

Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association

April 13, 2022

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

7:02 p.m. Evening Topic: Grants

Jim Buck called the meeting to order. Because there was no quorum, ideas could be discussed; no votes were taken.

Land Use

A property owner on a Deer Glen lot presented an application at the end of February to use a driveway that is shared with two other flag lots. The limits have been maxed out but the permit application has 17 attachments. Application approval has not been reached.

Treasurer's Report

Theresa Tschirky reported the current balance should be \$1494.04 after reimbursing Jim Buck for his personal credit card purchases, including trees amounting to 75 cents/tree from the East County Soil and Conservation District. Mulch may also be purchased later.

Tracy asked about monies in the account regarding project underspending on grants received. As an example, with the Wayside Project, other agencies contributed to the funding; neighbors donated some supplies. The city has an accounting of the balances from expenditures. For the tree plant, we have further budgeted for a water truck and a few other items. With what we have left, we could add an addendum if the city so approves.

Last year's grant

In the matter of a week, all the trees were in the ground. One dry day allowed planting, and then the rains came. The survival rate looks extremely high for this year. Glen and Sandy were stalwarts for the plantings. A special note of thanks also goes to Jim Buck who planted well over 100 trees on his own. We lost close to 80% of last year's trees. The primary need would be bucket brigades to maintain the trees.

Grant Ideas

Grants must be submitted before May 31; decisions are made in June; funding checks will be cut in July. Our past grant was funded at the requested level.

After discussion, much interest focused on Tsuru Island. Jim is caring for a Hiroshima seedling (from a tree that survived the bombing in World War II). The Hiroshima tree planting will help celebrate International Peace Day on September 21st in Main City Park. A 400 square foot area will hold the tree; the city agreed to provide gravel for the pathway arc. Four hundred dollars of plant material could be used; 16 hours of labor would match the \$400 grant.

Other additions for the celebration would include 5,000 cranes from high schoolers. The *Gresham Outlook* is interested in covering the event, but another person is filming a documentary tracing the tree's path from the seedling in Hiroshima to the planting in Gresham. We also have a boulder face that needs a metal plaque. The architect has proposed a peace pole which might serve as another project idea if the city approves.

Tsuru Island can use screens and benches. Wood working is needed for the resource room, along with extra shelving. A four-foot gravel walkway with Japanese-style benches could enhance the island, as well.

Upcoming Meeting Topics

1. More aggressive approach to replanting trees when new developments come in and tree preservation per se is threatened
2. Library concerns
 - a. Flagship library for Gresham area: it is unclear whether or when broad public input to the project is going to be sought; at present, it appears that the public input is limited to a select few on a committee
 - b. Current plans for existing Gresham library
 - c. Need for more eBooks out of the library rather than only hard copies
 - d. Renovation of other county libraries
3. Empty government buildings around town and proposed plans for their use—e.g. West Gresham Grade School, the DHS building
4. Financial and fiscal responsibility
5. Safety and Combatting crime
 - a. One-fourth cases processed compared to previous years
 - b. Police make arrests, but criminals return to society quickly
 - c. Miscreants lack accountability owing to weak enforcement
 - d. Judges and DA release criminals to continue activities (County jurisdiction)
 - e. Sheriff's hands are tied with soft penalties and consequences

May 11th Meeting

The next GBNA meeting will convene on Wednesday, May 11, at which time we will confirm the grant request.

A Multnomah County representative will share about the library vision for Gresham.

Fall elections should take place at the end of the summer. New faces are needed to continue to pour life into GBNA.

7:58 p.m. Meeting adjourned