

Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association

October 12, 2022

Officers present: Jim Buck, President; Sandy Davidson, Vice-President; Lynn Saint, Secretary

7:01 p.m. Meeting called to order

Jim Buck called the meeting to order, followed by introductions.

7:05 p.m. Report on Matching Grant for Reforestation Project

GBNA planted trees last year. After nursing them along, a city contractor sprayed the **small seedlings with weed killer**, causing most young trees to succumb to the herbicides.

Mike Wallace explained the maps were not terribly specific, causing confusion in the application of herbicide. When the fall rains come, there are 40 trees from last year which volunteers can plant after the ground softens. Three months without moisture have made it difficult for saplings to survive. We need tags on our trees along with mulching. We have had drier summers so need a greater water source. Hopefully, the trees will grow to heights of three to four feet tall. Jim plans to look at recent spraying to make an assessment. Cathy Keathley has offered to provide water from her home.

The “lumberjack” has continued to wreak havoc along the Johnson Creek Corridor. The person seems to cut down deciduous trees now. He had started with holly trees and alder snags.

7:12 p.m. Election of Officers

An attendee moved to adopt the current slate of officers for election; the motion was seconded. Further discussion was requested. None occurred. The motion passed. President Buck is still looking to appoint a land use chair who will understand various aspects of the code.

7:20 p.m. Appointment of Land Use Chair

Stephen Estes expressed an interest in land use issues as he has recently come from Santa Clara, California, where he worked with similar issues there. He brings experience and fresh eyes to the association.

7:21 p.m. Report on Matching Grant for Peace Plaza

A ginkgo seedling from a seed that survived Hiroshima has been planted in the Peace Plaza, placed in the center of the mountain berm. An official who attended revealed this was one of the best ceremonies of the 35 cities that have been involved in this worldwide project.

7:28 p.m. Reports from Treasurer and Land Use Chair

Because Theresa is unavailable for **the treasurer’s report**, the presentation will be tabled until the next meeting.

As far as **land use**, only two lots were involved this past season.

7:30 p.m. Additional reports

PGE is **replacing steel standards** along the Springwater Trail. They appear on the U. S. Registry as historic standards. Swapping out each one will require 2500 to 3000 feet of brush clearing.

1. Before finalizing the permit process, the city allowed the installation of new standards and complete brush clearing. PGE originally had no intention of replacing plant growth. Some individuals suggest that vine maples and red twig dogwood could be planted in lieu of the cleared vegetation.
2. A second concern is a fire danger. Any of this could spark a flame. The city has been asked about fire prevention.

GBNA members asked questions about the danger of fires and how this could be mitigated. Crew members use cutting devices that can create sparks. Furthermore, halfway up Walters Hill in September, there was a brush fire two days before and expected windstorm.

The attendees approved the **May 11th minutes**.

7:55 p.m. Meeting Topics and Schedule for the Rest of the Year

In a study on **fire hazards, Gresham Butte showed** a substantial risk because of lack of access. If there are any businesses on Gresham Butte, they may have to make sure their residences are safe from wildfires. There could be a loss of canopy trees in the neighborhood. Locations need to be fire-proofed. The high-risk areas need to be redrawn.

The **survivability of trees** has been the **focus** as Gresham Butte has lost over 5,000 alders. Blackberries take over when trees die off. We have not looked at fire issues. Conifers burn faster than deciduous trees. The more we can rid the area of English ivy, the better. Insurance rates are also involved in this. Shake and tile roofs are also an issue with wildfires. It is not a deed restriction.

Are **deed restrictions** honored? Homeowner associations are better at enforcing deed restrictions. A violation of city code would encourage a response.

When asked about **the efficacy of neighborhood associations**, Councilor Vincent Jones-Dixon explained that the city council will form policies based on neighborhood association input.

A discussion about **ivy** ensued. It would be better to get rid of it as ivy takes water that could be used for trees.

Do we want to meet in person or continue with Zoom? The comment was made about staying indoors during flu season. GBNA pioneered attending via Zoom in this area. The limitation about ZOOM includes those who do not have computer or cellular access.

7:49 p.m. Meeting adjourned.