

**Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations  
July 12, 2022 – Remotely Held (Zoom)  
Meeting Minutes**

NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES	NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES
Centennial	Mary Edmeades, Rick Dwyer	Northeast	INACTIVE
Central City	INACTIVE	North Gresham	
Gresham Butte	Jim Buck, Theresa Tschirky	Northwest	Kat Todd, Chris Fast, John Bildsoe
Historic Southeast		Gresham Pleasant Valley	
Hogan Cedars		Powell Valley	Stella Butler
Hollybrook		Rockwood	Catherine Nicewood
Kelly Creek	Charles Teem, Carol Rulla	Southwest	Gail Cerveny
North Central	Mary Gossett	Wilkes-East	
Staff & Guests	Nina Vetter, Gresham City Manager; Michael Gonzales, Office of Neighborhood and Community Enhancement; Sue Ruonala; Tom Stanley; April Avery		

After a quorum was established, the meeting opened at 7:02 p.m., Carol Rulla, Coalition Co-President presiding.

1. The June 14, 2022, Coalition meeting minutes were approved as presented.
2. Nina Vetter, Gresham City Manager, provided information and response based on pre-meeting questions from the Coalition.

a. Strategic Plan: The most recent draft of the strategic plan was sent to the City Council last month. It will be discussed at the August 16<sup>th</sup> council meeting for adoption. At the recent council retreat, feedback from the community and city staff was reviewed to finalize how to move forward and develop the strategic priorities that will help build a mission and vision. The strategic plan lays out the mission and vision and the guiding principles. The guiding principles will be how the city staff work is done. Examples of guiding principles in the strategic plan include diversity, equity, inclusion, as well as stewardship of our resources. The next piece of the strategic plan includes five strategic priority areas which should align with what we are trying to achieve, including community safety, housing for all, thriving economy, community connection, etc. The final piece, which is new to the city, is to develop performance measures so the city can be accountable to achieving the strategic plan priorities and goals. This should enable the city to easily identify success or not and determine if a change in course is needed. The performance measures in the strategic plan are really “outcome” measures. This measures how the work that is being done ultimately impacts the community. It is not how many have been trained on a program, it is how has crime, as an example, been reduced. None of the “outcome” measures are tied to a specific department. The more refined measures will be found in the implementation plan. Once council adopts the strategic plan, the next step is to develop an implementation plan which will outline more specific performance measures for the individual departments. Much of the work to develop the performance measures will be by collaboration between the departments. The implementation plan will be shared publicly. The goal is to eventually have some kind of dashboard on the city’s website so that anyone can see the progress at any time. The timeline for the dashboard is uncertain. The development of the implementation plan is expected in the fall (September-November). After the implementation plan is developed, then potential systems for the dashboard will be reviewed to see which would be most appropriate to tie into the city’s website and then move forward from there.

b. What can be done to make the Bureau of Emergency Communication (BOEC) better? Since it is not the city's system, the city does not have control over the system. What the city does have control over is response time once dispatched. The city has an excellent time – under 4 minutes from time of dispatch. How can unsatisfactory service from BOEC be reported? City Manager Vetter will research and follow-up on this. Is there any detail or review of incidents or tracking of late/dropped calls? Police Chief Gullberg has debriefs with the Sheriff Department, Portland and BOEC regularly. The city has been approved to hire non-sworn community safety officers which will provide more options for dealing with non-emergencies, including an on-line reporting mechanism, but no timeline on when it will happen. Portland and Multnomah County are “manager” over BOEC. City Manager Vetter to follow up on the reporting structure for BOEC. Link to BOEC: <https://www.portland//911>. Request that the city put something out on what is appropriate for 911 call or maybe do a campaign. City Manager Vetter agreed to work on it.

