

**KELLY CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, February 24, 2016**

**Gordon Russell Middle School  
3625 SE Powell Valley Road  
Gresham, OR 97080**

**CALL TO ORDER**

KCNA Land Use Director Carol Rulla called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. President Charlie Teem was out of town on business. A quorum was established with 23 members in attendance per the sign-in sheet. KCNA Board members were introduced. New members were recognized, introduced and received a welcome gift from KCNA.

Carol asked if there were any corrections to the previous meeting minutes. There were none, and the 10/28/15 meeting minutes were adopted as presented.

**PRESENTATIONS**

● **Fruit Tree Project**

Shaunna Sutcliffe from the City of Gresham's School & Recycling program and Intern Madison McGarity, are working along with the Portland Fruit Tree Project to expand the project into Gresham. The project is such that homeowners can register their unharvested fruit trees to be harvested by the group. The fruit is then donated to Snow-Cap or other local food pantries that can handle fresh fruit. On March 16 a meeting will be held at City Hall with more details of the project including: Registering a tree, Harvesting, and Organizing/Leadership. Please attend this informative meeting if interested.

The City's Earth Day Recycling event will be held on Saturday, April 23 at City Hall. About a hundred volunteers are needed to staff the event. Shifts would only last for 3-4 hours.

● **City of Gresham Police, Neighborhood Enforcement Team (NET) with Officer Jim Leake**

NET Officer Jim Leake gave a presentation on the City of Gresham's new NEAT program. NEAT stands for Neighborhood Enforcement Action Team.

NEAT is a pro-active nuisance team that works on solving livability problems. In addition to the NET officers, other members of NEAT provide help through mediation, rental inspection and code compliance. 52% of the City of Gresham is comprised of rental properties.

**The NEAT tip hotline 503-618-2638**

All calls are returned unless the caller states they don't want a call back in the message. The team wants to interact with and to have conversations with residents. NET conducts Landlord forums and Landlord Boot Camps to help landlords be proactive with renters.

NET is dealing with the homeless in Gresham. NET is proactive with abandoned houses. There has been a 43% drop in squatters. NET conducts realtor training so that realtors can recognize potential dangers when showing homes and meeting unknown people.

NET is getting police back to interacting with members of the community and building trust with city residents. Crime reports for the city were distributed for 2014/2015. NET handles area checks and welfare checks.

City police receive 75,000 calls a year, which has stayed pretty steady over the decade. Of those 43,000 are dispatch calls and the rest are officer-initiated. There are a total of 60 - 65 patrol officers, but only 10 or so are on duty at any one time.

Calls for service in Kelly Creek were down 7% in 2015, this does not mean that crime is down in Kelly Creek. Kelly Creek consists of only 3% all of calls.

Theft is the most common crime. Stolen vehicles make up a high amount of crime incidents. In January there were 40 cars stolen. Almost all cars were found.

Homeowners can be proactive in being safe. Make a routine of locking all windows and doors even double checking before going to sleep. Trim bushes and trees from the home. Turn on outdoor lights. If keeping cars in the driveway, make sure they are locked. If they have garage door openers in them, lock the interior door from the garage to the home.

A person on meth can be high for up to 5 days straight. They often walk around at night checking cars for unlocked doors and things in them to steal.

NET started in May 2014. City council has given 2 more officers for the team. In the future NET will comprise of 4 officers and 1 sergeant.

#### *Homeless on the Springwater Trail -*

During the day is safe from 174th and eastward. 174th and westward is not that safe. Biggest problem is people with drug and mental health problems. The best action for citizens is situational awareness. Report any non-emergency problems to NET.

NET officers have established good relationships with the homeless in Gresham. Officer Leake dealt with one homeless person on living on the Springwater Trail at Hogan who had been acting in a threatening manner. He made it clear that the person was to be moved out by Friday or there would be consequences. He also talked to him about the importance of taking his medication.

Homelessness is a worldwide problem. The US Department of Justice and the Supreme Court are setting rules concerning enforcement of illegal camping laws and the resources that communities have to provide to the homeless.

A member of KCNA brought up an incident they encountered where they were at the McDonald's on Burnside. There were people passing around drugs within the establishment. When the KCNA member asked the cashier about what was happening, the reply was they

could not do anything. Officer Leake stated that it would have been appropriate to call the police for this situation. Police do want to know about this kind of behavior. It is the type of problem NET works on.

Police Officers can't harass the homeless. But just like any other protected group, the homeless can't commit crimes. Gresham Police have not taken a Hands Off policy with the homeless like some other cities have done. City Council has closed the Gresham Woods for accountability and protecting the environment. Thus keeping the community's quality of life.

