

**Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations  
November 10, 2015 – Oregon Trail Room, Gresham City Hall**

**Meeting Minutes**

<b>NEIGHBORHOOD</b>	<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>NEIGHBORHOOD</b>	<b>ATTENDEES</b>
<b>Centennial</b>	<i>Marlene Byrne</i>	<b>Northeast</b>	<i>INACTIVE</i>
<b>Central City</b>	<i>INACTIVE</i>	<b>North Gresham</b>	<i>Kathy Schwabe, Linda Parashos</i>
<b>Gresham Butte</b>	<i>Tracy Slack</i>	<b>Northwest</b>	
<b>Historic Southeast</b>	<i>Frani Grover</i>	<b>Gresham Pleasant Valley</b>	
<b>Hollybrook</b>		<b>Powell Valley</b>	<i>Stella Butler</i>
<b>Kelly Creek</b>	<i>Charles Teem, Mel Roemmich, Carol Rulla</i>	<b>Rockwood</b>	<i>John Bildsoe</i>
<b>Mt. Hood</b>	<i>INACTIVE</i>	<b>Southwest</b>	<i>Jack Ardner</i>
<b>North Central</b>		<b>Wilkes-East</b>	<i>Greg Hartung</i>
<b>Guests:</b> <i>Aaron Abrams, David Berniker, Jim Wheeler, Meghan Scanlon, Angela Previdelli, Joe Walsh</i>			

**Welcome:** Meeting was called to order by Coalition President Carol Rulla at 7:00 PM. Quorum established. Minutes of 7/14/15 & 9/8/15 approved as presented. Minutes of 10/13/15 approved with correction to reflect that there was quorum and that Central City is an inactive NA.

**Land Use Processes:** David Berniker and Jim Wheeler, City of Gresham

Carol welcomed David and Jim and explained that the Coalition wanted to discuss possible allowances regarding the ENN Meeting process. Applicants have made errors with certified mailings or not sending minutes to officers in a timely manner and then needed to redo their ENN Meetings. Carol also gave an example of the applicants not setting their signs up on the property in time. Carol – We appreciate that staff enforces the code, but we wonder if there is some wiggle room for these small infractions so meetings don't have to be repeated. Jim – Code changes may be able to allow some variances. Maybe a provision that allows a NA to say "We're OK" or "No, we need to do this meeting over again." Any errors in the ENN are procedural errors. If applicants don't meet the requirements, they can still submit the application but staff can deny it or let it go through. The applicant can go forward with the application but at a risk that the error could be used to appeal the decision. Staff discourages submittals with such errors because other important information can be missed. Carol – How much does staff let applicants know about these deadlines during the Pre-App meeting? Jim – There is so much to go over. The submittal check list shows the steps. Carol – I suggest the planner simply emphasize that the deadlines must be met for the ENN meeting to count. Marlene – The ENN meeting for the soccer fields had to be redone because the applicant failed to put up the required sign. Neighbors were dissatisfied because the applicant didn't know where the proposed street would go. Jim – In early development, there might be more than one option. The NA will get information during the public comment time. John – We had an ENN that was set up by the applicant without allowing the NA 5 days to pick a date. Also some applicants have sent out maps that are outdated and show streets that don't exist or old street names. Applicants need to become more familiar with the procedures. Jim – The NA can contact the planner for help in these situations. We hope when we move to the Electronic Filing System, this will help these issues. Our goal is for a soft start next fall starting with a few applicants who are experienced with the current e-filing system for building permits. We will start with a few to work out the bugs. Email notices will be sent out to the NA in place of the currently mailed pre app form and routing form. There will still be mailed hard copies for the public notices. Those with Internet Explorer can access the plans. There will be a public kiosk at City Hall for anyone who would like to see these plans. John – The e-plans are small and hard to read on our computer screens. Tracy – Is there a graphics format? Jim – No, but there is a zoom to target an area and enlarge to see the fine detail. You should be able to do this from your home computer. John – You say this is for Internet Explorer. What about those using Firefox or other browsers? Carol – Safari has trouble with other city systems right now; make sure to check this. Jim – We will look into this. We will have trainings to show NAs and developers how to log in and access the plans. Tracy – Will developers be able to use emails with receipt confirmations rather than certified mailings? Jim – That's a possibility, but it will be a while before that could happen. Carol – It is nice to take a copy of the plans to a NA meeting. Will we be able to get the big printouts of the site plan? Jim – I think we can accommodate this. Jack – If we are at home, can we print the plans? Jim – Yes, but it will only be as big as your printer can print. You can cut and paste areas together. Carol - When you get all the accounts set up for NAs, can we look at the new system before your soft start and give feedback? Jim – Yes. Carol – Our next issue is to make sure that Routing Form Notifications are sent out to abutting neighborhoods. Jim – We will send out routing forms to the land use person and president of the NA and adjoining neighborhoods.

