

**Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations
November 14, 2017 – Oregon Trail Room, Gresham City Hall**

Meeting Minutes

NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES	NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES
Centennial	<i>INACTIVE</i>	Northeast	<i>INACTIVE</i>
Central City	<i>INACTIVE</i>	North Gresham	<i>Mike Elston, Linda Van Deusen-Price, Linda Parashos, Carolyn Eckel</i>
Gresham Butte		Northwest	<i>John Bildsoe</i>
Historic Southeast	<i>Janet Patin</i>	Gresham Pleasant Valley	
Hollybrook	<i>Celeste Ets-Hokin</i>	Powell Valley	<i>Jeff Muceus, Stella Butler</i>
Kelly Creek	<i>Charles Teem, Carol Rulla</i>	Rockwood	<i>Catherine Nicewood, Donna Dionne</i>
Mt. Hood	<i>INACTIVE</i>	Southwest	<i>Susan Wells, Brandon Harer, Gail Cerveny</i>
North Central		Wilkes-East	
Staff & Guests:	<i>Joe Walsh, Michael Gonzales, Jessica Harper, Kirk French, Greg Matthews, Lee Dayfield, Jim Labbe, Dale Cerveny, Ed Stahlman</i>		

Welcome: Meeting was called to order by Coalition President Carol Rulla at 7:02 PM. Quorum was established and everyone in the room introduced themselves. Minutes of 9/12/17 and 10/10/17 were approved without corrections. Secretary-Treasurer Theresa Tschirky was absent; Carol will prepare minutes. There was no public comment.

Introduction of Office of Neighborhoods & Community Engagement (ONCE) Manager and Livability Manager:

Joe Walsh introduced ONCE Manager Michael Gonzales and Livability Manager Jessica Harper. Joe noted that the city began a review of ONCE in early 2017, and after former ONCE Manager Aaron Abrams left, his position remained open until the ONCE review was completed. The resulting report from Jensen Strategies informed the hiring of a new ONCE Manager and also the creation of a new Livability Manager position. Michael then shared some of his background. He is from Gresham and, after being away for several years, returned in 2008 to raise his children here and be closer to family. He and his brother started a creative consultancy business in Downtown Gresham, and Michael soon got involved with the downtown business association, including 6 years as president. He met many people and was involved in many initiatives to encourage people to come to Gresham. After recruiting new business association leadership and taking a 6-month break, Michael decided he wanted to be involved in something bigger so he applied for the ONCE Manager position. Jessica then provided her background at the city. She has been with the city for about 6 years, including 3 years as the mayor's assistant and a year working on policy. Through her work in the mayor's office, she is familiar many city issues including code complaint issues. Her new position came out of the Jensen Report recommendation to bring some code enforcement functions into ONCE in order to be more collaborative and respond better. She will be working with 2 code compliance officers, a public utility worker and the city's homeless services specialist to address code complaints that would be better handled with a softer initial response. Other issues like marijuana enforcement, illegal buildings and rental housing inspections will still be handled by NEAT (Neighborhood Enforcement Action Team, a coordinated effort between NET (Neighborhood Enforcement Team), code compliance officers and rental housing inspectors). Rita Humphrey and Bob Bethmann will remain with NEAT. Q – When will Lina Sizmin return to the ONCE office and the office door be regularly open again? A – Lina should return in the coming weeks. Two people are needed in the office for the door to be unlocked. Once Jessica and her team move into the ONCE office in January, the door will be open most of the time. Q – Is Kelle Landavazo part of ONCE? A – No, she's still in Emergency Management (part of Gresham Fire).

New Developments in Gresham Fire & Emergency Services (GFES): Councilor Kirk French introduced the topic by recounting that, when he first joined Council, he soon realized that GFES needed a new way to deal with medical calls and he urged Chief Greg Matthews to explore options to better handle those calls. It turned out that Chief Matthews had been working on such changes. Chief Matthews then provided background and details on 2 initiatives to better manage to medical calls. He noted that GFES has had many retirements, but there are currently 13 recruits at the academy who will start in December. Even so, Gresham has fewer firefighters now than in the past, even though they serve a larger population and medical calls volumes have increased. GFES serves the Cities of Gresham, Fairview, Troutdale and Wood Village as well as Multnomah County Fire District 10, a total of approximately 60 square miles and 140,000 citizens. GFES also works with Portland Fire to provide firefighters for Station 31 (on 174th) in order to keep that station open since it's the busiest station in our area (3500-3600 calls per year). Total GFES call volume last year was over 16,000, about 70% of which were medical calls. The goal for response is 5 minutes or less. Last year GFES ran a 1-year pilot program with a roaming Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) using an old Suburban equipped with medical and fire gear and a 2-person crew of firefighters. The QRV operated during peak times on 10-hour shifts Monday-Thursday and was able to handle 1/3 of last year's medical calls, which freed the bigger rigs for other calls and reduced overall response times. Also

