

# Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association

*May 11, 2022*

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

## 7:03 p.m Meeting called to order

Jim Buck called the meeting to order. Introductions were conducted.

## 7:10 p.m. Evening Topic: Gresham Flagship Library

### **Presenter Katie O'Dell, Multnomah County Library Capital Bond Deputy Director**

Long-time librarian, Katie O'Dell represents the library on the bond team. She presented a slide show covering information about libraries within Multnomah County.

A library has been in this area since 1864. The Multnomah County Library is one of the busiest in the nation, with 19 public locations. It is the largest provider of free internet access, millions of print and digital resources in multiple languages. The library influence covers kindergarten readiness to job training to computer assisted design and 3D printing.

When the bond passed in Nov. of 2020, the following amenities were included:

- Expansions and renovations to seven branch libraries.
- Building an East County Flagship Library.
- Adding gigabit speed internet to all libraries.
- Creating a materials-handling and distribution center.
- Updating and refreshing 11 locations with minor but still important upgrades.

A major component of Katie O'Dell's speech, and of particular interest to the GBNA, involved the Flagship Library, which will serve a regional audience. This needs an accessible site. Five phases: pre-design, schematic design, design development, construction documents, construction administration (building in process).

The East County Flagship will comprise 95,000 square feet, like the Central Library. Real estate agents are looking to purchase a site. The building should endure for 80 years and will comprise aspects similar to European libraries where spaces change during the day. Developers are looking at providing co-working space for small businesses. The vision encompasses state-of-the-art technology, a dedicated place for teens and culturally responsive materials. The library should increase community income by providing a welcome destination.

For updates related to the latest bond projects, the following information was provided:

- Bond website: [multcolib.org/planning](http://multcolib.org/planning)
- Newsletter updates: [multcolib.org/bondsignup](http://multcolib.org/bondsignup)
- Email: [libraryspaces@multcolib.org](mailto:libraryspaces@multcolib.org)

## Questions

How will the flagship affect the Gresham Library? Can people continue to get to the library? Will it be available for people in small neighborhoods? One idea was to have 40 small libraries, but this is still not practicable. Much depends on the location to answer the questions.

What will happen to the current Gresham Library? It may have to close. The land might need to be available as a swap to get what can be affordable. Gresham is not on the refresh list. Rockwood also has a library.

What are the trends within the area that warrant the influence of a flagship library? It is necessary to compile a community engagement report. Many people want to share their cultural interests, such as crafts, cooking, songs, stories, video footage, materials in their home language. More experimentation with more space.

Tracy Slack wants to see prices and get ballpark dollar and complexity figures. What are the costs involved? The bond for the Library Foundation will pay for the design and construction. It will not pay for staff and technology. The library needs extra funding through private donations. Where will services and programs be applied without being bond dependent?

The new flagship library holds a dream list. According to one attendee, this is trying to be everything to everyone. The result is that it may not be popular with anyone. Penny K. expressed concerns. How is the flagship library different from a community center? Will it compete with private business? When the library does that, it cuts into the business. With too much to offer, there can be scope creep. Everyone holds in their minds what a library will provide for them. It's like a community center. The price of admission for a library is free. This includes people who do not have a business. A library is free to the public; it is a part of the community and works for the community.

## 8:04 p.m. Matching Grant Proposal for 2022 to 2023

### **Landscaping project for the Hiroshima Peace Tree in Main City Park**

The neighborhood association is petitioning for a grant of \$2,000 for the Peace Tree Project. To meet the requirements, volunteer work will be assessed at \$25.00/hour to equal the grant amount, with 40 hours of donated labor.

The seedling tree from Hiroshima will be planted in September. Steve Stevens, a landscape architect, has provided a design and received the blessing of the city and the Ebetsu project group. A documentary will be developed to relate how this all started for the ceremony in September. High school students will fashion paper cranes for the celebration. Included with the costs is a plaque. Someone asked if it has braille but that has not been determined.

Theresa Tschirky presented a motion to approve the proposal. Sandy Davidson seconded it. The motion received unanimous approval. Jim Buck will complete the proposal online.

## 8:13 p.m. Continuing Grant Work

### **Matching Grant for Reforestation Project**

The Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association is still addressing concerns from last year's project; reserved funds for a water truck and watering seedlings have been secured. The plantings should meet expectations. Four or more volunteers are needed to help with the

watering. In addition, the city is practicing diligence in not spraying herbicides on new growth trees.

#### 8:14 p.m. Vandalism

A row cutter has destroyed growth on the trail with either a saw or a machete. If seen, individuals are advised to report the person but to not attempt to apprehend him/her.

#### 8:15 p.m. Meeting Schedule and Concerns

- GBNA will meet again in on the second Wednesday in September.
- Wildfires in and around Gresham give cause for concern from activities relating to fireworks and campers. A coordinated approach is needed to monitor this danger. There should be a new fire chief hired soon. This is a possible topic for the association.
- If anyone has topics, resources or presenters, email Jim Buck or the other officers to present viable suggestions for meeting themes.
- Should the neighborhood meetings be held via Zoom or in a public setting?  
GBNA was the first association to handle a hybrid meeting.

#### 8:22 p.m. Reports

Treasurer Theresa Tschirky noted a balance of \$1,494.04.

Land Use Chair Tracy Slack indicated there was no land use activity to report.

Minutes from the last meeting were adopted and approved.