

**Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations
August 8, 2023 – Remotely Held (Zoom)
Meeting Minutes**

NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES	NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES
Centennial	Mary Edmeades	North Central	
Central City	INACTIVE	Northeast	INACTIVE
Gresham Butte	Jim Buck, Theresa Tschirky, Stephen Estes	North Gresham	INACTIVE
Gresham Pleasant Valley	INACTIVE	Northwest	John Bildsoe
Historic Southeast	INACTIVE	Powell Valley	
Hogan Cedars		Rockwood	Catherine Nicewood, Deanna Stewart, Anthony Crosman
Hollybrook		Southwest	Dana Duval
Kelly Creek	Charles Teem, Carol Rulla	Wilkes-East	
Staff & Guests	Michael Gonzales, Neighborhood Services Division; Lori Stegmann, County Commissioner; Michael Schmidt, Multnomah County District Attorney (MCDA); Chris Strong, City of Gresham, Transportation Division; Mike Whiteley, City of Gresham, Water Resources Division; Layan Ammouri; April Avery; Liz Merah; Mary Jean Olivia; Thomas Stanley; John Vandermosten		

The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m., Jim Buck, Coalition Co-President presiding.

1. Minutes for June 13, 2023 meeting: After establishing quorum, the minutes were approved as presented.

2. Public Safety Discussion with County Commissioner Lori Stegmann and District Attorney Michael Schmidt:

a. Commissioner Stegmann:

1) Slow ambulance response (AMR contracted service provider): Currently piloting a program that will “triage” or prioritize different levels of calls. Every call may not necessary require a 2-person ambulance response.

2) Recent deaths in jails: There is a program in Coconino County, Arizona, where they hire Drug and Alcohol Service Providers as Correction Officers, called the Exodus Program, to help treat people for drug and alcohol problems while they are incarcerated and connect them with services once they leave incarceration. Commissioner Stegman felt this was a “promising” program and plans to connect Sheriff Morrissey O’Donnell with the program administrators.

3) Vandalism grants: County has appropriated \$115K for vandalism grants. Vandalized small businesses can apply for a grant and the county will reimburse up to \$5K of the related costs.

4) Pedestrian deaths: The East Multnomah County Transportation Committee has been working on a plan to help reduce pedestrian fatalities. They received a \$350K grant to work on a safety action plan.

5) In this fiscal year budget two MCSO river patrol officers were restored.

6) Compass project: Project to work with people to help remove barriers for getting a job or secure housing. It may help address warrants, legal education, victim services, and access to health insurance and mental health navigation.

7) Play East: \$45K appropriated for the program.

8) Law Enforce Assistance Diversion (LEAD) Program: This program has been underutilized in the past. Gresham Police Department wants to pilot the program. As an example, a person arrested for a low-level drug offense may be offered an opportunity to go through a treatment program rather than the court system.

b. DA Schmidt:

1) Podcast link (August 8 podcast) which discusses some of the challenges over the last 3 years <https://portland.citycast.fm>

2) Statistics show that the MCDA office needs 110 prosecutors to appropriately address the workload. In 2020 when DA Schmidt took over the office, there were 70 prosecutors. DA office is now up to 88 prosecutors.

3) Multnomah Access Attorney Program (MAAP): Prosecutors in this program are out in the communities to work with the community members, businesses, community-based organizations, etc., to identify the community challenges from a safety perspective and to help people remove barriers such as fine and fee forgiveness and record expungements.

4) Auto theft and retail theft taskforces: Helping to target the most prolific individuals and working with law enforcement to help them understand what evidence and materials the prosecutors need to make a case. Issuance rate for auto theft is currently at 82% compared to 62% in 2020.

3. System Development Charges (SDC) Updates with Chris Strong, City of Gresham Transportation Division and Mike Whiteley, City of Gresham Water Resources Division.

a. Chris Strong: SDC fees are fees collected at time of development to pay for increased infrastructure demand caused by that development. There are SDCs for transportation, water, wastewater, storm water and parks. SDCs are calculated based on projected growth in infrastructure usage, projected costs of necessary infrastructure growth projects, divided by growth in infrastructure usage. SDCs need to be updated as growth forecast, project lists and/or cost change. Current SDC fees are calculated by area (existing city, Pleasant Valley, Springwater). The proposed SDC fee update for transportation is to have one rate for all areas. The current transportation SDC for a single-family, detached home is \$4,847 for existing city area, \$7,159 for Pleasant Valley area and \$8,322 for Springwater area. The transportation SDC rate for a single-family, detached home is proposed to be \$9,863 for all areas.

b. Mike Whiteley: Without SDCs for water infrastructure, the projects would have to be funded by fees and utility costs. The water project list is developed through a Master

plan, approved by City Council, and updated annually to include new projects not included in the Master Plan. Water SDCs are based on meter size. The current water SDC rate for a ¾" meter is \$5,305 and the proposed water SDC for the same meter size is \$8,969. Proposed water SDC includes the new Gresham groundwater system and cost escalations from the Master Plan.

4. Neighborhood and City News and Reports:

a. Neighborhood Services Division Report. Michael Gonzales:

- 1) Currently focusing on recreation engagement for families and youth.
- 2) National Night Out was successful.
- 3) The cultural events grant application will be opening earlier this year. Should be open in the next couple of weeks.
- 4) The GIS maps team would like to come and present an update on the Gresham Maps system to the Coalition.
- 5) Carol Rulla: Do you have an estimate on when you will be going to the CCAC subcommittees on outreach? Michael Gonzales: Currently all the staff liaisons are still working within their departments. The goal was to bring an update back to Council in October. They are getting a lot of feedback and want to get a direction from Council on which way to proceed. They plan to bring updates to the CCACs prior to going to Council but no firm date.
- 6) Carol Rulla: What about the review of the neighborhood program? Michael Gonzales: That has been moved further out and no current timeframe.

b. Co-President Report.

- 1) Community Enhancement grant project for neighborhood signs. No strong comments so will put this to rest for a while.
- 2) Jim Buck: Any news on holding meetings in-person at City Hall? Michael Gonzales: IT has been working on the hybrid options for meeting structure but no other information at this time.

c. NA Reports and Concerns. No reports.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dana Duval – Coalition Secretary-Treasurer

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 12
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