reducing response time is an Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) which allows dispatch to send the closest vehicle to a call. With funding from a new 3-year grant, GFES plans to operate the QRV unit every day in the new year 7am-7pm (when medical call volumes are highest). Then 7pm-7am (when fire & accident call volumes are highest), the QRV firefighters will be assigned to GFES's normal 3-person truck/engine crews to create 4-person crews (the national standard) or used to relieve firefighters working overtime. Another program that's been created to make better use of limited resources is the Gresham CARES Program. It's a partnership with the OHSU School of Nursing that Gresham started in 2014 to reduce 911 medical calls that turn out not to be high priority calls. With the citizen's consent, the CARES team intervenes to provide individualized follow-up care management, enhancing the citizen's health and well-being while also providing a learning opportunity for the nursing students. The program is reducing the burden of frequent callers by finding solutions to help those individuals become more independent without continually requesting help from emergency responders.

Neighborhood & City News & Reports:

- **REMINDER:** January 2018 is the Coalition election meeting. Carol explained that Theresa will be unable continue as Secretary/Treasurer and that position will be open for nominations. Carol encouraged anyone interested in a Board position (President, Vice President or Secretary/Treasurer) to contact her or Coalition VP John Bildsoe.
- All agreed that the December meeting will be cancelled due to holidays.
- Celeste Ets-Hokin presented information on a proposed Multnomah County Wood Smoke Ordinance with explanation for topics covered in the Issue Brief handout that was distributed at the meeting. Wood smoke is a primary contributor to pollution in Multnomah County, and the county is on the verge of not meeting federal clean air regulations. Our main pollutant is Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM 2.5), and we are 6th worst in the country for PM 2.5 pollution. At 2.5 microns, PM 2.5 is so small that it can penetrate the lungs and get into the blood stream. HEPA masks cannot filter it out. Multnomah County proposes a 3-part strategy: (1) outreach & education about the health risks and the need to "burn wise" (like using only seasoned wood and not burning on weather inversion days), (2) a curtailment ordinance to prohibit wood burning on winter days when poor air quality is expected (about 3-5 days per year) and (3) a wood stove exchange program. The proposed ordinance has exemptions for low-income households, households where wood or solid fuel burning is the primary heat source or where the primary heat source is temporarily non-functioning, interruptions of utility service, fires for cooking, and pellet stoves. Enforcement would be complaint-based and begin with outreach through a letter. Monetary penalties wouldn't begin until the third offense. Q – How will outreach be done for non-English language households? A – The county is working on the outreach and would appreciate our help. Q – Is this program related to city burn days? A – No, it's a separate program under a different jurisdiction. Q – Since inversions are normally on the coldest winter days, how practical is this new ordinance? A – A big focus will be on educating those who do not need to burn to heat their homes. Q – Will different rules apply to different parts of the county that might have different weather conditions on a particular day? A – No. Carol will send information on the ordinance and encouraged members to give the county feedback through the online comments form.

Participatory Budgeting: Jim Labbe and Lee Dayfield presented information on how participatory budgeting (PB) works and can help get people more involved in their communities. PB is the fastest growing municipal reform in the world. It started in Brazil in the late 1980's after the authoritarian government was replaced with a democracy. It isn't a substitute for the regular budget process but a complementary process to give power to residents. It starts with community brainstorming to design a process for allocating a dedicated pot of money. A group of community volunteers then distills submitted project ideas into choices for the community to vote on and the winning projects are funded. Who gets to vote is determined by the community and it doesn't have to be limited to registered voters. For instance, Seattle chose to make its first PB process for youth only. The goals of PB are to build knowledge of the budget process, build community trust and build leadership through a process that has a definite outcome. Q – Where does the money come from? A – Usually it's public money, but sometimes it's from private foundations. Jim and Lee are working to organize a 1/2-3/4 day event to raise awareness and gauge interest in doing a PB process in our area. The event would bring in others with PB experience to share what they know. It will be open to the public and hopefully video-taped, but they particularly want to have community leaders participate. Q – Why is PB voting outside of election law, especially if it's allocating public money? A – PB is more like a grant funding process that the city might use to decide how to spend a pot of money that's been allocated in the regular budget process, whereas the official election process is through the county clerk's office and is normally for votes to raise tax revenue. Q – Couldn't professionals hijack the process? A – That's more difficult because the process is open & accessible. Q – How do you deal with equity, especially those with more money or time to organize vs. those with less money or time? A – The process could address that, plus there's a feedback loop for changes the next time. Jim will send PB information to Carol to forward and will send the community event details when they're finalized.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Notes by Linda Parashos and Carol Rulla; Minutes prepared by Carol Rulla, Coalition President

Next meeting: **Tuesday, January 9** – City Hall Oregon Trail Room