

**Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations
February 8, 2022 – Remotely Held (Zoom)
Meeting Minutes**

NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES	NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES
Centennial	Rick Dwyer	Northeast	INACTIVE
Central City	INACTIVE	North Gresham	Mike Elston
Gresham Butte	Jim Buck, Tracy Slack	Northwest	John Bildsoe, Kat Todd, Chris Fast
Historic Southeast		Gresham Pleasant Valley	
Hogan Cedars	Matt Callison	Powell Valley	
Hollybrook		Rockwood	Catherine Nicewood
Kelly Creek	Carol Rulla, Charles Teem	Southwest	Dana Duval
North Central	Mary Gossett	Wilkes-East	
Staff & Guests	Michael Gonzales, Office of Neighborhood and Community Enhancement; Shannon Martin, Solid Waste and Sustainability Manager; Rachel Fetters, PSU Student; Brit McCann; Sue Ruanola, Tom Stanley		

After a quorum was established, the meeting opened at 7:01 p.m., Jim Buck, Coalition Co-President presiding.

1. The January 11, 2022 Coalition meeting minutes were approved as presented.

2. Presentation: Climate Action Plan (CAP) and other recycling and solid waste updates. Guest Speaker, Shannon Martin, Solid Waste and Sustainability Manager, City of Gresham

a. Climate action began in 2007 with the signing of the Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement. This led to several capitol improvement projects that have reduced operating costs (LED streetlights, wastewater treatment plant at net zero) and the development of our first Internal Operations Sustainability Plan. Current focus: build on this work and create a community wide CAP.

b. The Solid Waste and Sustainability staff coordinates the city’s work on the CAP, which will explore the impact of climate change in Gresham and identify how the city, businesses and community can effectively respond. CAP will guide the city. Each department will develop an action plan to integrate adaptation and mitigation strategies into its specialty areas. Climate change adaptation and mitigation actions will be integrated into existing plans (Transportation System Plan, Tree Management Plan, Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan).

c. The city will engage with the community on key strategies and actions to ask for feedback on whether our actions support co-benefits or positive impacts on our community’s health, prosperity and ensure equity as well as internal operations should see an economic cost savings or conserve/restore natural resources. One possible approach would be to score which actions are a priority to our community.

d. A literature review of other communities was done to better understand what they are doing and to identify common themes and actions, opportunities to find synergies where we could collaborate and not duplicate efforts and to better understand what strategies others were taking to advance equity. Some of the communities reviewed were Bend, Ashland, Multnomah County, Eugene and Beaverton, as well as large city plans like Seattle, San Diego, New York, etc.

e. The first community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory was developed to help guide climate action strategies and policies. The slide presentation showed a graph of overall GHG emissions from all sources and a graph of 2019 Gresham community GHG emissions from local emissions, imported emissions from consumption and negative emissions from carbon storage and other offsets. Building and energy is the highest contributor of GHG emissions in Gresham. Landfill is the lowest emitter which plays a role in the imported emissions from consumption. Mr. Martin pointed out the importance of the role trees play in negative

carbon emissions by providing shade which reduces energy demand on cooling, providing flood control and cool our streams to protect habitat and by reducing heat islands.

f. Project milestones.

Draft actions and strategies (underway).

Joined resiliency cohort and Public Sector Sustainability Roundtable.

City crosswalk.

Community engagement (2023). Community vulnerability assessment. (underway—This looks at impacts and what we will look like in the future. The city has hired a consultant. In the future we could look like San Diego in terms of climate.). **Follow-up from the meeting: resource link for climate change: <https://www.climatecentral.org/news/summer-temperatures-co2-emissions-1001-cities-16583>

Community GSG inventory.

Internal project team.

Climate action webpage.

Partnership with Multnomah County.

Environmental justice and equity strategy.

g. A few projects that are wrapping up:

1. The city is purchasing over 330 kWh per year saving \$40K over the life of the contract.

2. The city received a \$280K grant to install public charging stations at City Hall, Rockwood Police Station, Historic Downtown and the Rockwood Market Hall. Plus 12 charging stations for city fleet to help accelerate transition off of fossil fuel. The grant also provides \$64K to purchase electric vehicles.

h. Questions and comments from the group:

Jim Buck: He is on the Urban Forestry Subcommittee. They are advocating for change in the city code dealing with tree cut permits and that there is no solid preservation policy protecting large canopy trees—developers can come in and clear-cut trees if they need the space for the project. Trees need to be prioritized. Britt McConn also echoed the need for a change in the city code dealing with trees.

