

Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association

May 12, 2021

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

Introductions

Approximately ten individuals, who introduced themselves, participated throughout most of the meeting.

Dry Conditions

A very dry April has caused a loss of 35 percent of the recently planted trees. An earlier planting should help if there is more moisture. Trail walkers should take some water with them to hydrate some of the earlier plants. The trees are hard to find with new growth.

Online Services Portal

Tracy Slack offered a Power Point presentation to introduce the new portal system for either inspecting of or applying for a wide variety of land use and development permits (starting January 1, 2021) to the Neighborhood Coalition. The Coalition has received guidance via a pdf document from Gresham IT. The public may use a search mechanism for finding information. This should eventually disseminate information more effectively, and without needing to be an authorized user, as has been the case previously. Notwithstanding, the entire system is not exactly in place for the OSP – Online Services Portal.

Since Land Use activity is not migrated forward as Gresham updates its systems, this table may help you to find information on older applications and permits:

Permits Issued Between...	URL Reference
Mid 1990s-August 2005	http://pits.greshamoregon.gov/
September 2005-mid 2017	Contact Gresham's Planner on Duty by email at pod@greshamoregon.gov
Mid 2017-December 2020	https://eplan.greshamoregon.gov/ePlan/
January 2021-present	https://greshamor-energovweb.tylerhost.net/apps/SelfService#/home

One can access the permit site at <https://greshamoregon.gov/Permit-Services/> For further directions, a call can be made to 503-618-2845 or email PermitCenter@GreshamOregon.gov.

The above table demonstrates that Gresham used the ePlan system from 2017 through the end of 2020. Using the new Online Services Portal, documents can be located but loading performance is sometimes slow. The vendor, Tyler, offers a wide variety of technology products to city governments. They seem to be relatively new to web-based applications. As a result, when all else fails, send an email to pod@greshamoregon.gov for further explanations.

In the past, a new permit number has been assigned to a given applicant as the application moves through different phases of the process. It is hoped the new system will simplify the permit numbering standards.

The new Tyler map feature has newer applications. However, multiple systems and multiple maps accessible across the City of Gresham web site create confusion. The main search page allows for searching for permits, plans (choice for development), inspections, licenses. Some options are allowed, such as an “advanced” button for specificity of the search option. A generic search may work but a particular designation offers more substance and more chance of getting the desired information.

Gresham regulates many areas of commercial and residential activity. This offers a glimpse of how things are organized for plans and plan status. The more one knows about a parcel, the more specific the search can become. Licenses, permits and plans all fit into the paradigm. There are many details arranged under a specific item. At least eight tabs for some topics can address items of interest. Attachments can be useful to give more information. All information about the plans which have been uploaded are available for the savvy user.

Tab	Tab
Summary	Attachments
Location	Contacts
Fees	Sub-Records
Inspections	More Information

One can search more globally within the general Gresham boundaries. Several activity attachments can be accessed for a particular address or search more globally. Several activity attachments can be accessed, all known for a particular address. What can be searched about the general area, say on Richey Road within a particular area. Can search globally for an address within a region.

Different views are available for the diligent searcher. These include the permit, the plan, the inspection, the license and anything about a certain address, plus activity for a general area.

Although the new city search engine has not been documented on the city website, it appears more user friendly and allows for greater access capabilities when doing a general search, especially for permits. Top buttons will allow one to browse other tabs and applications. When looking for fees, for example, there is now customized prompting, thus allowing someone to independently walk through the process of obtaining an estimate for fees.

Question: “When would someone use this?”

Answer: When a plan is being applied for, it may have common public review and comment opportunity. The applicant must still fill in paperwork. During a public review, residents can use this portal to inspect what is filed online. This simplifies access for residents who are looking. On the other hand, if a resident wishes to access a permit, instead of emailing or calling for a link to the form, etc. with paperwork, one can do this by filling in online and uploading documents without the paperwork. Applicants have been using this since the beginning of the year. City employees may be assisting. One can learn of activity in the neighborhood. People can look at a developer’s permit search and documentation status.

