

**Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations
January 9, 2018 – Oregon Trail Room, Gresham City Hall**

Meeting Minutes

NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES	NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES
Centennial	INACTIVE	Northeast	INACTIVE
Central City	INACTIVE	North Gresham	Mike Elston
Gresham Butte	Jim Buck, Theresa Tschirky	Northwest	Kat Todd, Dave Dyk
Historic Southeast	Janet Patin	Gresham Pleasant Valley	Angelene Adler
Hollybrook		Powell Valley	Rebekah Burns, Nichole Burns
Kelly Creek	Charles Teem, Carol Rulla, April Avery	Rockwood	John Bildsoe
Mt. Hood	INACTIVE	Southwest	Susan Wells, Brandon Harer, Gail Cerveny
North Central		Wilkes-East	
Staff & Guests:	Michael Gonzales, Jay Higgins, John Riddell, Stan & Karen Bohnstedt, Dale Cerveny		

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 11/14/17 were approved. There was no public comment.

Pleasant Valley Transportation System Plan (TSP) Refinement: Jay Higgins, Associate Transportation Planner with the City of Gresham, reviewed the process for refining the Pleasant Valley Transportation System Plan (TSP) and provided a high level overview of specific areas of focus for the plan. The handout Jay provided shows a timeline of activities that include input via public workshops, technical committee reviews and citizen advisory committee meetings. A citizen advisory committee meeting is scheduled for January 10 and has set aside 10 minutes for community input. The target for presenting the refined TSP to Gresham City Council is fall of 2018. Over the past several years, community groups in the Pleasant Valley area have expressed concern about the 174th Extension and its viability due to topographical constraints and potential impacts to the natural and neighborhood environment. The extension isn't in the current plan, but traffic models are showing that north-south roads will fail to handle future growth. This project will evaluate whether the proposed 174th Extension makes sense. Additionally numerous intersections in the area will be studied such as 172nd and Foster, 174th and Powell and 181st and Powell. The project website is at <https://greshamoregon.gov/Pleasant-Valley-TSP/>. Details on times and locations of public meetings as well as project documents can be found at this site. Several of the attendees at expressed concern about the lack of infrastructure in the Pleasant Valley neighborhood, specifically in regards to transportation, stormwater and sewer capacity to support the population density mandated by Metro for development in the area. It was stated that Foster Rd between Jenne and 122nd needs to be addressed and concern that the lone historic building in the area, the Grange, could be jeopardized by transportation projects.

Active Transportation Plan (ATP): Jay Higgins provided an update on the status of the Active Transportation plan. The goal of the plan is to make walking and bicycling better in Gresham. The draft Plan is targeted for release February 16th, with 4 weeks for public comment. The goal is to present the plan to City Council on June 12th. To date, information on existing conditions such as demographics, employers, healthy food sources and pedestrian and bike crashes and information of existing walking and bike networks have been collected. The networks have been rated on level of comfort for walkers and bicyclists. In 2016 barriers and areas of need were identified. In 2017, projects were prioritized and 2018 will bring the final plan and comments. The major areas of need for pedestrians are major sidewalk gaps and difficult crossings. The challenge for bike routes are providing "low stress" routes and options for different comfort levels and completing the network. The criteria for prioritization include connecting key destinations & transit, level of comfort, safety, does the project promote health (direct access to healthy food, incidence of diabetes), does the project support equity (is the project in an traditionally underserved area) and public support. Jay's presentation included maps showing prioritized areas of need for both pedestrian and bike routes. He highlighted both pedestrian and bike treatments that could address existing areas of need. Treatments include curb extensions, median islands, rectangular rapid flash beacons, various forms of bike signage, bike boxes, separated bike lanes and enhanced bike crossings. Jay provided copies of several bike route cut sheets showing the proposed routes and planned improvements. The prioritized list of projects and project cut sheets are posted on the city website. Comments are welcome. Since May is bike month, the city would like to encourage neighborhoods to host events to promote biking. There is some funding available for food, prizes and music. Neighborhood associations are encouraged to consider hosting an event and to contact Jay if you are interested.

