

Northwest Neighborhood Association

Annual Election Meeting

October 25, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Eighteen people attended this time including board members Kat Todd, Chris Fast, Naomi Butler, and Barbara Adams.

Kat welcomed everyone and introduced herself then invited the board members to say hello. She thanked Dave Dyk for his time on the board and all of the contributions that he made. Kat introduced city manager Nina Vetter who lives in the neighborhood.

Guest speaker Lori Stegman, Multnomah County Commissioner, began her presentation by talking about housing, rent assistance & supportive services (\$24.6 million dedicated). The Motel 6 in Rockwood was recently purchased to house unhoused people, in particular people at risk for COVID.

Street Outreach & System Navigation (\$2.45 million): working to organize navigation teams, four teams of two individuals, who will go out into the community.

Clean up program: including training house-less people to help in the clean-up of areas of need (providing opportunities)

Lori shared a video re: **Vance Properties** in the Rockwood area. A master plan is in the works and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2021. (There is a virtual open house available online). Multco.us/vance

Stegman said the masterplan is now about 95% complete. Ideas and feedback are still being collected. One idea is to relocate Animal Services Shelter (currently in Troutdale). A benefit is that Animal Services has many entry service level jobs—having it centrally located would be beneficial. She received a \$100,000 grant for economic recovery in East County from the Gates Foundation. Reflecting on the heat wave this past summer and the loss of lives, she would like to build/create resilience hubs where people can go in the event of an extreme weather event. She's looking at manufacturing housing options, like SROs, or small housing units, in the area, which would provide jobs and affordable housing.

East County is getting a flagship library, a large one like the one downtown Portland. The location has not been chosen yet. The midland library will be renovated, as well as a number of other locations. All libraries will receive a "refresh." All libraries will be upgraded to 10G broadband. She said that the location of the new library will hopefully be announced by the end of the year.

Q: About abandoned RVs on Marine Drive. Stegman said the county is working on a solution, the city of Portland is also working on cleaning this area up.

Q: What is the county doing to help those who are on the street, addicted, mentally ill, etc. who do not seem to want help? Stegman said this is a complex issue that includes public safety training, navigation teams to help during mental health crisis', adequate options for intervention, etc. She said this is an area that the county is working on improving.

Q: Where can people experiencing a mental health crisis go in the Gresham area now? Stegman said a new center is being built in downtown Portland, and transitional housing will also be included (about 60 beds). She said she thinks Mult. County is the first in the NW to do this, but also recognizes the high need and that this is just a beginning. She said that because of the pandemic things have gotten worse when it comes to people in crisis.

Q: Where might this new library be located, and will the current Gresham Library stay? Stegman couldn't say where, but the Gresham library will not stay.

Guest speaker Chris Strong, City of Gresham Transportation Division Manager

Secured \$5.2 million in funding to improve sidewalks on Division and will align with Trimet's Rapid Ride project. As the space is taken as needed it will impact a few trees along the route, one by Birdsdale and a grove by Towle. The schedule will be brought to city council in November.

Strong said the past two years have seen several traffic related deaths in Gresham. The city began putting up a sign alerting drivers to the fact that there was a fatal crash in the area for two weeks following the incident. He said the city is also examining crash sites to look for possible improvements to the area.

Q: A petition process for street safety? Strong said the first thing a person would do is submit a petition to the city. After the petition is received the city gathers data and compares the location with similar locations.

Q: Wallula is dangerous, people go too fast and there are no sidewalks. What can be done? Strong said the city can take some measurements and take a look at what's going on on Wallula.

Q: What about creating a narrower driving area on Wallula by painting lines, pedestrian walkway, etc.? Strong said this is not something the city has tried, but it might be an option worth exploring.

Strong said to send him an email if anyone has any comments, etc.:
chris.strong@greshamoregon.gov

Kat presented the slate of nominees for the 2021-22 board:

President: Kat Todd

VP: Chris Fast

Land Use Chair: John Bildsoe

Treasurer: Naomi Butler

Secretary: Barbara Adams

Dana Sewall made a motion to accept the slate as presented.

Paul Warr-King seconded the motion.

The slate was accepted, sixteen in favor, one abstaining.

The meeting attendees were asked to read through the April 26, 2021 general meeting minutes. Lauri Sewall made a motion that the minutes be approved as they are. Naomi Butler seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

John Bildsoe joined the meeting and gave a brief land use report.

1. Bella Vista Apartments: the developer must finish all of the roads, sewers, paths ~~are competed~~ before people can move in. The tiny homes still need landscaping and interior work. The row houses will probably open first, then the apartments. There will also be nine housing units facing Birdsdale, ground has not been broken on that yet.
2. ~~Brimmar~~Bryn Mawr Estates: right off Powell—47 possible duplex unitses on 4+ acre site. Neighbors are concerned about access. There are also drainage issues. The property has not yet been purchased by the developer.
3. Church of God property, 2022 NW Division. The church is in talks with a developer who would like to put in 54 housing units on the property. There has not been an early neighborhood notification meeting yet. John said one of the big concerns is water runoff.
4. Milne Property: 8 acre site corner of Division and Birdsdale. Owner died last year; the family ~~has been trying to change~~successfully changed the zoning from ~~industrial~~General Industrial to ~~corridor mixed use~~Corridor Mixed Use. The owner is trying to hold out for a housing development.
5. Civic Drive project: Market rate and affordable housing along Civic Drive. Ground floor commercial space.
6. Shaull property: the city has entered a contract with property owner to purchase the property. John said the property is cleaned up, ~~buildings removed, including a barn and all structures removed.~~ This acquisition completes 170-180 acres from Grant Butte to 2 of parks and green space between Powell Blvd (where the Shaull site can

become a public entrance) and Division Street (where the Gantenbein property is also an entrance).

7. Truffle Hunter property: a building complex with 40-50 apartments might be built there.
8. Regarding the south side of Bella Vista Park, John said a path will be built and hopefully it will look nicer than it does now when all is said and done with the development.

Treasurer's report: \$611.88 On-Point balance

President's report: Thank you for all who helped in Saturday's Adopt-a-Park (10/23). It was rainy, but everyone worked hard. The grant completion report has been turned into the city. The association sent out a thank you note to Rockwood Water for the park bench, to those who installed the benches and new historical sign, and for those who were instrumental in creating the rain garden.

Kat wondered if we want to take action on petitioning the city about road safety on Birdsdale. Naomi suggested we talk about this during the Community Enhancement Grant presentation.

Community Enhancement Grant presentation:

Naomi Butler gave an overview about the process so far. She talked about eligibility requirements.

Last year Naomi created a project schedule. We are now in the "neighbors vote on projects" phase, where the board recommends viable projects.

Chris Fast talked through several ideas that were considered. He said that the ideas were divided into three categories, then the ideas were considered for grant eligibility requirements. "Not within scope of grant funding," "Landowner permissions," "Alternative funding available," were the three categories. He said that all of the ideas fell out of the grant requirements. Some of our discussions tonight were about traffic and safety improvements, which relate to some of our ideas. We did find out ways to connect people to existing resources. And the Methodist Church basketball play area is going to happen, funded by the church. So, many positive things happened because of the work done in pursuit of finding a project to fund.

Britt McConn talked about our neighborhood tree plan project. Gina Bono is going to head up this effort in our neighborhood.

Our next general meeting will be held Monday, January 31, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.