

**Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations
January 12, 2016 – Oregon Trail Room, Gresham City Hall**

Meeting Minutes

NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES	NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES
Centennial	<i>Rick Dwyer</i>	Northeast	<i>INACTIVE</i>
Central City	<i>INACTIVE</i>	North Gresham	<i>Kathy Schwabe</i>
Gresham Butte	<i>Jim Buck, Theresa Tschirky</i>	Northwest	<i>Kat Todd, John Bildsoe</i>
Historic Southeast		Gresham Pleasant Valley	
Hollybrook		Powell Valley	<i>Jef Kaiser</i>
Kelly Creek	<i>Mel Roemmich, Carol Rulla</i>	Rockwood	<i>Catherine Nicewood</i>
Mt. Hood	<i>INACTIVE</i>	Southwest	<i>Jack Ardner</i>
North Central		Wilkes-East	<i>Greg Hartung</i>
Guests:	<i>Aaron Abrams, Ann Pytynia</i>		

Welcome: Meeting was called to order by Coalition President Carol Rulla at 7:01 PM. Quorum was established and minutes of 11/10/15 were approved as presented. (No December minutes.)

Development Code Improvement Project-8 (DCIP-8): Ann Pytynia, City of Gresham

This project on the 2015 Council Work Plan is at the preferred approach stage and will continue into 2016. The purpose of DCIP-8 is to update terms and definitions, clarify language, review select processes, close gaps in rules, replace language unintentionally omitted and evaluate placement of current development code rules. It covers these diverse proposals:

- * Relocating some Development Code regulations, such as moving private parking rules to the GRC.
- * Providing cross references in the Development Code to existing GRC rules for medical marijuana, beekeeping, chickens and electric fencing. Recreational marijuana rules will be added upon adoption of those regulations.
- * Prohibiting on-site parking of vehicles that block the first story façade of a home except when in a lawful driveway. Greg – You mean you can't park all over the lawn? Catherine – You have to park on pavement now. Ann – That's right. We also need to define what a lawful driveway is. At this time there is no law stating that your entire yard can't be paved into a driveway. This proposal would prohibit that.
- * Clarifying and amending select sections of the code as it relates to wireless communication facilities. We are working to clean-up outdated terms as technology has grown, to clarify rules for TV and radio stations towers, co-locates and receive only facilities and to add rules for mini/micro cells on buildings.
- * Defining the terms visible, remodel, mini/micro cells, public place, façade, street tree and agriculture. Mel – How does the definition of visible apply to a corner lot? A – It's based on the view from each frontage. Jim suggested adding trails to the list of public places.
- * Adding a new Type II special review or using the existing (or a modified) ADA process for requests for Reasonable Accommodation under the Federal Fair Housing Act. Carol – In the ADA process, is there public input? The neighborhood can give the city more information on what they see and the needs. Ann – There's no public input for ADA requests, but she will check with City Attorney to see if there could be public input on specific Reasonable Accommodation requests under an ADA process.
- * Modifying Design Review (DR) categories and processes. This wouldn't change any standards. It includes adding a tired approach to review stand-alone structures under 200 sq feet that don't require a building permit in commercial, multi-family and industrial districts. Carol suggested using the term non-single-family as not to miss uses like institutional uses. Ann - Another proposal is to require pre-apps, but not ENN meetings, for DR-C reviews that involve new or altered structures. Currently no pre-apps are required. The change would provide pre-app information to the NA and advice to applicants while retaining a mid-level review status with public notice still required.
- * Allowing Home Occupations for selling of honey or eggs, growing of plants and vegetables. The honey and egg production would have to meet the GRC standards for beekeeping and raising chickens. Type I review (part of a business license) would be required if no customers are coming to the house (i.e. selling at a farmers market). Type II review (with public notice) would be if customers are coming to the house to pick up product.
- * Making minor corrections to the new Tree Code – Some codes were inadvertently dropped, other language needs adjustments. Carol questioned changing Hazard Tree removal in overlay districts back to Type I and asked Jim about Urban Forestry Subcommittee (UFS) discussions on the previous change to Type II. Does the UFS support changing back to Type I? Jim – Yes, the UFS supports Type I. He didn't remember previous discussion of going to Type II.

