, President Morales, Councilors,

I'm Lynn Snodgrass, CEO of the Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center. I don't have a major agenda for my comments today but sincere congratulates the newly elected public servants. Congratulations Councilor DiNucci. We have known each other for a very long time. Both of us had businesses in Rockwood and shared the dramatic changes that occurred around us. You and I personally lived through zoning changes, many store closures (G.I. Joes, Fred Meyer), annexation, and all of the ups and downs that changed the community. You were the Park Place, we were the plant place.

Congratulations Councilor Jones Dixon. We briefly worked on a Heroes project together through Adventist Medical. A project to honor those in the military by engraving silver metal stars with loved one's names that then hung on a Christmas tree at the US Bank where coincidentally, Councilor Gladfelter was manager at that time. The project was a partnership with Batemans and Dignity Memorial.

Congratulations Councilor Piazza. Our paths have crossed many times not just from the Chamber leadership you provided. But from the action you create to get something done. I have been drawn to be part of many of your fundraising efforts and your intense desire to make Gresham the place to call home.

Congratulations Mayor Stovall. Thank you for wanting to be a public servant. Perhaps today more than ever before, it is important for a city our size to be represented and led by a person of color whose life experiences bring a valuable perspective others of us do not have. It is also critically important that your deep understanding as a local business owner be at the table. It is an over-used statement, but I will say it yet again. Our businesses are hurting. Badly. Yes, new stimulus money helps. But understand that stimulus is not the only answer. With safety measures firmly in place, businesses need stimulus AND the ability to open...not stimulus OR.

We have new leadership at the Chamber as well. As of January 1st, our Chamber president is Michael James, (CFO) the Senior Finance Leader at the Boeing company. Our president elect is a woman-owned small business owner, Leslie Parker. Our treasurer is Al Nodarse. Al is a man of color who has family roots in Cuba and loves Gresham with a sincere passion. Again, we have diverse, representative elected leadership in the Chamber.

Conversations are important. The Chamber will be reaching out to you as we have in the past to come and have conversations with our board, and dialogue with one of our productive committees like our Economic Development Committee, Government Affairs Council, and our WorkReady program.

Building on or starting new relationships between us will provide the greater Gresham area continued opportunities to be the successful, healthy, vital, and the prosperous community we all we desire.

Again, congratulations newly elected Councilors and Mayor. If at any time the Chamber or I personally or professionally can be of assistance, I hope you will ask.

C. CONSENT AGENDA

None.

D. PUBLIC HEARING

None.

E. COMMISSION BUSINESS

1. GRESHAM REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION 2020 WORK PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

Emily Bower, GRDC Executive Director, presented the staff report. (PowerPoint presentation attached as Exhibit A.)

Chair Stovall said excellent. Thank you, Emily. That's the representation and compilation of a lot of great work. He has lived in the community for 20 years and it's so amazing to see what's coming out of the ground there in Central Rockwood and the beauty of those facilities and locations. It's just absolutely encouraging. What a lot of great work over the past year in execution of the Work Plan.

Commissioner Dina DiNucci said thank you for the presentation. Why is the Innovation Hub building defined as the Innovation Hub?

Ms. Bower explained that early on in the early strategies of the project, there were several forums that were brought together with a variety of stakeholders. She believes that the gap that the project was hoping to fill, based on community involvement and stakeholder feedback, was a space for innovation and really thinking about creativity and ways to collaborate within organizations to crosspollinate opportunities and reduce the redundancy in different service deliveries. The Innovation hub, which they now call the Blue Now, was really the impetus for thinking about how these different organizations that provide workforce development, job training, small business support – originally, we were working with MetroEast Community Development in addition to that group of tenants, was how they can cross collaborate to really innovate their efficiency and their delivery of services.

Commissioner DiNucci asked, will that be able to happen with the organizations in that space now?

Ms. Bower said given the current COVID circumstance, it makes it hard to collaborate in person, but she believes, based on her conversations with WorkSource Oregon, that they initially before COVID were going to organize a discussion with all of the tenants, including Oregon Tradeswomen, to talk about where the overlap is, where the alignment is, and where the financial opportunities to support one another are. She's not sure where the discussions are at this moment, given the circumstance, but she does believe ongoing conversations are happening. One thing she believes Oregon Tradeswomen has been doing for their staff and folks that are utilizing their programming is working with Little Wings Daycare to provide childcare for those folks in need. So, there's some of that starting to bubble up and she hopes that as we get back to more familiar times, we'll be able to do more of that in person.

Commissioner DiNucci said she works in the Rockwood Building with Human Solutions, Wallace, and others. She knows that the idea at one point was about a strong collaboration between the tenants, and I really encourage that. It took many years to figure out how that was going to work or work effectively, and she is really looking forward to seeing a model develop that enables those organizations in the Innovation Hub to start crosspollinating. She thinks that's a really exciting opportunity. Regarding the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) funding we received, being related to the health in our community with the public outreach to the population, and COVID being such a high occurrence in the Rockwood community, is that part of the REACH discussions at all?

