

SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING
Thursday, January 16, 2025
7:00PM – KYOUDOU CENTER AT GRESHAM JAPANESE GARDEN / ONLINE VIA ZOOM

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions - Group

Quorum established. Meeting called to order by President Kathy Gardenhire at 7:02pm. Approximately 15 members in attendance in person and remote with two guests.

2. Meeting Minutes - Brandon

Draft meeting minutes from SWNA Oct 17, 2024 general meeting were presented for approval. Motion to approve without amendments by Dana Duval, seconded by Monica Ford and passed.

3. Treasurer's Report - Dana

Treasury balance of \$259.51. No expenditures last quarter.

4. Guest Speaker – Jonathan Cruz, Multnomah County Health Department Program Specialist

Jonathan presented on curtailing wood smoke particulate matter. Data suggests that burning is not necessarily for heating but more for recreation. Also, weather patterns transfer the smoke in a southerly direction and the neighborhoods exposed to the smoke and have higher risk for cancer aren't necessarily those doing the burning.

Check Before You Burn is a daily web update for the air quality index status for the county. When AQI is Good there are no restrictions, Moderate triggers a voluntary burn restriction (yellow day), when High/Unhealthy or above this creates a mandatory restriction (red day). The county program aims to educate, provide outreach and referrals. There is an online complaint form to report burning on restricted days but neighbor to neighbor communication and education should be considered. Visit: multco.us/woodsmokestatus or call 503-988-0035.

There is a Wood Burning Exchange program where eligible homeowners could receive up to \$5000 to replace a wood stove with an energy efficient heat pump (for example). A Healthy Homes Grant was awarded to the county to pair with the weatherization program for low income residents of Multnomah County who qualify. Other ways to reduce air pollution particulates in your home are to replace your furnace filter or by constructing or purchasing an air cleaner, look for a MERV 13 or higher rating.

5. Guest Speaker – Chris Strong, City of Gresham Transportation Manager

Chris indicated the changes to SW Butler Road to connect through the new Butler Creek development should be completed by May. The connector street needs to be completed before the homes are built.

Speeding complaints were raised regarding the 25MPH speed zone near Butler Creek Elementary and the 90 degree turns. Traffic studies did confirm the speeding and traffic calming is a consideration in the road design.

It was mentioned that the expansion of Pleasant View/190th to full 5 lane buildout is funded by development as it comes. A signal was installed at Giese/Butler/190th and one is slated for SW 41st and 190th in the future, but once commercial development arrives. SW 41st St and 190th was described as a dangerous intersection currently due to the stop bar and sign placement being far back from the intersection where you cannot see approaching traffic.

At the recent neighborhood coalition meeting, Chris presented with police chief Travis Gullberg and traffic safety was discussed. Although the safety levy did pass, GPD is having issues recruiting officers and getting new recruits through training to increase staffing. There still is not a dedicated traffic enforcement team in place and fatalities in the region continue to increase. A pilot program for speed enforcement cameras is planned. Initially there would be one location for red light enforcement – potentially Hogan and Stark – and one location for speed camera, potentially in SWNA on SW Highland Drive south of Springwater Trail/Johnson Creek. License plates are captured, reviewed by city staff and offenses are sent to the registered owner. If the registered owner was not the driver shown then an affidavit can be submitted to request dismissal.

Thea mentioned that Portland has recently expanded camera use and SE 122nd and Stark St has red light cameras now.

Kathy indicated there is a known speed issue on SE Towle on our eastern border with over 50% of vehicles traveling 11MPH or more over the posted limit.

There is an effort to get grant funding for a joint effort with other jurisdictions to install a roundabout at SE 172nd and Foster Road.

Gene brought up the Hitting The Streets residential repaving program and mentioned that several cul-de-sacs in seemingly fair condition were repaved. Chris indicated that it would be unlikely that paving teams would be in the area again so these were included when the street leading up to the intersection was degraded and being replaced.

Brandon asked about traffic calming options and whether there was a pathway for citizens to report issues and request a project. Chris indicated there was a way to report problems but the city has not made progress on actually moving many projects forward. Neighbors would get a petition, file a complaint, it would be added to the project list but never addressed.

6. Land Use Update – Thea

The Cedarville area Club Paesano submitted an application PRE-24-00733 to cover the bocce courts for year round use plus create an accessory structure for storage.

The city has partnered with a planning consultant regarding development of the Southwest Community Park in neighboring Centennial NA, adjacent to the former Shaul Woods area off Powell Blvd. A preliminary report has been issued but it has not been published yet, we will distribute when available.

7. Future Meetings

For SWNA's April 16 meeting the guest speakers are expected to be Gresham Police Department Neighborhood Engagement Team (NET) and Kelle Landavazo, Emergency Manager for City of Gresham speaking on emergency preparedness.

For July we are moving from the third Thursday to the fourth Thursday – July 24 – to avoid conflict with the city's Art Fair. There will be an information fair and ice cream social again in Butler Creek Park.

October 16 will be officer elections and no guest speaker has been arranged yet.

8. New Business

The signage for the annual picnic and information fair was reviewed and a proposal to purchase some additional signs and a banner to post in the park itself in advance of the event. This is in addition to the standard SWNA signs posted throughout the neighborhood and the smaller event signs purchased last year. The amount should be included in the neighborhood matching grant fund request to cover the expenditure. Motioned, seconded and passed.

Jeff Vawter and Ashley Bartels shared that there appears to be an application for a middle housing land division on SW Nancy Place. Two long vacant lots at SW Brittany Drive and SW Nancy Place were sold last year. Land use notifications were provided to some, but potentially not all, landowners within the vicinity of the parcel. Clearwater Homes PDX was named as the developer. Thea indicated she would look up the site and contact the planning department for additional information and email interested parties. Five individuals provided email addresses for follow-up.

The next meeting is April 17, 2025 at the Kyoudou Center and online option via Zoom.

Motioned, seconded and approved to adjourn at 8:18pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandon Harer
SWNA Secretary