Kat – Does the tree code apply to parks and the city? In our neighborhood park, the city removed a large tree that was the primary shade tree for the play structure and our NNO party. The neighborhood wasn't informed. The roots were in the path but we feel others were more damaging. John suggested the path could have been moved instead of cutting the tree. Jef – This was brought up at the Planning Commission last night that the city should let the NA know when large trees on city property would be removed. Ann – Generally the city is excluded from getting permits in maintenance cases. Maybe for Parks, the NA should be notified.

Historic Resources: Ann Pytynia, City of Gresham

Jef – During a subdivision review, we found the Hamlin-Johnson historic house in our neighborhood, probably the oldest in the city. NAs are familiar with the homes in their area and should bring possible historic homes to the city's attention. There is value in documenting historic resources even if they aren't saved. Ann - These homes could be nominated to the National Historical Registry. Being nominated will get it into the historical records. Anything over 50 years old is considered historical. The city has identified over 3000 structures that fit this definition. Jef – There is a hearing on Feb. 19th at 2 pm at City Hall for nominating the Hamlin-Johnson house at 282nd and Lusted.

Coalition Elections: Carol explained that the current officers serve as the nominating committee per Coalition bylaws and that they nominated themselves for re-election. She asked for further nominations and noted that Tom Stanley was unable to attend but expressed interest in the position of Vice President. Jim Buck moved re-elect the current officers, Mel Roemmich seconded the motion, and members voted unanimously (9-0) to elect the 2015 officers as the 2016 officers: Carol Rulla, President; John Bildsoe, Vice-President; Kathy Schwabe, Secretary/Treasurer.

Neighborhood & City News & Reports:

* North Central Gresham Street Addressing Project survey: Ann reported that over 30% of those receiving surveys returned them. 80% of those surveyed said they never had issues with deliveries or receiving services. 60% opposed the readdressing of the areas in North Central Gresham. So it has been dropped by City Council.

* West Gresham Zip Code Project: Gregg – What about the survey for Wilkes East? Aaron – That's 100% the post office's call. The issue of a new zip code is at the Federal level. We hope to know in a month or so if they plan to pursue this. Adding a new zip code is only one of the options. Gregg – Some neighbors have expressed concern with having a Gresham address instead of a Portland one. They feel their home value is better with being a Portland address. Ann – Being in Gresham but having a Portland mailing address brings confusion with things like business taxes, licenses, some deliveries and voting. Rick – I'm in favor of having a new zip code. This will build a sense of identity. This will get us all under one name and one city. Kathy – I have a lot of neighbors who believe they live Portland not Gresham. Gregg – Will neighbors get a say in this? Aaron – If the post office decides to pursue this, they will survey those affected.

*Previous Coalition motions on Council Duties: Carol reported that she brought the conflict of the language about full time service for Mayor to the Council's attention in November. They reported that this was an error and would be fixed. There has been no response on the Coalition request to review the duties of the council members. Carol reported on a brief conversation with new Council President Mario Palmero in which he agreed that information on council duties was needed. He stated that, when he was considering applying for Council, he was told that councilors only needed to attend two meetings a month. Carol also noted that in her testimony to Council she suggested assigning councilors to NAs and, while she understands concerns about the commitment that might take, she still thinks this is a good idea. Jef – Even if a councilor can't be assigned to each NA, maybe one could be assigned to the Coalition and then we can report back to our NA. Carol – If a neighborhood wants the mayor or councilor to attend a meeting, check with Aaron about scheduling.