Ms. Bower explained that it has definitely been at the forefront of the minds of all of the REACH Coalition members. Being a REACH partner, we're also part of the Achieve Coalition, which is a coalition of partners that focus on health and the social determinates of health. In there there's a lot of discussion around how to be more unified in what our goals are related to each partner's distribution of funds, so we've had to pivot quite a bit. Every allocation is determined in September and then a work plan is determined for the following year. Right now, we're in the planning stages for year three of funding and what that looks like. Most of it has largely been around determining what community partners need right now and if that's personal protective equipment or small business relief. There are some restrictions on how the funds can be used, but in our Achieve Coalition discussions, we're talking about ways that we can partner up on the funds that we have within the City and partner with those community partners to do distribution. Right now, for example, Beyond Black has been working with the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. They used to be funded through the City, but as

they've matured, they have been able to take that funding directly to their organization and then execute on those services. So, while we've been doing some capacity building, we've also been wanting to empower organizations to be able to create their own work plans through the REACH Coalition and Achieve Coalition grant dollars. She thinks we should sit down and talk a little bit more about how COVID could be better integrated into the funds that we're using this year. She believes there's still room for brainstorming around that. We've reached out to the emergency preparedness folks and have been trying to brainstorm with them about how REACH funds could be used for engagement, as well, so she thinks there's more to discuss and explore.

Vice Chair Eddy Morales said he just wants to say thank you for all of your hard work Emily, Cecille, and Amy. He thinks your outreach efforts and the way you bring community along is a good example of how to do this work throughout our City. And he wants to echo Chair Stovall's point earlier that the amount of work is really impressive and the work that you can physically see in Rockwood is really something to be proud of, too. It's inspiring and he hopes that when we get to a place to have a discussion about renewing the TIF, that maybe we'll be able to imagine what more we can do in the area.

Ms. Bower said thank you Vice Chair Morales. As you know, it takes a village and my predecessors have done a lot of lifting, and that includes the previous Council, as well, We know that it took a while to get this project off the ground and seeing it go vertical is a celebratory moment, even given our current circumstances, so thank you for the acknowledgement and we do hope that we can continue to do more of this work in the community as we move forward.

Chair Stovall ask Ms. Bower if she had anything else to share.

Ms. Bower replied no. Thank you, Chair Stovall, and everyone for your time. Stay safe and we look forward to working with you in the next year.

F. COMMISSION MEASURES AND PROPOSALS

1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair Stovall explained that per the GRDC bylaws, the Vice Chair and Acting Chair shall be elected annually by the Commissioners from among their members at the first regular meeting of the GRDC in January of each year. The Vice Chair performs the duties of the Chair in the absence or incapacity of the Chair. The Acting Chair performs the duties of the Chair in the absence or incapacity of both the Chair and Vice Chair. For calendar year 2020, Commissioner Eddy Morales was elected Vice Chair and Commissioner Karylenn Echols was elected Acting Chair until she was appointed Interim Mayor on June 29th, resulting in the election of Commissioner Mario Palmero on July 21st to serve as Acting Chair for the remainder of the year.

Chair Stovall called for nominations for Vice Chair for calendar year 2021.

Commissioner Mario Palmero nominated Commissioner Eddy Morales, he said due to Commissioner Morales' experience and knowledge of the GRDC.

Commissioner Vincent Jones-Dixon seconded the nomination.

Chair Stovall called for additional nominations.

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There were no additional nominations.

Hearing none, **Chair Stovall** called for the vote.

Election of Commissioner Eddy Morales to serve as Vice Chair for calendar year 2021 passed as follows:

Commission Chair Travis Stovall	YES
Commissioner Dina DiNucci	YES
Commissioner Vincent Jones-Dixon	YES
Commissioner Mario Palmero	YES

Absent: Commissioner Janine Gladfelter
Commissioner Sue Piazza

Abstained: Commissioner Eddy Morales

Chair Stovall called for nominations for Acting Chair for calendar year 2021.

Commissioner Palmero nominated Commissioner Dina DiNucci.

Commissioner Jones-Dixon seconded the nomination.

Chair Stovall called for additional nominations.

There were no additional nominations.

Hearing none, **Chair Stovall** called for the vote.

Election of Commissioner Dina DiNucci to serve as Acting Chair for calendar year 2021 passed as follows:

Commission Chair Travis Stovall	YES
Commission Vice Chair Eddy Morales	YES
Commissioner Vincent Jones-Dixon	YES
Commissioner Mario Palmero	YES

Absent: Commissioner Janine Gladfelter
Commissioner Sue Piazza

Abstained: Commissioner Dina DiNucci

Chair Stovall said at this point, he is the Commission Chair, Commissioner Morales is Vice Chair, and Commissioner DiNucci is Acting Chair.

Acting Chair DiNucci said thank you Commissioner Palmero, for (not) giving me a heads up before you nominated me for a position, but she appreciates your confidence in me.

Vice Chair Morales said thank you, Commissioner Palmero for the nomination and Commissioner Jones-Dixon for the second. He's curious, Commissioner Jones-Dixon, if you're interested in serving in the Vice Chair role.

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Commissioner Jones-Dixon said he is interested, but he thinks that because of Vice Chair Morales' experience having been on the Commission, that he should serve as Vice Chair this year and he can serve next year and be a part of the conversation as we move forward.

G. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Hearing no further business, **Chair Stovall** adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

/s/ TRAVIS STOVALL

CHAIR

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Cecille Turley

Recording Secretary