For more information on what Gresham is doing on homeless visit [www.greshamoregon.gov/homelessness](http://www.greshamoregon.gov/homelessness).

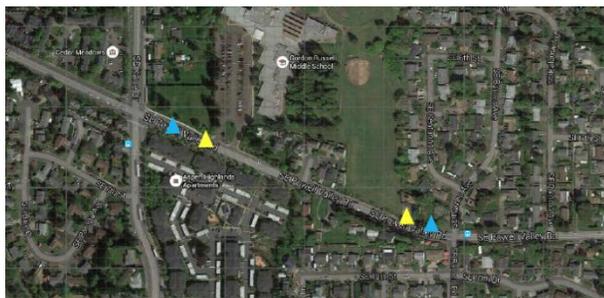
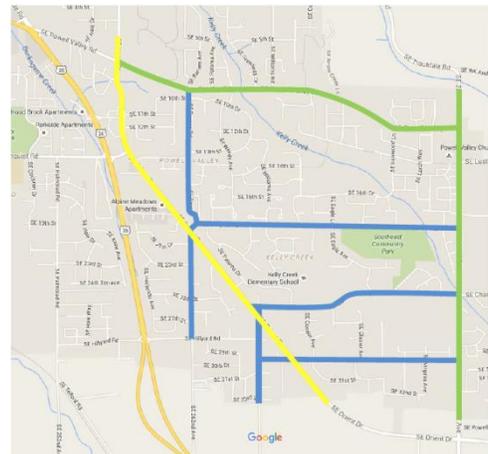
The traffic unit is proactive when investigating vehicle death to find out what happens.

● **City of Gresham Department of Transportation with Chris Strong**

Chris Strong from the City's Transportation department gave an overview on the city's transportation situation for Kelly Creek.

There is speeding in the neighborhoods. The city collects traffic data regularly within the neighborhoods. In KCNA, Powell Valley and 282nd are minor arterials while Anderson, Barnes, Salquist, Chase, and Welch are collectors.

Data is looked at the 85th percentile. This is the speed at or below which 85 percent of the actual traffic is going. It is usually 7 - 8 miles over the posted speed limit. The reported data on these streets were reviewed. The arterial streets with higher speed limits had expected 85th percentile speeds while the 25 mph collectors generally had high 85th percentile speeds. This is because these roads are straight and drivers feel safe going faster than the 25 mph speed limit. By traffic standards, the city could raise the speed limit on these collectors, but because they are residential streets with a lot of driveways and residents want lower speeds, the city has chosen to keep the speed limit lower.



As for the school zone for Gordon Russell Middle school, Federal regulation dictates school zone signage. A KCNA member suggested having a flashing sign on both ends of the zone as it is a long section. There were concerns about the school zone crossing Kane and that it would create problems to add a school zone on Kane especially since the

school cannot be seen from Kane.

KCNA intersection safety for 2012 - 2014 was reviewed. There was 1 fatality in 2013 at Orient and Salquist. The intersection crash data for Orient is: 6 crashes at Salquist, 2 at Chase and 6 at Welch. The data for 282nd is: 3 crashes at Powell Valley, 5 at Lusted, 3 at Salquist, 3 at Chase and 1 at Welch Overall, there have been no trends occurring in these accidents.

Burlingame Creek runs underground across Salquist. In saturated conditions, the conduit looks in good operational condition. An off-road sinkhole was found downstream on private property. It is isolated and under investigation.

The December sinkhole on Kane was caused by an upstream problem. A large tree was uprooted and blocked the pipe. The problem was not an issue of design. Kane has been temporarily fixed. In 2017 or 2018 a permanent fix will be completed.

In 2016, there will be no major street maintenance in KCNA. There may be some slurry seal maintenance.

A member inquired about the city's control of how long a light is red or green. The response was that many traffic lights are smart signals. They monitor traffic flow using the metal detectors in the road sensing the metal in the underframe of cars to help move traffic throughout the network. Another KCNA member stated that changing the standard left hand light to a flashing yellow makes it harder for motorists to judge when best to make a left hand turn, especially when the protected left is not consistently at the beginning or at the end of the cycle.

Carol Rulla thanked Chris for his presentation. She announced that Multnomah County Commissioners will be voting on land use regulations for marijuana businesses in the unincorporated county. There is a grey area where counties and cities can put restrictions on Marijuana grows that do not conflict with Oregon Right To Grow Act. One proposed regulation that the Multnomah County Planning Commission has recommended is a 100 foot setback from property lines in all zonings, including Exclusive Farm Use.

City Council member present were Kirk French, Lori Stegmann and Mario Palmero.

KCNA members were invited to have refreshments and to have informal discussions with tonight's presenters and KCNA Board members.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Diane Anderson, KCNA Secretary-Treasurer