

## Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association

*September 21, 2016*

*Barlow Trail Room*

*7:00 p.m.*

### 7:00 p.m. Opening Introductions

Officers present: Jim Buck, president; Sandy Davidson, vice-president; Tracy Slack, land use chair; Theresa Tschirky, treasurer; Lynn Saint, secretary. Jim Buck opened the meeting and asked the 23 attendees to introduce themselves.

### 7:03 p.m. Community Center Bond

Eric Schmidt, the project manager for Ballot measure 26188, presented handouts to the attendees which reflect the vision for the new community center. The plans for the new community center will soon appear on the city's website, explaining contact information and center goals.

The premise involves the understanding that Gresham is a city of over 100,000 citizens with no place for families with children. Other cities, such as Tualatin, enjoy their own community centers. A task force, comprised mainly of people from various neighborhood associations, can help with focusing on priorities in building a community center.

#### **Questions:**

Jim Buck: "How would the operation and maintenance be covered?"

**Response:** "We are looking for a third party as a collaborator/vendor to help with financing the program."

Attendee: "Will the center charge for admission? How many years will this tax be paid? Where is the site located?"

**Response:** "The center will be fee-based. The residents will not be taxed for more than 21 years for the center. No site has yet been determined."

Attendee: "How successful are other cities with these community centers?"

**Response:** "In looking at other cities, we have found these community centers are self-supporting with regard to cost recovery."

Attendee: "What is the size you are looking at for a community center in this area?"

**Response:** "It should be close to 63,000 feet."

### 7:14 p.m. Gresham Homeless Task Force

Speaker and task force member, Theresa Tschirky, shared an overview of the opinions and observations, via survey questionnaires and conversations, from within the community via the Neighborhood Coalition and Next Door. She originally presented this overview to a select task force of 17 individuals who have participated in researching the issue of homelessness within the Gresham area. Task force participants represent a wide range of backgrounds including faith-

based, business, homeless, health-care, non-profit and the neighborhood association.

Theresa provided an 11-page handout which highlighted their anecdotal findings from approximately the past six months. Following her explanations from the provided materials, she stressed that the task force has listened to a host of presentations. At their last meeting, on September 13, task force members were challenged with what can be done from the standpoint of recommendations. There are things the city can and cannot do. Key topics – three broad areas: housing (affordable), services (mental health, employment, health care), safety (strong concern for them). What can be done to foster safety? The main idea: No people should be living outside.

Members of the GBNA meeting made comments following her presentation. Bill Hay stressed, “This is a monumental task for the city. Those recommending solutions to the council – city, police, home owners – all have to buy in to make this a better place for homeless. Gresham is not the only place. Other cities have good solutions. We have to take in what we can do with our gifts and limitations.”

Dan Troglin referenced Tiny Town in Seattle; Haven of Hope in San Antonio and the homeless shelters in Salt Lake City’s track. The majority of those who are homeless want a place to go. The biggest task is housing. Human Solutions has vouchers but there is no housing available.

The city of Gresham did apply for and is receiving funding for a homeless specialist, Newton Gborway, who is trying to take down some of the barriers preventing people from moving forward in their lives.

Rolf Nesse stressed the importance of stopping homelessness by focusing on the needs of children. Twenty-five to thirty per cent of the homeless are mentally ill. Many people do not have coping skills to deal with their issues. They become homeless. Resources and follow-up are important. Ann Nesse asked who needs to take responsibility as she doesn’t see much help outside the city and the county, especially on the state level.

Residents have been expressing fears of whether or not their properties are going to be protected. Springwater Trail is much better than it was when the task force first started. Theresa further explained that the task force has embraced coordinating services and giving definition. Gresham is doing right as it is engaged with this collaborative effort. “We have a seat at the table.”

Some do not want to be inside, but they need a place to live outside. Other questions: How do you advocate for those who do not want it? How do you get them if they don’t want it? Possible solutions include out-patient services. They need a place for washing clothes, getting food, staying somewhat clean. One location in California has a Café run by homeless who serve within their own community.

## **8:18 p.m. Reports**

### **Minutes**

The May minutes’ approval were moved and seconded by Nita Martin and Sandy Davidson

with all saying “Aye,” June minutes were moved and seconded by Sandy Davidson and Theresa Tschirky along with an affirmative voice vote.

#### **Land Use**

Tracy Slack, land use chairman, reported: Hogan Butte Nature Park Phase I; subdivision on Hogan – Renaissance at Brookside; Southwest 21<sup>st</sup> Terrace off Towle (east side) – sloping lot which has problems with drainage and street flow and retaining wall; Deer Glen flag lot remaining – off Elliot Drive.

#### **Treasurer**

Theresa Tschirky presented a total of \$1081.91 as of September 15. There was a recent deposit of \$518 for the trail sign project. The Dawncrest Wayside project still has \$343.86 available.

### **8:10 p.m. Old Business**

#### **City Grant for Neighborhood Sign Project**

Both the director and a teacher at the Center for Advanced Learning expressed enthusiasm with regard to making up a sign and for them to partner with us. One sign is already at an intersection. Cost for the sign is around \$1,000. Fabrication of metals with their creation should reduce the association costs. The group may still need a fundraiser to support this. A sign should help hikers on saddle trail where the four roads merge.

#### **Dawncrest Wayside**

This area still needs a bit more volunteer work with watering and trimming.

### **8:20 p.m. New Business**

#### **Officer Elections and Meeting Topics**

The same officers were unanimously elected to their positions:

President Jim Buck, nominated and seconded by Sandy Davidson and Ann Nesse.” Vice-President Sandy Davidson, nominated and seconded by Lynn Saint and Brian Peachey. Treasurer Theresa Tschirky nominated and seconded by Sandy Davidson and Ron Ture. Lynn Saint nominated and seconded by Theresa Tschirky and Sandy Davidson.

#### **Next Meeting**

October 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting will review Ballot Measure 97: Discussion with Lynn Snodgrass con and a pro representative.

#### **8:37 p.m. Questions and Announcements**

- Repair Café will be taking place on October 8, 2016.
- City of Gresham is looking for input about the Civic Neighborhood.
- Tracy to check on road conditions on Walters Road and Blaine Court.
- Noise levels on Eastman –brick wall rebounds sound waves. Would speed bumps help?
- Traffic issues are a concern – traffic engineering...intersection of Butler and Regner. Butler and Towle is another dangerous intersection.

### **8:47 p.m. Meeting Adjourned – Next Meeting: June 8**