Jim Buck: How many people to other cities have working on climate change?

A. Usually 1 to 2 persons, depending on the size of the community, counties usually 1 to 2 persons, Multnomah county has 5.

John Bildsoe: How many charging stations were put in?

A. 14 public and 12 fleet

Jim Buck: Do you have an update on recycling?

A. The city is planning an event for April 2nd, 9:00-12:00 at City Hall for paper shredding and Styrofoam recycling. Also we are looking at local recycling for batteries where you put the batteries in a bag and put it in the curby.

Rick Dwyer: There is a lot of dumping on the streets. People are not able to get rid of it. Have seen places where you put the large items out with the trash and it is picked up.

A. Metro has info on how to get rid of bulky waste. We have been looking at options like putting items out at the curb but it would raise the rates.

John Bildsoe: Multi-family housing has recycling but when it is full, then it just goes into the trash. Also, the program for providing LED lighting for low-income people—is that for indoor lighting or outdoor?

A. On the LED lighting: All of the above. For multi-family housing, regional service code to go before city council—people in multi-family housing should get the same service as people in single-family homes.

Carol Rulla: Update on Ridwell.

A. City is working on an agreement with Ridwell within the regulations and under the franchise of the haulers. Also looking at an alternative solution.

3. Coalition Bylaws Review: John Bildsoe recommended that everyone look over the proposed changes. Information was added to acknowledge meetings by electronic means and other updates the Coalition recently added to the NA Bylaws Template. Tracy Slack noted that there didn't seem to be many checks and balances. Carol Rulla offered that we vote on our board each year and if someone on the board was acting outside the by-laws it can be addressed in the grievance procedures. Chris Fast asked if we should have something in the bylaws about not having everyone on the board from the same neighborhood. Carol Rulla stated that the board doesn't really vote on anything, the Coalition votes to make any Coalition decisions. Tracy Slack commented on having to be present to vote and Carol Rulla echoed that you must be present and able to participate and that the board determines a quorum. John Bildsoe added that there are 2 fail-safes—we are elected board members of the neighborhood associations and then those members elect the Coalition board. The bylaws action item will be for vote at the March meeting.

4. Neighborhood and City News and Reports:

a. Michael Gonzales, ONCE:

- Community Enhancement Grants - 14 applicants. \$60K awarded - all but one of the applicants were awarded a grant. Currently working on getting contracts in place.
- Imagine Gresham in full swing

b. Jim Buck, Gresham Butte NA: Metro has Nature, Neighborhood and Communities Stewardship and Restoration grants available for the neighborhood associations with emphasis on equity. Staff at metro to help with applications. Matt Callison, Mike Elston, and Kat Todd expressed interest in learning more about the grant potential. Grant link: <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/tools-partners/grants-and-resources/nature-grants/community-stewardship-and-restoration-grants>

c. Matt Callison, Hogan Cedars NA: Is the Block Party Truck out of commission? Michael Gonzales stated that they were bringing it back into commission.

d. Rick Dwyer, Centennial NA: Stated that Eastside Timbers were putting in a 4700 sf futsal facility adjacent to the current soccer fields and that Snow Cap was adding a 24000 sf clothing distribution center next to the Covenant Presbyterian Church on Division and about 186th. Carol Rulla added that the futsal facility is not a done deal—it is a complicated zoning change that involves a hearing with the Design Commission, the Planning Commission and then the City Council.

e. Mick Elston, North Gresham NA: Asked if we have seen the initiative petition for the Wood Village casino. He stated that there was no good reason to do it and wanted to know if the Coalition as a group can oppose it. Carol Rulla asked for more information to share with Coalition members to discuss at a future meeting.

f. Carol Rulla, Kelly Creek NA: Charter review committee has had their 2nd meeting. Parks commission getting going.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dana Duval – Coalition Secretary-Treasurer

Next meeting: **Tuesday, March 8** – Remote via Zoom