

Kelly Creek Neighborhood Association
(KCNA) February 7, 2024
General Neighborhood Meeting
7:00PM
Zoom Meeting

Quorum Established

13 KCNA Members present and 1 presenter.

- **Opening:**

Meeting Called to order at 7:04pm

Welcome and Introductions by President, Charles Teem

Minutes from the 11/8/2023 general meeting were reviewed and approved as presented

- **City of Gresham Safety Levy Update:**

Alex Logue Presenting Alex.Logue@GreshamOregon.gov

Update on the May 2024 Safety Levy. The city has determined over the last month and after speaking with consultants and experts that they will take a mini step back in order to get more community support for this levy. They are taking a listening stance to talk to community members and they are looking to network with community groups. Looking ahead the city is planning a lot of engagement through March, April and into May. They are looking for ways to be out in more places and in more ways.

They are up against filing windows and deadlines, so they plan to have rate and ballot measure language set by the first of March.

There is a data gathering survey that was just launched on Monday 2/5/24

The survey will be used to take more data back to council.

Direct Link to Survey: <https://engagegresham.org/gresham-safety-levy>

New engagement website for the city: <https://engagegresham.org/>

- **Questions for Alex Logue:**

Where did the \$1.35 that the city is thinking of charging come from?

A: In the 2023 levy it was \$1.50 that has been reduced to \$1.35 due to the feedback from the consultants. The city is being told that levy in May 2023 failed due to the amount. The city is now using polling efforts to get more data to determine if that number is one the public is more apt to approve.

What are the impacts of cutting the \$.15 from the levy?

A: Impacts were unknown to the presenter, but she will get that info and send it out after the meeting.

How did the town hall go this week?

A: There was a good turnout and the city feels that it was a good listening activity and a good starting point. This was the first town hall and the city is excited to do more and have more dialog with the community even after the ballot measure language is concrete. The city is hopeful that events like this will spark more discussion around this so there is enough feedback going back to council.

When is the next town hall?

A: They are Looking to schedule events before March. In the interim they plan to do smaller events like lunch and learn and/or more weekend events. They will have concrete dates in the next week or so and will post that information once it is available. City employees are currently going to association meetings and pushing the survey to gather data for the next one.

There is a Tele-town hall is tentatively scheduled for Saturday 2/24/24 at 2:30PM. The Mayor is hosting so they are still working with his schedulers to firm up the date and time. They would like to try a weekend day to see if they can get more participation. The tele-town hall technology uses voter data to push out the information to register voter's phones. Participants will then be able to click to participate using their device. Dial up info will also be available.

Erica suggested being downtown every single nice day in Gresham because there are a lot of people out and it is a good place to connect with the public.

Is there any more clarity on what the 2024 levy will actually be?

A: It is still a public safety levy so it will still be around that, but the city wants to discover where the community's priorities align around that. It won't be drastically different, but the city plans to use data collected to determine how the funds will be proportioned. Ultimately, it is up to council's decision.

Charles suggested that people may be waiting to determine if they will support the levy depending on what the funds will be used for. The challenge with this levy is trying to get the people of the city of Gresham to understand that the choice they are making is to invest in our community, which is challenging because there will also be a Metro zoo levy, and a Multnomah county levy on the May ballot. We are a little surprised that the city seems to be back to the starting point after a year has gone by since the last levy.

Why is it taking a year to get to the point where we are just asking questions again?

A: Consulting groups really analyzed May vs. November and are using that data, but wanted more feedback from the public. It could be very well that the ballot language stays the same, but the city wants to hear city's concerns and priorities.

Ken suggested that for marketing it will be really important to talk about benefits of passing the levy vs. the cost to the community of not doing passing it. What is the impact to response times of police and fire? What is the impact of not passing the levy?

Charles suggested that there is a lack of trust in leadership. The city can use data to find concerns and use that to build trust. One of the issues is the fee that the city is already charging. The city has the ability to double the fee. If they are dialing back the total cost of the levy based on public opinion not based on what the experts have said we need to support the safety departments. So, what is it that we need to support the departments? People may be voting against it because they are thinking that they are already paying for it with the fee. Leadership needs to find a way to better communicate why they need both the fee and the levy. They need to show that the current system isn't funding public safety adequately. The community wants to know what the experts are saying is needed to adequately fund public safety. If the voters didn't pass \$1.50 make sure they know what they are not going to get if they vote to pass the levy at \$1.35. Leadership needs to show that public safety can be funded with the lesser amount, but that XYZ is what will be cut.

