

**Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations
August 9, 2016 – Oregon Trail Room, Gresham City Hall**

Meeting Minutes

NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES	NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES
Centennial	Marlene Byrne	Northeast	INACTIVE
Central City	INACTIVE	North Gresham	Gelinda Chernault, Linda Parashos
Gresham Butte	Theresa Tschirky	Northwest	Elizabeth Livingston
Historic Southeast	Frani Grover	Gresham Pleasant Valley	Karen Bohnstedt
Hollybrook		Powell Valley	Tom Griffith
Kelly Creek	Mel Roemmich, Carol Rulla	Rockwood	John Bildsoe
Mt. Hood	INACTIVE	Southwest	INACTIVE
North Central	Maggie Anderson	Wilkes-East	
Guests:	Aaron Abrams, Deborah Kafoury, Marc Jolin, Liz Smith Currie, Lori Stegmann, Kirk French, Eric Chambers, Joe Walsh, Kathryn Anderson, Terry Shumway		

Welcome: Meeting was called to order by Coalition President Carol Rulla at 7:02 PM. Minutes of 7/12/16 were approved as presented. There was no public comment.

Updates on Initiatives on Homelessness: Chair Deborah Kafoury, Multnomah Board of Commissioners, and Marc Jolin, A Home for Everyone and Joint Office on Homeless Services

The last time Chair Kafoury attended a Coalition meeting she was running for office and addressing homelessness was a high priority. At that time the City of Portland was responsible for homeless individuals and Multnomah County was responsible for homeless youth and families, leaving a gap in support for homeless individuals in the county outside the Portland city limits. A Home for Everyone was established to address homelessness as a regional coordinated effort. The Joint Office on Homeless Services has been established and lead by Mark Jolin with a goal to make homelessness rare and brief. The city of Gresham is an important partner in this coordinated effort. Recent initiatives in Gresham include the Clean Start program clean-up efforts and the funding to staff the homeless service specialist for Gresham. The current budget year started July 1 and has prioritized dollars for homeless prevention and to building temporary shelter capacity. The Hanson building will have 200 beds, a facility near McLoughlin will have 130 beds and the Gresham women’s shelter will have 90 beds. The county is requiring good neighbor agreements for the shelters. Money has also been allocated to move people out of temporary shelters to permanent housing. The city of Portland will be putting a \$280 M bond on the next ballot to fund 1,300 units of affordable housing.

Marc Jolin gave an update on the Joint Office on Homeless Services. At the beginning of 2016 there were 590 temporary shelter beds; by the end of this fiscal year there will be approximately 400 new beds. This year is the first time shelter has been offered to couples. There will be beds for domestic violence survivors set aside and low barrier housing will be added. Temporary shelter is just the starting point – not the end goal. Additional focus on helping people move out of shelters include: targeted employment support, healthcare support thru expanded Medicaid, investing in producing more affordable housing inventory, local funding to buy access to exiting inventory, supporting landlords to place people who would otherwise be screened out and assisting veterans by providing financial support to landlords who rent to vets. The Joint Office on Homeless Services has a comprehensive governance structure that holds all participating entities accountable for success. Two years ago there were 1,850 people homeless and unable to fulfill their full potential; the data for 2015/16 is 3,500 homeless with 5,000 instances of homelessness prevented. There is a focus on accountability by providing accurate consistent data across jurisdictions.

Questions & Answers: Q: How do homeless people find out about Clean Start? A: Clean Start is run by Central City Concern. They use many channels to recruit and reach out to the community. Their main employment office is at 2nd and Burnside in downtown Portland. Q: How do people on the trail, far from downtown, find out about employment opportunities? A: Reaching out to people on the trail in Gresham is a part of what Newton, the Gresham homeless service specialist does. He also works with individuals to replace lost ID and remove other barriers to employment. Additionally Join has some small lockers available in day shelters so that individuals can safely store some possessions such as ID. Q: We have heard of people from outside the Metro area coming to Portland to take advantage of the programs here. Is there any sharing of best practices with other communities such as those in Eastern Oregon? A: Homelessness is a nationwide issue. The Oregon legislature allocated \$40M for housing and \$20 for mental health in the last session. Marc does receive inquiries from other communities on a regular basis – he just received a call from Bend. He also participates in

