

**Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations
May 10, 2016 – Oregon Trail Room, Gresham City Hall**

Meeting Minutes

NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES	NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES
Centennial	<i>Marlene Byrne, Rick Dwyer</i>	Northeast	<i>INACTIVE</i>
Central City	<i>INACTIVE</i>	North Gresham	<i>Gelinda Chernault, Linda Parashos</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>Tom Griffith</i>
Kelly Creek	<i>Charles Teem, 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, Dana Lucero, Katherine Kelly, Jennifer Koozer, Shirley Craddick, Shankira Mehkri</i>		

Welcome: Meeting was called to order by Coalition President Carol Rulla at 7:04 PM. Quorum was established and minutes of 4/12/16 were approved as presented. There was no public comment.

Coalition Secretary/Treasurer: Charles Teem made a motion to nominate Theresa Tschirky for the position of Coalition Secretary-Treasurer. Jim Buck seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Powell-Division Project: Metro councilor Shirley Craddick introduced the presenters: Dana Lucero – Metro Communications, Jennifer Koozer – TriMet Capital Projects and Katherine Kelly – City of Gresham. The goal of the project is to provide easy to use faster service along the Powell-Division transit corridor from Mt. Hood Community College to downtown Portland. The project has a 22 member Steering Committee made up of elected officials, agency leaders, educational institutions, housing advocates, environmental justice advocates, communities of color, neighborhood associations, transit riders, business representatives and environmental advocates. East county representatives include John Bildsoe, Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations, Lori Stegmann, Gresham City Council, Shirley Craddick, Metro Councilor and Michael Calcagno, Mt. Hood Community College. The steering committee is chartered to recommend the approach and route to best serve this transit corridor. The committee is recommending Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) as the approach. BRT consists of longer buses that make fewer stops at more substantial stations and buses that can communicate with traffic lights. If approved, this will be TriMet’s first BRT project. The most likely recommendation for the route will stay on Division and not cross over to Powell at 82nd Ave. It will cross the river using the Hawthorn bridge and end at Union Station. This is a change from the original recommendation to use outer Division to inner Powell and cross the river using the Tillakum Bridge. The route change is necessary because modeling this winter determined that the Powell-Division BRT would take longer than the current #9 Powell or #4 Division regular buses. Staff had hoped that technological strategies could improve the transit time, but the longer route, congestion and protected land uses on inner Powell, and congestion and potential property impacts on 82nd were too great. There are three options still under consideration for the section of the route from the Gresham Transit Center to MHCC: 1) Main / 223rd 2) Cleveland and 3) Hogan. The steering committee identified pros and cons of each alternative and has sought community input, including in-depth outreach last fall. Most people favor the Hogan route and there is the greatest opposition to the Cleveland route. John Bildsoe conducted an informal poll of route preference at the meeting, with most attendees favoring the Hogan route. Questions were asked about alternatives considered for the entire route: since inner Division is so congested, was Clinton considered as an alternative? The city of Portland has designated Clinton as a bike route and motor vehicle traffic on the street is being discouraged. Was light rail considered as an approach? Not at this time, the investment for light rail is larger than the “small start” project funding available for this project. Light rail would be a much longer term project. The project is required to not degrade the current traffic flow. Questions were asked about enhanced crossings and sidewalk links. The hope is to find funding for some enhancements. If Gresham does not get funding to enhance crossings, the enhancements will need to wait. What will the effect of the BRT be on north-south traffic? Staff is looking at improvements to the signals to improve the level of service or at least not degrade it. Will this project replace the #4 bus? While this hasn’t been decided, in all likelihood it will, based on the existing bus potentially slowing down the BRT on inner Division. This recommendation has not been officially approved – the steering committee needs to finalize their recommendation which will then go the cities of Portland and Gresham before final approval from Metro. More information can be found at the following web site: <http://www.oregonmetro.gov/powelldivision> .

Neighborhood & City News & Reports:

Update on the Community Resource Team: Aaron provided a clarification to the CRT approach presented at the last Coalition meeting; while one NET officer will be assigned to each quadrant of the city, the officer will not respond exclusively to their assigned quadrant – rather the NET officers will “float” to some degree and respond based on availability. Aaron is consulting with the CRT to confirm the alignment of neighborhoods by quadrant is correct. The assignment of NET officers by quadrant is still TBD. There was a question of how many code compliance officers the city has. There are two plus a supervisor, but code compliance personnel and rental inspectors have cross-trained.

Discussion on Potential Updates to Administrative Procedures: It has been 5 years since the Administrative Procedures were adopted. Aaron reviewed five updates to consider, with pros and cons for each. Coalition members are encouraged to consider the suggestions, think about additional updates and prepare for a more in depth discussion at a future meeting. The five potential areas for updates Aaron identified are as follows: **Leave of Absence** – if a board member is temporarily unavailable, document a process for the member to step down temporarily; **Preconditions for running for board positions** – document optional criteria a NA could use to qualify individuals interested in serving on a board. Examples are attendance at meetings or a written statement about why they want to run. **Executive sessions** – should a process be documented for optional executive sessions? Under city code, Neighborhood Associations do not fall under the public meetings law and current administrative procedures require board meetings to be open to all NA members. **Term Lengths** – currently all board members serve one year terms; should the option to serve for two years be available and then stagger the turnover for board members? **Clarify subcommittee / board voting** – should appointed (unelected) subcommittee chairs be full members of the board? **Other updates discussed:** There was a suggestion to change the title of “Land Use Chair” to “Land Use Officer”. There is no discussion of fiduciary responsibilities of the board in the procedures or NA bylaws – should this be added? It was suggested that the Administrative Procedures be reviewed annually. Aaron will update the draft of recommended actions based on the dialog at the meeting and email them out to Coalition members for review. A link to the current Administrative Procedures can be found on the Neighborhood Association page, in the box labeled “Resources” on the bottom right hand side of the page. Please email Aaron with any additional suggestions for updates. As a reminder, please notify the city of planned Neighborhood Association By-law changes to provide the opportunity for review prior to formal adoption of the changes.

Announcements: Jim Buck announced that the Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association is sponsoring a presentation on Permaculture by a local expert, Marisha Auerbach and would like to invite any interested parties to attend. Aaron announced that the annual volunteer picnic will be Tuesday, June 14 in Main City Park from 5 to 7pm.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Minutes prepared by Theresa Tschirky, Coalition Secretary-Treasurer

Next meeting: **Tuesday, June 14** – Oregon Trail Room