**Depave:** Meghan Scanlon

Depave is a local non-profit organization that removes unused or underused pavement from parking lots and playgrounds to create community green spaces through neighborhood partnerships and volunteer engagement. Often, these green

space projects can be funded through grants and created without losing parking capacity. Since 2008, Depave has worked with nearly 50 churches, schools, and non-profit groups to create bioswales, rain gardens, school gardens, play areas, outdoor classrooms, and other community green spaces. Depave relies on volunteers to do most of the work. Usually this is done in three hour work parties. Frani – What do you do with the pavement removed? A – It is recycled. Carol – Concrete and asphalt? A – We mostly remove asphalt with volunteer labor. Concrete needs heavy equipment and grants pay for the removal and recycling. Tracy – Do you need permits to remove paving? A – Yes, in Portland and Gresham. Frani – Can you purchase land to depave? A – No, we aren't able to do that. Charles – How big are the projects? A – They are usually around 500 sq. feet. 5000 sq. is our max capacity for volunteers. Aaron – There's that huge K-Mart parking lot that could use some depaving. Kathy – A project there could provide needed shade for the Saturday Market.

**East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD):** Angela Previdelli

The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) is a unit of local government serving Northwest Oregon's Multnomah County east of the Willamette River. We are led by an elected board of five directors and several associate directors. All our work is geared toward keeping water clean, conserving water and keeping soil healthy. Our district is a very diverse place. We serve areas from downtown Portland and Gresham out to the National Forest. Our work includes invasive plant removal, naturoscaping yard tours, native plant sale, raingarden classes and grants to non-profits and groups wishing to conserve soil and increase native plantings. We want to bring our services to outer East County. This year's native plant sale is in February and the yard tour is in May. Frani – What I love about Gresham is the green spaces, but they are full of invasive species. A- We offer grants to do restoration work on properties with water running through it. You can get the neighbors together to apply. We have larger grants for Partners in Conservation and small SPACE grants for community groups. Stella – Fred Meyer has a space that they want to work on. Carol – Is there a requirement to be a 501(c)(3)? Angela – No. Carol – Can this be posted to Nextdoor.com? Aaron – Angela can send information of upcoming events to me, and I can post them. Carol – EMSWCD could become an agency on Nextdoor. Aaron and Angela will communicate about this. John – Is there equity tracking with EMSWCD's funding? Angela – Yes, her position was created to help bring the urban lands program to the East County. Frani – Where is tax revenue coming from? Angela – EMSWCD is a special district funded through property taxes. Angela will provide information on hosting workshops for Carol to email to NAs. Workshops are 4 hours and include a field trip to local rain garden and naturoscaping projects. There is an upcoming workshop in Troutdale on 11/21.

**Neighborhood & City News & Reports:**

Carol – In looking at the Gresham Revised Code (GRC) for council duties in light of the discussions about council compensation, I found that GRC Article 2.10 says, "The discharge of official duties of the mayor currently requires full time service." This conflicts with the new council compensation schedule that states that none of the positions are full time. Do we want to bring this up as a Coalition to the Council? Jack – During the election debate, it was understood that the job would be compensated as "part-time". This doesn't seem to match what we voted for. Kathy – Is full time equal 40 hours? Carol – This is a good question. Jack – I think we need to go back and look at the paperwork and bring this up. Jack suggested that a motion be made to clarify what "full time" means. Jack – Also I would like to know what the duties are for the Mayor. I feel our neighborhood has a disconnectedness to the City. I would like the City Councilors and Mayor to be out in the community more. Aaron – I encourage you to get in touch with me and I can work to get councilors to your meetings. Suggestion to also have a motion to know if duties in code include all that the Councilors and Mayor are already doing and what is needed so that new people running for Council know what's expected.

Jack moved and Linda seconded: *To bring to the Council's attention the apparent contradiction between the GRC specification that the mayor's position "requires full time service" and the Finance Committee's newly adopted council compensation schedule that states that Council positions aren't full time positions, and to ask for clarification on what "full time service" means.* Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.

Jack moved and Charles seconded: *To ask the Council to review the Council duties in GRC 2.10 to make sure they reflect the current requirements of the positions as well as match the expectations of the community, such as participation in business recruitment and engagement with neighborhoods.* Motion passed 7-0 with one abstention (Tracy). [Frani left before the vote.]

Carol stated that Chief Junginger was looking for feedback on the NET officers and Livability Work Plan. Carol will send out an email with information.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.