



Wilkes East Neighborhood Association

Public Meeting

March 11, 2024

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Kris Freiermuth, President. This Public meeting was held at the Moose Lodge.

Roll Call: Kris Freiermuth, President; Gail Voge, Secretary; Billy Simmons, Treasurer; Bob Lundbom, Website & Newsletter; & Robyn and Eric Elkay, Member at Large.

Kris Freiermuth, President

Welcomed everyone for attending this meeting and introduced the WENA Board Members in attendance.

Scott Lewis, Gresham Fire Chief

Scott told us about his background being a firefighter. 20 years as in the fire department in Ohio and 20 some years in Oregon.

One of the biggest issues for the Gresham Fire Department is that we need to hire more firefighters and police officers. When the fire department does not have enough employees that means that response times are slower. Employees might be already at another fire and traffic is worse in Gresham.

The Levy that will be voted on is May 21. There has been a big growth in Gresham since he started with the department. On all the fire trucks there is always one paramedic. The wait time for ambulance is around 40 minutes – time matters when there is an emergency. Multnomah County does the contract with ambulance providers. One of the problems is they need more EMT's. If the Levy passes there will be a citizens group to overlook the spending of this money.

Questions & Answers

What can be done about the illegal fireworks? There is no way to fix this. People buy fireworks in other states that allow bigger fireworks.

How is the problem with Radon being dealt with in the fire stations? There was an inspection in 2019. At the time they said that the fire stations should be tested for Radon. All stations were then tested and most were fine. The ones that failed the Radon test have been corrected.

Teo Ramirez, Community Engagement Coordinator



How to use the What is My Gresham app:

Teo showed us how to file a complaint via the My Gresham app. You will need to set up an ID and password. One suggestion is when setting up ID don't use your name because it shows up on the list of complaints. When filing a complaint, it will give you a case number so you can go back in and see the progress. Be sure to give detailed description. Include a picture if possible and answer the phone for follow-up questions. Website: www.greshamoregon.gov/mygresham

Billy Simmons, Treasurer

Billy oversaw purchasing new street signs for the WENA Public Meetings. The invoice was sent to Billy.

Motion to approve payment to Billy for the WENA street signs. It was seconded and approved.

Janet Unruh

The proposed Rockwood Greenspace is located at 270 NE 188th. The developer, SGS Development, LLC is in the process of completing the requirements for the application. This property listed for \$495,900. If this is allowed to go through around 50 Douglas fir trees will be bulldozed. Some of the problems with this development is too many units, too small spaces for garbage, recycling for pickup, and increase of traffic along NE Everett Ct between 181st and 188th.

Rockwood has too few trees. The west side of Multnomah County averages 51% tree coverage, while Rockwood has only 13.1% tree canopy cover. We also have 67.5% impervious surfaces, like concrete. The Rockwood Greenspace Now neighbors launched a petition to ask the City of Gresham to buy the property and make it into a pocket park. If you want to vote, go to <https://www.change.org/p/save-the-trees-in-rockwood>.

Kris Freiermuth, President

Motion for approval of WENA November Public meeting minutes. This was seconded and approved.

Thank you for coming and good night.

Motion to adjourn. It was seconded and approved.

Adjourn 8:47

Next Public meeting, Monday August 12, 2024
Next Board Meeting, Monday April 8, 2024



Website: www.wilkeseastna.org

All Board Meetings start at 6:30 pm.

All Public Meetings start at 7:00 pm.

Until further notice all meetings will be held via Zoom.