c. Public Safety: From professional polling, the community thinks public safety is one of the top priorities, but the community is not willing to pay more property taxes to fund it. The consultant felt there wasn't a lot of hope to go for a ballot initiative for a property tax levy in the next year (2023). The consultant thought that there may be a possibility to go for a fire levy specific to the operations of the fire department. City Council wants to do another poll this fall to check the voter “appetite” for a larger public safety levy instead of a fire levy. This will help determine the next steps. An option for next year is to have a fire ballot initiative paired with a smaller fee or, if the ballot initiative is unsuccessful, ARPA funds may need to be used to balance the budget. One of the outcomes from the polling is that the messages that have been sent out by the city do not ring true with the voters. Most voters want to see a return on their investment and that it aligns with their hope for the future. The city's message needs to be adjusted and more outreach and engagement needs to be done. The city will be using third-party expertise to help with making sure the message is impactful and effective for the voters.

d. Wildfire Planning: Chief Lewis is our representative on the Multnomah County Fire Defense Board. The county is wrapping up the wildfire mitigation plan and the fire working group is working with a consultant to do a risk assessment. The city is also close to the end of the standards of cover assessment for the fire department. This looks at a community's risk in terms of all things related to emergencies. This study will provide some insight into wildfire risk. Chief Lewis is willing to attend a Coalition meeting to discuss this topic.

e. Tree Code: The Climate Friendly Equitable Communities Initiative may impact and require changes in the city code related to planning. The city is waiting to see what the final rule will be, which may impact city code on planning. The rules are expected to be finalized in July, and staff is scheduled to give a brief to council in September.

f. Coordinating Committee and staff at advisory committee meetings: Focus is to have appropriate staff at each meeting, make sure staff liaisons are empowered and are given primary responsibility for serving as a staff liaison for the committee. City Manager Vetter has given direction to be mindful of staff time and the decision for staffing at the Planning Commission vs. Design Commission is a Planning Department decision.

3. Tree Preservation Code Follow Up, Jim Buck, Co-President: We must address the tree canopy issues. We need to advocate for an updated tree code for our city which is critical to our livability. Jim made the motion that we move to advocate that the city prioritize updating its tree code to include elements of tree preservation and mitigation concepts. Stella Butler, Powell Valley Neighborhood Association, seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote. Discussion on when to present this to City Council. Jim said that he would prefer to send it to council in writing. Jim will prepare the written statement for council before they go on break.

4. Wildfire Prevention Concerns: We will check with Chief Lewis to come and speak to the Coalition after the wildfire mitigation plan is done.

5. Neighborhood and City News and Reports:

a. Michael Gonzales ONCE report: The park and ride lot by the City Hall MAX stop will be purchased from TriMet and this will be where new flagship library is to be built.

b. Carol Rulla, Co-President:

(1) Future Agendas: Wildfire mitigations – Chief Lewis; District Attorney and Sheriff or other speaker around public safety (Police Chief Gullard) – after discussion, the group felt that the DA and Sheriff would be the priority to discuss prosecution and jailing of people who have been arrested.

(2) City Council elections are coming up. Do we want to have any kind of candidate forum? We would need people to help get questions together – we put out a survey last time and a group went through those questions. We would also need some people to read the questions to the candidates. Jim Buck asked if we should even host a candidate night if we can't have a live meeting for presentation? Carol Rulla stated that we had almost 100 people on Zoom for the last one. If we aren't willing to do a forum, then we won't. We don't have to decide now. We can talk about it in August. Michael Gonzales will ask about the possibility of an in-person event with just candidates and organizers at City Hall, with streaming for the public.

(3) The Charter Review Subcommittee is not going to have a ballot measure for the November election so they are taking longer to make their recommendations to the City Council around voting and whether to have districts or not. Those recommendations are expected to be coming at the end of the year. The subcommittee is working now on doing outreach at different events this summer. If anyone wants to make recommendations to the subcommittee, you can still do it. The subcommittee is meeting most Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 p.m.

(4) Kelly Creek Neighborhood Association: The Lind-Carpenter property, which is north of the southeast neighborhood park, off highway 26, just south of Hillyard. The property is the northern portion of a property the city bought to create the southeast neighborhood park. The owners would like to sell it as a public acquisition and keep the property together. The KCNA has talked with city staff and is putting together a committee to do grant writing to raise funds for the potential purchase of the property.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dana Duval – Coalition Secretary-Treasurer

Next meeting: **Tuesday, August 9th** – Remote via