Q: The plan proposes bike boulevard markings on pavement as an option for bike boulevard treatments. Would the city paint 25 MPH on local through-streets with speeding problems? A: Jay will check on that. Q: Has there been research on

what works to slow traffic? A: In general a combination of the following can be effective: enforcement, narrow roads, roundabouts and speed bumps. Q: On BR3, what is the logic for adding a crossing at 181st and Wasco? A: This route is still under study, the engineers need to take a closer look to determine feasibility. Q: How will the city use the Active Transportation Plan? A: The plan prioritizes projects. The city will consider the top priorities and seek grants or other funding to complete the project. Q: It seems some bikers ride on the bike lane line and have an attitude of entitlement. A: The plan attempts to route bike traffic away from major arterials. It was also noted that often gravel and broken glass collect near the curb. Where there are excessive amounts of debris in the bike lanes, citizens are encouraged to report the situation to the city so that a street sweeper can address the issue. Q: Can a private citizen or neighborhood group pay to have a sign? A: Per Susan Wells, yes the city will allow privately funded road signs. Q: John expressed a concern about large trucks on Yamhill and asked if there was any way to address the issue. A: It is possible to post no trucks except for local delivery signs in neighborhoods.

Coalition Board Elections: Carol reviewed the primary responsibilities for the Coalition officers. The president sets the agenda for Coalition meetings, runs the monthly meeting, follows Coalition projects and sends out minutes and meeting reminders. The vice president is a sounding board and supports the president. The secretary / treasurer is primarily responsible for the minutes and also acts as a sounding board for the president. Jim Buck nominated and Nichole Burns seconded Carol Rulla for president. Janet Patin nominated and Jim Buck seconded John Bildsoe and Mike Elston as co-vice presidents. Susan Wells nominated and Charles Teem seconded Dave Dyk as secretary / treasurer. All were elected unanimously.

Neighborhood & City News & Reports: Michael Gonzales made several announcements. Handouts were provided highlighting East Metro Mediation trainings. While there are fees for the training, there are opportunities for the fee to be waived. There is no fee to use mediation services. There will be a fundraiser for Family of Friends Mentoring on January 17 from 4pm to 8pm at the Chipotle on Burnside in Gresham. Emergency Shelter Volunteers are still needed, and additional training session will be held at the Sunrise Center Thursday, January 18. Michael discussed the topic of emergency preparedness with City Council. The Council plans to appoint a task force to study what needs to be done to facilitate neighborhood readiness. The Elders in Action civic awareness program kicks off January 10 at city hall. The ONCE (Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement) office space is being expanded in order to co-locate the new Livability function with ONCE. Michael will be attending as many Coalition and neighborhood association meetings as possible.

Carol has a copy of the draft 2018 City Council Work Plan. The finalized Work Plan will be available soon. The next Repair Café will be February 24th, 10am to noon at Habitat for Humanity Restore. Metro is offering “Place Making” grants. These grants are for projects that bring communities together, particularly those that don’t typically get engaged. Carol will forward details. The Rockwood PUD property on Grant Butte was recently purchased by Metro and East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District. Metro will manage it along with the former Gantenbein dairy property that was purchased several years ago. There will be a meeting at Metro offices to get input for environmentally friendly uses for the Division frontage portion of the property.

Janet Patin shared that the postcards announcing the Historic Southeast Neighborhood Association November meeting did not go out as planned. The vice president, secretary and land use chair have resigned. If volunteers do not step up at the January meeting, the NA will go inactive.

Michael shared there are 4 inactive NA. Mt. Hood and Central City are showing some signs of life but there is no activity in Centennial or Northeast. If anyone knows people interested in engaging from any of the inactive neighborhoods, please contact Michael. Each NA is asked to compare their by-laws to the GIS boundaries on the city maps and report discrepancies to ONCE. It was noted that the boundary between Southwest and Pleasant Valley is not clear.

John is following the wood smoke ordinance that Multnomah County is proposing for environmental and health reasons. One home burning trash in a fireplace or wood stove near a monitoring station could skew the environment monitoring. John suggested education is needed to increase the awareness of the impact of burning trash at home.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.