* City Taxation and Regulation of Medical and Recreational Marijuana Businesses: Carol reported that Council approved the first reading of a bill to apply the city's medical marijuana code to recreational marijuana. Emergency adoption is expected next week. Council will also be voting to lower the city's tax rate on both to 3% and will need to refer the recreational marijuana tax to the voters as required by state law. Carol noted that a bigger problem is likely to be from grow operations in unincorporated Multnomah County because marijuana grows are considered a farm land use. John – Maybe the new city rules are helping. The grow on 3rd and Birdsedale is out of business.

*Aaron reported that he now reports to Joe Walsh and his office is on the first floor at City Hall. He plans an open house when his office gets settled.

*Aaron asked what the Coalition thought of having the Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC) come for a presentation on their research on engaging diverse communities, the city's new Community Engagement Handbook and possibly a

joint project with the Coalition. John – I would be interested but feel we need an executive summary. Aaron – We could provide the information which is very concise and user friendly. Jim – How long has this committee been together? Aaron – Mid 80's. Carol – The CIC is one of the city's five Council Citizen Advisory Committees. Jim – Is there a place on the City website to tell someone ways to get involved? Carol – Aaron is creating a webpage for the research and handbook. When that is available, I think we would like this committee to come and present the handbook and their research. We could also discuss a project we could work on together.

* Jim – I visited a homeless camp along Johnson Creek. These have sprung back since the high water. They have been reported to the NET officers. Garbage, propane tanks, needles, plastics, etc., that is left behind when the campers are moved is substantial. A propane tank was in the creek. I was told that the NET officers don't report camps to Metro's RID Patrol and that we need to call Metro for cleanup. It seems like there should be better coordination and that nonprofits could help with accountability. Jack – We developed a slide show of problems in November to present to the Mayor. On the 1st of December the Councilors toured an area with homeless camps. They had moved back after the flood and had been stripping the bark off 100 ft. cedar trees and cutting down trees. We have lost 100's of trees to this behavior. The environmental damage is terrible. Areas that have been replanted are being destroyed. In December a survey by SWNA showed that the highest priority with neighbors was the homeless problem. I attended a GHAT (Gresham Homeless Action Team) meeting and Legal says the city can't do anything if there's no place for people to go. Our NET officers warned citizens not to confront a group of lawless people living near Butler Creek. Our public wants the laws enforced. We love our public places but are afraid to use them. Kathy – I know that some homeless advocates tell homeless that they have the right to camp in public places. If there are no facilities or beds available, they are told that it's against the law for police to make them move or harass them. Jack – Some feel it's getting worse with property crimes and car thefts because of this. Aaron – With the environmental issues on this, I can look into what else we can do. Suggestion was that the Coalition meet again on this topic with Joe Walsh.

*Greg – What about commercial trucks parking for long periods on the street in our neighborhoods? Catherine – Get the license plate number and report to Code Enforcement or on MyGresham. Kat – It's challenging because an illegally parked vehicle can move a bit and then be legal.

*John – NWNNA has an application for a project on Powell Blvd. with 84 apartments and houses. We've been working with planning staff to make this better but haven't heard back. Aaron – I'll check into this and get back to you.

*Greg – In our neighborhood, the 64 units going in on 165th and Halsey has a lot of opposition. It is felt we don't have the resources for more people moving into these. The schools are crowded, law enforcement stretched. We really need single family homes. Our last two NA meetings were full because of the issues with all the apartments going in. Kat – Has anyone looked into the densities we're getting? Carol – Gresham & Metro agreed years ago on the densities. There is a regional goal of 50/50 apartments and homes which Gresham agreed to.

*Carol – We have an upcoming Repair Café. If you are interested in helping out or being a fixer, let me know. I'll let you know where and when. It's probably at the end of February or in March.

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Minutes by Kathy Schwabe, Coalition Secretary, and Carol Rulla, Coalition President

Next meeting: **Tuesday, February 9** – Oregon Trail Room