Matching Grant Application for 2021

We spent \$1500 in the past year. This year, GBNA anticipates a grant request of about \$1,000. The association is looking at planting sooner as the spring rains come. There has been a good roster of volunteers who came to cut back canes and plant new plants.

Advocating for Internet Carrier Oversight by Regulatory Board

Internet carrier oversight needs to be initiated. The Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission only offers oversight to cable carriers and not Internet carriers. Several of our group had personal issues to share regarding internet use. The director of the commission is interested in looking into this matter.

Gabbert Butte Trail Update

Residents have participated in linking the Saddle Trail with Gabbert Butte and with Hogan Butte. **Jim Buck** wrote about the update last month (in April) and expected to see information. So far, there is an inter-governmental agreement. **Tina Osterink** mentioned there is a situation about code changes so confusion exists. Furthermore, the 2019 bond issue has been plugged into a holding pattern. Forty million dollars rest on the request for walking trails. Overall, 92 million dollars should be invested into nature projects and parks. Because so much money has been allocated, we need to effectively lobby with Metro for our own needs.

Shirley Craddick affirmed Gabbert Butte is a go because of funding from 2006. The pandemic is more the issue. Metro had to lay off 40 percent of the employees. The main facilities lost many staff with revenue not coming in from concert centers, etc. Everything has been pared back, including the parks department. Metro has a lot of pressure to move the funds out as quickly as possible. There is a lot of work to do now. Six funding categories in the new funding measure include basic plans for six areas including trails and special projects. Each category needs to be refined to make sure they are funded for the voters. It takes time to get the funds in place. Voters need to trust...climate change, water quality and habitat...will depend on how the funds are distributed. Gabbert Butte will be a Metro Park, not a city park.

It has been 15 years since the bond was passed. The work should be contracted. Metro operate with the same processes as the city does with permits, etc. The entrance to the park at Regner Road and 29th will include a stop sign. There should be trail access from there. There is no way of knowing how much sidewalk will be on the road. Sidewalks from Gabbert are essential. ADA compliance needs to be met. Upgrading Regner to include sidewalks with ADA compliance will not have effect if the city doesn't have funding.

Park Spots

GBNA has **no school playground** and no developed parks with regular playgrounds. We have undeveloped park land, but nothing is being looked at. There are no plans for the city to develop parks in our own neighborhood. We may need another oar in the water with the city of Gresham.

Some are lobbying for a **toddler area**. The census data will not appear until September 2021. We need a convincing argument for X percent of the population with 0 per cent of the parks. Why has there not been equity in other neighborhoods within the GBNA?

Sandy Davidson has a safety concern about **the Saddle Trail**. The City has already taken out a number of trees. The Parks Department has addressed some of this, but they are overwhelmed. Asplundh is under contract with PGE.

Gresham will not have funding for parks without police and fire resources. More people are objecting to the Shaull property. This is pushing the city to address some of the undeveloped properties. There is a six-acre property a family would like to see as public land for park use.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved by unanimous agreement and are posted onto the GBNA site.

Reports

Tracy Slack related no new activity with land use.

Treasurer **Theresa Tschirky** had reported \$989.15 in April with a current posting of \$616.50 in the account.

New Business

One of the necessities during the summer will be cane cutting and the watering of newly planted trees on Gresham Butte. It is possible new plants will be started. **Jim Buck will post on Next Door about coming work parties in June and July.** With a little o \$100 from the 2020 grant, he will ask the city for mulching sources.

Commented [TS1]: No longer timely info.

Questions and Announcements

Gresham does have a Facebook site which may be a way to provide meeting information. The site has an events page which would assist with meeting announcements. Is there any way for Next Door to push certain notices for specific neighborhoods? Members and officers need to comment on Next Door. GBNA needs to have the meeting posted onto the city calendar, putting it into the announcements for the neighborhood.

Next Meeting

The first meeting for fall and the new year, will now occur in October. Several discussion topics are being floated as possibilities. GBNA needs new leadership to keep moving forward. Hopefully, more members will enter into more active roles. We need strategies for recruitment.

Adjournment