

**Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations  
February 16, 2023 – Remotely Held (Zoom)  
Meeting Minutes**

NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES	NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES
Centennial	Rick Dwyer	North Central	Mary Gossett
Central City	INACTIVE	Northeast	INACTIVE
Gresham Butte	Jim Buck, Stephen Estes	North Gresham	INACTIVE
Gresham Pleasant Valley	INACTIVE	Northwest	Kat Todd, Mary Makenna
Historic Southeast	INACTIVE	Powell Valley	Nancy Inglehart, Stella Butler, Karen Pyle
Hogan Cedars	Matt Callison	Rockwood	Catherine Nicewood, Deanna Stewart, Anthony Crossman
Hollybrook		Southwest	Dana Duval
Kelly Creek	Charles Teem, Carol Rulla	Wilkes-East	
Staff & Guests	Michael Gonzales, Neighborhood Services Division; Nina Vetter, Gresham City Manager; Elizabeth Coffey, Assistant City Manager; Linda Parashos; Sue Ruonala, Thomas Stanley; Janet Unruh		

The meeting opened at 7:03 p.m., Carol Rulla and Jim Buck, Coalition Co-Presidents presiding.

1. The January 10, 2023, meeting minutes were approved as presented.
2. Proposed Public Safety Levy Presentation by Nina Vetter, Gresham City Manager and Elizabeth Coffey, Assistant City Manager:

One of the critical tools to ensure sufficient revenues in accordance with the City Council-approved financial roadmap is the proposed Gresham Safety Levy. The levy is a property tax to be voted on by Gresham residents to help stabilize and increase police, fire, homeless, and mental health services. The City will be required to spend the revenue from this levy on the services identified in the ballot measure. An oversight committee, made up of Gresham residents, will also be established to oversee the money received by the law and to periodically report to the public on its use. The levy will add \$1.50/\$1000 assessed value to resident property taxes and will last for 5 years.

a. Why is the levy needed? As costs for the City to do business has risen, the current revenues received from property taxes has not kept up. If this issue is not addressed, the City will face an \$8 million deficit beginning July 2023.

b. Goals of the safety levy: Stabilize services through adequate staffing, expand the availability of our homeless services, establish a mental health crisis response team, and avoid drastic city-wide layoffs.

c. Details:

1) Police will receive approximately 60% of the levy revenue which will preserve the existing 34 positions in the first year, adds 24 new positions and maintains 13 temporary positions over the 5-year levy period.

2) Fire will receive approximately 35% of the levy revenue which will preserve the existing 21 positions in the first year, adds 16 new positions and maintains 4 temporary positions over the 5-year levy period.

3) Homeless Services will receive no more than 2.5% of the levy revenue which will add 1 new position and maintains 1 temporary position over the 5-year levy period.

4) Crisis Response will receive no more than 2.5% of the levy revenue which will add 2 new positions over the 5-year levy period.

d. If the levy does not pass, drastic cuts to police, fire and public safety services will occur-- 55 police and fire positions are at risk of being cut, homeless services will lose their expert on housing solutions. Existing police and fire will have to respond to the time-consuming mental health crisis situations and there will be a decrease in connecting the homeless to shelter, jobs and resources.

3. Potential Coalition Community Enhancement Grant Application. Discussion on whether we wanted to apply for a Community Enhancement Grant to purchase four street signs for each neighborhood association. These signs would be placed on neighborhood streets around approximate borders or on main thoroughfares to welcome people to the neighborhood. Some neighborhoods have these signs now, but they are mostly old and faded. Costs and options such as refurbishing the old signs and using volunteers to put the signs up, etc. were discussed. No decision on whether to apply for the grant was made. Michael Gonzales was asked to provide the Coalition with information on the location of the existing signs. Grant application is due at the end of March.

4. Neighborhoods and City News and Reports.

a. Neighborhood Services Division Report. Michael Gonzales: no report.

b. Co-President Report.

1) Jim Buck: Update on the Coalition request for the City Council to prioritize updating the tree code: In December the City staff told the Urban Forestry Sub-committee that they would be addressing the tree code update this year. At this time, they have not yet committed any staff to this project.

c. NA Reports and Concerns: no reports.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dana Duval – Coalition Secretary-Treasurer

Next meeting: <b>Tuesday, March 14th</b>
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