

Rockwood Neighborhood Association Meeting

June 26, 2023, 6 p.m.

Rockwood Village Community Center

11 residents present, 3 guests

Meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. John Nelsen made a motion to approve the March 20, 2023 minutes. Laurie Sitton seconded. Motion passed.

Nina Vetter, City Manager, spoke about the City of Gresham's Sustainability at 6:14 p.m. The City of Gresham has an \$8,000,000 shortfall. The three goals of the City of Gresham are to maintain the \$15.00 Police, Parks, and Fire fee. Use the second half of the ARPA Rescue funds that are not used yet, and some service reductions. There are no new positions in the City of Gresham, except for Police that are still hiring to get up to the required police positions. They are considering May 2024 or June 2024 to go out to the voters for a Safety Levy. The City of Gresham hired a Consultant in May 2023 for public opinion research to be done during the summer on a proposed Safety Levy. Currently we have no NET Team.

The five goals of the City of Gresham are:

1. Financial Sustainability
2. Community Safety
3. Economic Development
4. Housing for All
5. Vibrancy for All

Nina discussed the Champion Gresham Program that volunteers to sign up for monthly emails from Nina, and opportunities to give feedback to Nina monthly zoom meetings. You can sign up on the City of Gresham website.

The Planning Commission has up to five openings.

Safe Gresham started in 2021. It is focused on youth prevention, intervention, and collaboration with non-profits and the citizens. The tools are using technology and partnerships with community partners. John Nelsen mentioned the youth

prevention program at the Hope Center in Rockwood. John also mentioned that Rockwood Preparatory Academy can use the big gym for youth basketball activities.

John Nelsen mentioned the density of Rockwood, and the problems that it is causing. He said we do not need more large units of multi-family housing in Rockwood.

Rockwood National Night Out was discussed. John Nelsen ordered two bouncy houses and a bouncy slide, an obstacle course that only two children can go through at a time. There will be Mexican food for 200 people. The Hope Center will provide activities for children. Bathrooms in the school will be open for the event. John's daughter will be in charge the day of the event.

Michael Gonzales asked about the background of the August "I Heart Rockwood" at Downtown Rockwood. John Nelsen told him about the history of Rock the Block that provided backpacks for school children and also non-profit vendors and free food. Then it changed into I Heart Rockwood which had private donors and also provided backpacks for children, activities and games for children, entertainment, and free food.

Michael Gonzales suggested we talk to the Planning Department about the density of affordable apartments in Rockwood, Mary Phillips.

Human Solutions trains people for a family wage job then they move out of Rockwood to go to Beaverton or Hillsboro to be closer to their job. There is a high mobility rate in Rockwood of around 30% a year. Mayor Stovall wants to work on economic development in Gresham so people can live and work in Gresham. Surveys tell us that around 80% of people that live in Gresham go to another City to work.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.