

**Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations
April 12, 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, Theresa Tschirky	Northwest	Kat Todd, John Bildsoe, Chris Fast
Historic Southeast	Kate Batten	Gresham Pleasant Valley	
Hogan Cedars	Kelsey Smalley, Christina Pettigrove	Powell Valley	
Hollybrook		Rockwood	Catherine Nicewood
Kelly Creek	Charles Teem, Carol Rulla	Southwest	Gail Cerveney, Dana Duval
North Central		Wilkes-East	
Staff & Guests	Michael Gonzales, Office of Neighborhood and Community Enhancement; Lori Stegmann, Metro Commissioner; Jennifer Lewis, Office of Commissioner Lori Stegmann; Cate Schneider, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Multnomah County Department of Community Services; Emily Bower, Executive Director of Gresham Redevelopment Commission, Vince Jones-Dixon, Gresham City Councilor; Jeff Kaiser, Sue Ruanola; Tom Stanley		

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

1. The March 8, 2022, Coalition meeting minutes were approved as presented.
2. Lori Stegmann, Metro Commissioner gave an update on the new Flagship Library in East County.

The library is a result of a capitol bond passed in 2020. It is to be approximately 95,000 square feet. They are working to identify the ideal site for the library and currently have two properties in Gresham being considered. Additionally, they have been interviewing architecture firms for the project. Commissioner Stegmann stated that we should “dream big” while planning for the facility. Some of the ideas include state of the art technology, one-on-one instructors, gig-speed technology, a flexible space for the community, dedicated space for teenagers, safe space for families, event space and quiet space.

2. Presentation: Vance Vision. Guest Speaker, Cate Schneider, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Multnomah County Department of Community Services

a. The Vance site is an opportunity to transform nearly 90 acres of county-owned land in a historically under-served neighborhood. Through community engagement the top community priorities were identified as: access to parks, open space and nature, recreational areas, safe access to the Vance site, safe and affordable housing, job opportunities and training and affordable childcare.

b. Vision for the Vance site is separated into 3 distinct areas.

1. 190th Employment Corridor Vision: Retain existing county services that are there now, develop land for future county and employment space needs (includes potentially moving the current animal shelter to this site), and enhance street and pedestrian pathways.

2. Vance Park, the Pit and Slope Vision: Transform area to provide space for park and recreation opportunity including parks, open space and habitat, trails, “green infrastructure,” sports facilities, playgrounds and public gathering spaces as well as an east-west pedestrian and bicycle connections.

3. 182nd Corridor Site 1 and Site 2 Vision: Add affordable housing and community-focused space and enhance street and pedestrian pathways.

c. Planning and developing of the Vance properties could take many years and several phases. Currently have a grant for community engagement and a grant for DEQ continued environmental assessment and monitoring. Project website is being maintained as a portal for public information and interest: <https://www.multco.us/vance-properties-planning>

3. Emily Bower, Executive Director of Gresham Redevelopment Commission, presented a video for our viewing and spoke briefly about the urban renewal extension ballot issue for the Rockwood-West Gresham Renewal Plan. A yes vote would extend the renewal plan to 2029. The extension would not raise the taxes for anyone in the city.

4. Vince Jones-Dixon, Gresham City Councilor, introduced himself, talked about his involvement in the Rockwood-West Gresham renewal project and took a few questions from the group.

4. Neighborhood and City News and Reports:

a. Michael Gonzales, ONCE: City Hall has expanded some services for in-person business. Hours are listed on the city's website and stated that hours will be adjusted as needed. State of the City will be held at Gresham High School on April 27th and will be streamed on YouTube as well. Imagine Gresham is in Phase two. 3300+ ideas were collected. Next step is to identify/clarify top priorities and to create a roadmap for resources. Neighborhood matching grant opens April 25th through the end of May. The matching grant application will be posted on the City's website by the 25th. \$10K is available. Grants are awarded in June and checks will go out the first week in July.

b. Carol Rulla, as Co-President: Charter review sub-committee for study of election systems and creation of a community engagement plan meets weekly. They are looking at election systems to make a recommendation to the Charter Review Committee, who would then make a recommendation to the City Council, who would decide if something should be put on the ballot. Carol presented information on the various election systems that are being reviewed and the sub-committee's proposed questions for public input. Jack Ardner, sub-committee vice chair, has asked if the Coalition would want to talk to the sub-committee. The Coalition felt that it was not logistically feasible to do a response as a Coalition group. We agreed that we would bring up the issue at our next meeting and the Coalition may decide to comment to the sub-committee, but individuals interested in responding as an individual should go ahead and respond to the sub-committee. Carol also asked if hearing from the DA and Sheriff's office is still something that we want on a future agenda. The majority of attendees responded with a thumbs up.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dana Duval – Coalition Secretary-Treasurer

Next meeting: **Tuesday, May 10th** – Remote via Zoom