

**Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations  
August 14, 2018 – Oregon Trail Room, Gresham City Hall**

**Meeting Minutes**

<b>NEIGHBORHOOD</b>	<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>NEIGHBORHOOD</b>	<b>ATTENDEES</b>
<b>Centennial</b>	<i>INACTIVE</i>	<b>Northeast</b>	<i>INACTIVE</i>
<b>Central City</b>	<i>INACTIVE</i>	<b>North Gresham</b>	<i>Mike Elston, Linda Parashos</i>
<b>Gresham Butte</b>	<i>Jim Buck, Tracy Slack</i>	<b>Northwest</b>	<i>John Bildsoe</i>
<b>Historic Southeast</b>	<i>INACTIVE</i>	<b>Gresham Pleasant Valley</b>	
<b>Hollybrook</b>		<b>Powell Valley</b>	<i>Rebekah Burns, Nichole Burns, Stella Butler</i>
<b>Kelly Creek</b>	<i>Charles Teem, Carol Rulla</i>	<b>Rockwood</b>	<i>Catherine Nicewood</i>
<b>Mt. Hood</b>	<i>Matt Callison</i>	<b>Southwest</b>	
<b>North Central</b>	<i>Pete Timoteo</i>	<b>Wilkes-East</b>	
<b>Staff &amp; Guests:</b>	<i>Michael Gonzales, Jessica Harper, Caleb Sutherland</i>		

Carol Rulla began the meeting at 7:02PM. Since Coalition Secretary-Treasurer Dave Dyk was unable to attend, Linda Parashos volunteered to help take notes. John Bildsoe moved to approve the 7/10/18 minutes with two corrections: remove the “inactive” listing for Mt. Hood NA, and remove “following some recent criticism in a news editorial” after the note about the County considering relocating the animal shelter to the Vance Pit property (under Neighborhood & City News & Reports). Charles Teem seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Jessica Harper, Livability Manager, noted that code compliance officers open about 5,000 code cases per year, many for abandoned vehicles. Some are property cases where the owners have problems that prevent them from addressing problems. The new Neighbors Helping Neighbors program was created to provide an alternative for those cases. Eligibility requirements are:

- An open case for a code violation.
- Violation(s) easily addressed by volunteers (overgrown vegetation, debris, improper storage).
- Demonstrated hardship (physical, financial or social [e.g., lack of family/friends to help]).
- One-time participation per property. Owner signs consent form which acknowledges this.

Volunteers can sign up at [GreshamOregon.gov/Neighbors-Helping-Neighbors](http://GreshamOregon.gov/Neighbors-Helping-Neighbors). About 10 volunteers are needed per work party. City staff is on site throughout the clean-up. The city provides tools, safety equipment, a safety briefing, dumpster, etc. There was a soft launch in July using volunteers from Kiwanis Early Risers Club. With 10 volunteers, it took 3 hours to clean up a backyard and fill a 20 cubic yard dumpster with 1.6 tons of debris and vegetation. An official launch with City Council participation is expected in September.

Coalition members discussed with Jessica ways that neighborhood associations (NAs) could help. Carol Rulla asked whether there was a plan to help residents who need on-going help and suggested that volunteers are more likely to want to & be able to help residents who live nearby. Tracy Slack suggested that the city might refer residents needing help to their NA, which could not only help connect NA members who like to help with nearby residents needing help but also raise awareness of NAs. There was discussion about how NAs would manage that without creating a burden for the NA or unmet expectations & dependency from residents. Jessica agreed that the city did not want to create a burden for NAs and noted that the reason the city only offers one-time participation is because the city doesn't have resources for more. Charles Teem suggested waiting until the program has been in operation for a while and evaluating how many volunteers per NA sign up. Jessica will add a question to the volunteer sign-up to record the volunteer's NA to be able to better connect them to work parties in their NA, but she won't add any option for volunteers to indicate whether they would like to provide more on-going help beyond this program. She will also talk to the City Attorney's Office about addressing liability concerns if neighbors provided on-going help in the future. Michael Gonzales noted that the program came out of wanting to address code violations in a better way for people with hardships that make it difficult for them to remedy the violation. Catherine Nicewood asked about eligibility if there's a renter in the home with a violation. Jessica said that they would be eligible if both the renter and owner could demonstrate a hardship.

