

**Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations  
May 10, 2022 – Remotely Held (Zoom)  
Meeting Minutes**

NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES	NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES
Centennial		Northeast	INACTIVE
Central City	INACTIVE	North Gresham	Mike Elston
Gresham Butte	Jim Buck, Tracy Slack, Theresa Tschirky	Northwest	Kat Todd, John Bildsoe
Historic Southeast	Phil Svabik-Seror	Gresham Pleasant Valley	
Hogan Cedars	Matt Callison, Kelsey Smalley	Powell Valley	
Hollybrook		Rockwood	Catherine Nicewood
Kelly Creek	Charles Teem, Carol Rulla	Southwest	Gail Cerveny, Dana Duval
North Central	Mary Gossett	Wilkes-East	
Staff & Guests	Elizabeth Coffey, Assistant City Manager for City of Gresham; April Avery; Jef Kaiser, Sue Ruonala; Tom Stanley		

After a quorum was established, the meeting opened at 7:00 p.m., Carol Rulla, Coalition Co-President presiding.

1. The April 12, 2022, Coalition meeting minutes were approved as presented.
2. Elizabeth Coffey, Assistant City Manager for the City of Gresham, presented information on the City's budget/short term financial plan and longer term strategic financial planning as well as addressing some questions from the Coalition on these subjects.

a. 2022-23 Budget/Short Term Financial Information:

1. The highlight of this budget is recognizing that there are limited resources while trying to address urgent needs and keep services/operations steady. The city departments were tasked with coming up with 3-year operational plans as well as looking at where are there gaps in needs for the services that are currently provided to determine what the budget plan will need to focus on. The manager has been able to implement the majority of year 1 of the 3-year plan in the 2022-23 budget. This has been done by focusing a portion of our America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding on investments in public safety and homelessness and using our regular funding for some of our internal service needs.

2. Staff that has been added in the budget: Our police department is undergoing an organizational review. The review is not done but there were some recommendations that they did not want to wait on. This included the recommendation for a better command structure and using more non-sworn support. In the budget and finance department, there have been additions for customer service support and financial forecasting. For the IT department, the focus was on shoring up the day-to-day staff (help tickets have increased over 200% in the last 2 years). The City Manager's office will add more data support for the research work that is being done. The human resources department needs support for labor and employee relations. The community development department added support for the planning division, for code compliance (due to increases in the My Gresham code cases) and for the urban renewal division. For the environmental services department, support for the parks and recreation division and the water and wastewater divisions. The ARPA funding was used for police, fire, homeless services, ARPA tracking, and the planning department.

3. Current staffing levels have been maintained and no cuts have been made. A few new positions were added in the current 2021-22 budget using funding from vacant internal staff positions.

4. Funded FTEs and LTEs: 19.5 positions have been funded through the ARPA funding (15.5 reflected in the budget and 4 were approved late). 23 police positions, 18 fire positions, and 3 parks positions are funded through the Police, Fire and Parks fee on our utility bills. The current \$7.50 increase to the Police,

Fire and Parks fee will expire in June of 2023. For other funding sources, there are some positions, mostly LTEs, that are funded by grants. This grant funding is often used for pilot programs to try something out before pursuing permanent funding. Generally, grant funding comes with some constraints and are time limited, depending on the grant.

b. Longer Term Financial/Strategic Planning:

1. The goal is to implement performance measures. Council is in support of these measures and staff is in the process of building the plan. There are not details on what the performance plan will look like at this time. The mayor is in support of using data to track performance. In April, Council identified 5 key priority areas and staff is using that feedback to build a draft strategic plan. The community will have an opportunity to provide input. How community input will be collected has not been determined but will likely be something online and may include a survey to help guide the data collection. Community response period will probably last for approximately 3 weeks.

2. No revenue ballot measures are known at this time, it depends on what council wants. It would be difficult to get something on the ballot in 2022 due to the time constraints. If something needs to be put on the ballot, it is more likely that it would be put on the ballot in 2023. Generally, if a levy is approved in May, that revenue would be available in November of the same year. If the levy is approved in November, the revenue would not be available until November of the following year.

3. Tracy Slack of Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association, provided a presentation on Financial Sustainability, Outcomes Monitoring and the Role of the Coalition. Definitions of financial sustainability and outcomes monitoring were provided. The pathway presented was that the public must define and insist on sufficiently good outcomes, that SMART goals should be developed to meet our critical outcomes and that the Coalition should make financial sustainability a standing agenda item going forward.

4. Jim Buck, Coalition Co-President and Chair of the Urban Forestry Sub-committee, provided a short briefing on the tree code with some emphasis on saving canopy trees and addressing mitigation measures when trees cannot be saved. Key concepts for new tree codes were provided and the Coalition was asked to support and advocate the development of stronger tree codes. This will be discussed more at the next meeting.

5. Neighborhood and City News and Reports:

Carol Rulla, as Co-President: Future agendas: Carol stated that we should figure out how to address issues in our meetings and what we want our meetings to be, as well as, how we balance presenters and working metrics. Carol went over a list of issues and current/up-coming city events that may be topics for presentations we may want to add to a future agenda for our Coalition meetings. We also discussed how we could efficiently apply the concepts of Tracy Slack's presentation to topics such as the city's strategic plan. Tracy's proposal will be discussed more at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dana Duval – Coalition Secretary-Treasurer

Next meeting: <b>Tuesday, June 14th</b> – Remote via Zoom
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