

**Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations
November 8, 2022 – Remotely Held (Zoom)
Meeting Minutes**

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

The meeting opened at 7:03 p.m., Carol Rulla, Coalition Co-President presiding. There was no quorum, so approval of the September 13, 2022, minutes was postponed.

1. Updates on the Strategic Plan, Financial Roadmap, Champion Gresham and Monthly City Manager’s Report presentation by Nina Vetter, Gresham City Manager.

a. Strategic Plan: The five strategic priority areas are financial sustainability, community safety, thriving economy, housing for all, and community vibrancy. The action plan for the first year of the strategic plan is posted at <https://greshamoregon.gov/strategic-plan/> Since the strategic plan was adopted by council this summer, staff has been working on how to achieve these goals—what actions will be taken, how to measure progress, who will be responsible for each goal, and the timeline for the goals. Focus was on the action items to be taken in the first year. Some actions are do and done and others are on-going actions. The action plan also identifies the staff member that is the lead for the project. There are outcome measures in the plan and staff is still working on how to measure progress and what the timeline will look like. There are 55 action items that the staff are working on or will be working on this year to achieve our goals. The reason the strategic plan is a 3-year plan (and not longer) is that it is hard to predict out more than 3-5 years what will be happening in our environment and the consensus was that a 3-year plan was the most appropriate for Gresham. It keeps the plan relevant. Council will continue to look at the plan to see if adjustments are needed based on our current environment. Every six months the city will report out the progress on the plan.

b. Financial Roadmap: An overview of what council adopted is posted at <https://greshamoregon.gov/financial-road-map> The financial roadmap is for the period of July 2023 to June 2026 and is primarily focused on the general fund since this is the fund that has most latitude and flexibility on how the money can be used. A significant portion of the general fund is made up of tax revenues, utility license fees and a few other sources. Currently, about 90% of the general fund is spent on police and fire with a small portion to parks and community development. The financial roadmap lays out the tools that the city can and should use to ensure it has enough revenue to continue to provide services and to enhance our service

delivery. The result of reliance only on the tools being used today will be the inability to maintain the current staffing levels and impact the service to the community. The revenue tools in the plan include a levy or a bond, as well as relevant fees. At the next council meeting, they will discuss a potential ballot initiative for a levy in the spring of next year.

c. Champion Gresham: Participants in this program will have opportunities to join Champion Gresham roundtables with other community members and the City Manager, share ideas on important city initiatives, collaborate with other community members and local organizations, and expand their knowledge of civil matters. Information on this program can be found at <https://greshamoregon.gov/champion-gresham/>

d. Monthly City Manager's Report: The City Manager will be doing a written monthly report at council meetings starting in November 2022. The November report will be a highlight of data/trends and major projects and initiatives.

e. Discussion on levy verses fee: A levy would be a long-term solution. In Oregon, an operating levy must be renewed every 5 years. The current "double fee" for police, fire and parks would likely go away if a levy were passed but there would still be some type of smaller fee needed. If council approves going forward with a levy ballot initiative, the levy and the fee will be designed in the next few months.

3. Neighborhoods and City News and Reports.

a. ONCE Report.

1) Michael Gonzales stated that he had sent out the fall engagement survey last month and encouraged everyone to take the survey. It will run for about 5 more weeks. The link for the survey can be found at <https://greshamoregon.gov/volunteer-program/>. Survey participants have a chance to win a \$50 gift card to a local business. So far about 80 participants have completed the survey. The intent of the survey is to help identify how we can overcome any obstacles that prevent volunteerism and the Council Citizen Advisory Committee (CCAC) from being more diverse.

2) ONCE changes: ONCE is now Neighborhood Services Division. Lina Sizman is now full time in the office and no longer supporting mediation. Michael's role now is Neighborhood Services Manager which oversees all that he was already doing with the addition of the CCAC and cultural event grants.

3) Michael offered that his office could order yard signs to announce neighborhood meetings if we thought they would be effective. If the coalition would be willing to get behind a community enhancement grant for the signs, we would need to let him know at least by January

b. Co-President Report.

1) Carol Rulla:

a) There have now been 2 candidate forums where a candidate that intended to participate but, at the last minute, was not able to do so were allowed to have a representative read the answers to the questions that were provided in advance. Carol asked if this is a policy we want to continue. No decision was asked to be made at this time but if anyone had an opinion on the subject, she would like to hear the feedback. Theresa Tschirky expressed that she thought it did not reflect well on the candidate but we should let them substitute a representative, if needed. Jim Buck mentioned that there had been an issue with the representative connecting into the zoom meeting and they wanted to send someone else to represent the candidate. Jim felt that we should only let them allow the one representative and not be able to substitute a second representative.

b) Carol reminded everyone that coalition officer election will be held in January.

c. NA Reports and Concerns:

1) Stella Butler (PVNA): Powell Valley is having their elections next week.

2) Jim Buck (GBNA): Gresham Butte will have Jennifer Warren from the state Fire Marshall Office to talk about the process that is being used at the state level for wildfire risk mapping and the regulations on defensive perimeters around buildings and homes at their November 9th meeting.

3) Catherine Nicewood (RNA): Rockwood will have their next meeting on Monday, November 14th at 6 p.m.

4) Carol Rulla (KCNA): Kelly Creek had their open house for the Lind-Carpenter property and had a fantastic turnout. Through people at the open house, they got connected to a person that actually works with land trusts and helping with preserving properties like the Lind-Carpenter property. She is helping with identifying the appropriate funding sources for preserving this property. If anyone finds a property in their neighborhoods that they feel should be preserved, Carol has the contact information for the person that works with preserving properties.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dana Duval – Coalition Secretary-Treasurer

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 13th