What happens if this levy doesn't pass? Will there have to be cuts in service? Are there benefits in telling the community?

A: They did not want the message the doomsday message in 2023, but recognize the need to share the downside of levy not passing.

The city needs to be clear on what is needed to achieve community safety. They want to know what the community willing to do to get there. People are frustrated about providing feedback and they want to see action.

Karin pointed out that with all of the unfilled positions in the police and fire departments the city is having to pay a lot of overtime. This creates the risk that people leave current positions because they are burnt out. And we are paying more into public safety to pay overtime. We will continue to see a decline in services and continue to pay the same amount.

Has anyone looked at salaries of GPD and FD? Why did a lieutenant make 278k in one year?

A: It is likely overtime.

What is the current overtime cost?

A: The overtime number is 4.7 million of actual expenditures. That is 5% of the overall budget. 1.7% for police and 5% for fire. This hurts recruiting efforts.

What is the cost of the cuts we have made already?

A: Presenter did not have that number. In order to determine that data they would have to look over time. Some positions have been held and not filled. Which means they were basically, absorbed by other staff. It would be hard data to present, but she will pose that question to budget and get back to us.

If we are understaffed is overtime optional?

A: Fire is mandatory call backs meaning it is no longer voluntary.

Coalition meeting is next week.

- **Officer Reports:**

President's Report – Nothing

Secretary/Treasurer – Nothing

Vice President – We need to re-do bylaws, as they have not been done since 2011. There is currently nothing in our bylaws that addresses how one can dismiss someone who is being disruptive either in zoom or public meeting and that needs to be added.

We will need to form a committee of three. Karin is one, but two more people needed. The plan is to have a draft ready to present by next meeting. A template was built by the coalition. Some things from that template will be merged into our bylaws. The committee will hold a meeting (likely zoom). The draft will be reviewed in May and then post card notices will be sent out for the November meeting. Post card notification is required for voting on the bylaws.

Ken Howard volunteered to be a committee member. Carol Rulla also volunteered. Charles will also send out an email to members to see if anyone else wants to be involved.

Land Use – We did get confirmation from the applicant that they are going to proceed with the 2/22 early neighborhood notification meeting for the planned development at 282nd and Chase. The developer just sent new plans today (shared).

Wetland area – They have gotten word from the dept. of state lands that it is still a stream and has to be protected. They have changed where the storm water retention pond will be located and have decreased the number of units to 269. They said they were putting in more alleys and were trying to add more parking, but the plan still says there are 28 spots. The decrease in units is almost a 25% reduction in total number. One planned street to the south is no longer connected, just a walkway. That is going to funnel traffic coming out of the neighborhood to the south onto Virginia. It appears that the biggest problem is that one street out onto 282nd is not being built in this phase of the development.

There is a new request for an early neighborhood notification for February 29th. The lot is further down Chase near Orient (plans shared). The developers want to divide the lot into 4 and put in 4 quadruplex structures. Fire told them they have to have a turnaround with a driveway over 150 feet. The current plans show the driveway over 225 feet.

There will be a big fair on February 24th with resources on how to make all aspects of your life more energy efficient. Free meals, clothing swaps, green cleaners, repair cafe. It will be at Centennial HS 10am-2pm.

The neighborhood coalition meeting is February 13th at 7:00pm.

- **Neighborhood Concerns**

Erica – Noticed on 282 and Lusted Flashing red light. Traffic seems to move so much better than with the actual signal light. Are there more lights going in with additional units?

Carol – They will be doing traffic studies and will likely put a light at Powell Valley and 282nd.

Gisela – How many townhomes at 282 and Lusted?

Carol – 191 townhomes. The developer wanted more, but the Bull Run pipeline had to be accommodated.

Middle Housing Law is allowing all the townhomes.

Next meeting is tentatively set for Wednesday, May 8.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:18PM

Minutes by Sara Brady Simoneau, KCNA Secretary/Treasurer.