conferences to share information and learn from others. Q: How are homeless children being schooled? A: Families don't tend to show up on the streets. More often, they are moving from location to location, doubling up with others. The school districts do have homelessness advocates to support suspected homeless students and some federal support via the McKinney-Vento legislation. It is a priority to keep students in the same school. Regarding adult education, there is support to help with applications as well as tuition assistance, financial aid, job training and job placement. Q: Some individuals in the community did not feel they had adequate notice on the plans to open shelters. A: We are in a learning mode and admit mistakes were made in not giving the neighbors sufficient notice on the Hansen Project. While nobody wants a shelter in their backyard, people are currently sleeping on the streets now – sleeping indoors is always better. It is important that neighbors feel supported in case there are issues. Q: One of the drivers of homelessness is the Justice Department. Are there any thoughts on justice reform? A: There is some work being done in the community on justice reform. There is a program called LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) patterned after a successful Seattle program. The idea is to not formally arrest and charge people committing low level offenses, instead they would be diverted to services to address the root causes of the offense. Q: The Central City Concern model provides supported employment and a re-entry to employment. How much capacity do we have? A: New budget is helping expand programs that work. The criminal justice system is more expensive than supported employment. We are gathering empirical data. Q: What is being done to address the lack of social services in Gresham? A: The first start was funding the homeless service specialist position. Gresham needs to define what their needs are. There is concern about closing the DHS office in Gresham – moving the services west toward Portland. Q: Since Gresham has the most affordable housing, what is being done to align the services? A: The approach to shelters is changing, pending the permitting process, from opening doors at 9pm and kicking people out at 7am to 24x7 model with social services provided on site. The shelters coordinate with volunteers to provide food on site.

A handout on the new Women's Shelter was provided. It expected to open around September 7 with a no turn away policy using church partners for overflow. Marc will see about providing a map of shelter locations. More information on any of the topics discussed can be found at <http://ahomeforeveryone.net/>.

Neighborhood Input to Gresham Task Force on Homelessness: *Theresa Tschirky, Task Force Member*

The Gresham Task Force on Homelessness has been meeting bi-monthly since early June and is currently gathering information from many sources on different perspectives on the issues of homelessness here in Gresham. Coalition member Theresa Tschirky is serving on the task force and has been asked to provide input from the Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations. Her presentation is scheduled for the task force's next meeting on August 16th.

Theresa reviewed a draft presentation summarizing notes from Coalition meetings, last fall's Council Listening Session on homelessness and other input from neighborhood associations such as results from the Nextdoor.com survey monkey questionnaire conducted by the SWNA. She reviewed key impacts, reactions and potential responses. Her goal is to review this information seeking to identify any major gaps in what she has summarized to date. Feedback on the presentation is as follows: One missing impact is related to cost to property owners such as, negative impacts to property values due to increased calls to 911 and general increases in crime statistics, the increased cost for policing, property thefts, vandalism such as destruction of air conditioning units and fences. Concern was also expressed that Gresham bears a disproportionate burden for homeless services with 9% of the homeless population and 15% of the transitional housing beds. Another topic not addressed was neighborhood livability impacts due to single family housing used for multiple families. Wilkes East resident, Kathryn Anderson provided additional input in a three page summary of the current situation and suggestions to address the issue. She cited the approach used by Fort Lyon Colorado as a best practice that provides housing as well as treatment for underlying issues. Theresa's updated presentation will be included with the minutes.

Neighborhood & City News & Reports:

Carol mentioned the deadline to file for the three Gresham City Council positions open for election is August 25. The positions up for elections are 1 (Jerry Hinton), 3 (Karylenn Echols) and 5 (David Widmark). Aaron and Joe will ask Communications about posting information on how to file and the responsibilities of serving on City Council on the City web page. Carol asked if the Coalition is interested in sponsoring any pre-election forums. Marlene noted that there will be no League of Women forum for east county candidates. Coalition members decided to wait to see if there will be any contested positions.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.