**Connecting the Black Community with Neighborhood Associations**

Germaine Flentroy with Beyond Black CDC (Community Development Corporation) was not able to attend, so Carol provided a brief summary of his request to meet with the Coalition. Germaine and Carol are community liaisons with the Gresham Task Force on Emergency Preparedness and met after the first task force meeting to

discuss how to better connect the black community with NAs. Because Gresham's black community is small, Germaine wondered whether there could be a separate citywide NA for blacks. Carol explained that, since NAs are based on geography, that was unlikely to be viable. However, since much of the black community lives in Rockwood, Wilkes East and North Gresham, she sent an introductory email to connect Germaine those 3 NAs. She will contact Germaine again to see if he still wants to pursue this discussion.

## Neighborhood & City News & Reports

### President's Report:

- The filing deadline for City Council candidates is August 23 (with a \$10 filing fee). The deadline was August 13 for candidates filing by petition.
- Staff will be collecting recommendations for the 2019 Council Work Plan in the next few months, so Coalition members should think about what recommendations we would like to provide.
- The Fireworks Committee will be meeting with Rep. Carla Piluso and a Gresham Fire Marshal to discuss whether there's legislative action that could help with fireworks problems & enforcement.
- ePlan issues – (1) A recent ePlan email erroneously went out to all NAs. Jamie Thomes has followed up with the planner involved. (2) Have Coalition members had problems printing documents from ePlan? Tracy Slack was the only one who had tried to print, and he was unable to do so. Others reported problems opening documents, especially with Windows 10. Carol will follow up with Jamie.

### Office of Neighborhoods & Community Engagement (ONCE) News:

- Reminder – Turn in National Night Out grant completion forms soon.
- Michael provided the application for a facilitation workshop on August 24. The fee is reduced to \$25 for NA Board members. East Metro Mediation's Tera Cleland is also happy to speak at NA meetings.
- Michael drove the Block Party Trailer to many National Night Out parties, and it was very well received. It's been in use every week since it was available at the beginning of July, and there's been no damage or loss of items. Users have been NAs, non-profits, youth groups, apartment complexes, etc. Users must demonstrate that others in the neighborhood/community have been invited and must be part of an active NA. Michael notifies NA Board members so they can visit any parties in their NA.
- ONCE staff will celebrate Lina Sizmin's 10 years of service with the city on August 15.
- John Bildsoe asked about inactive NAs. Michael has been contacted by 4 individuals about reactivating Northeast NA and is working to connect them for a meeting.
- Michael Elston noted the difficulties North Gresham NA had reserving Kirk Park for their National Night Out party. Michael Gonzales explained that there were difficulties because of a new process and limited staff due to vacations, so there was a back-up on processing the paperwork. He noted that there's no fee for NAs to reserve parks and, if there are any problems, to contact ONCE. The reason the city wants users to have paperwork on hand for their park events is to be able to provide proof of the reservation in case others without reservations are using the space.
- Catherine Nicewood asked whether the Neighborhood Enforcement Team (NET) was still the contact to report people sleeping in parks. Michael confirmed that it was and said reports could be made to NET or via MyGresham, which automatically routes reports to the correct staff.
- Linda Parashos noted that, for MyGresham reports of abandoned vehicles, adding a photo of the vehicle and/or the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) makes processing faster, but do this only if it's safe to get the photo or VIN.

### Neighborhood Association (NA) Reports:

- Kelly Creek – The Outlook reported on an Early Neighborhood Notification (ENN) meeting for a 215-lot subdivision on the Park's Nursery property (on 282<sup>nd</sup> between Salquist & Chase). Big concerns are traffic impacts and stormwater run-off to Kelly Creek.
- Gresham Butte – NA helped with the addition of Ebetsu Plaza next to the Springwater Trailhead in Main City Park. A dedication ceremony will be soon.
- Mt. Hood – NA considering a name change, most likely to Hogan Cedars NA. Recently had an ENN meeting on zone change from light industrial to LDR for about 105 5-6,000 sq.ft. lots off Teleford Rd.
- e-scooters – Members had concerns about e-scooters use in Gresham, including reports of erratic driving and leaving them on sidewalks. What are the rules? Carol to check with staff.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:37PM.