

**Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations  
March 12, 2024 – Remotely Held (Zoom)  
Meeting Minutes**

NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES	NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES
Centennial	Rick Dwyer	North Central	INACTIVE
Central City	INACTIVE	Northeast	INACTIVE
Gresham Butte	Jim Buck, Stephen Estes, Theresa Tschirky	North Gresham	INACTIVE
Gresham Pleasant Valley	Richard Barker, John Maxwell	Northwest	Chris Fast, John Bildsoe
Historic Southeast	INACTIVE	Powell Valley	
Hogan Cedars	INACTIVE	Rockwood	Catherine Nicewood, Deanna Stewart
Hollybrook	INACTIVE	Southwest	Kathy Gardenhire, Dana Duval
Kelly Creek	Carol Rulla	Wilkes-East	
Staff & Guests	Alex Logue, Community Engagement Manager; Larry Morgan, Government Relations and Policy Advisor; Johnny Dea, Sustainability and Climate Action Technician; Tina Nunez-Osterink, Natural Resources and Park Planner; Shannon Martin, Solid Waist Sustainability Manager; April Avery; Jacquenette McIntire; D'Andria Ornee; John Parashos; Sue Ruonala, Thomas Stanley; Janet Unruh		

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m., Jim Buck, Coalition Co-President presiding.

1. The meeting minutes for November 14, 2023 and February 13, 2024 were approved as presented.
2. Revised Levy Ballot Measure: Presentation by Larry Morgan, Government Relations and Policy Advisor, City of Gresham.
  - a. After polling, community engagement and surveying, community safety and homelessness were identified as priorities. Community safety includes police and fire response times, interaction between AMR and EMS, and violent crime safety. The council and staff are actively pursuing other forms of funding for homeless services that will not require a tax increase. Through conversation and collaboration with Multnomah County, the council believes that the city will be able to get the necessary funding for homeless services.
  - b. The final council-adopted levy for the May ballot has two priorities: police and fire services. This is a five-year levy. It is dedicated to retaining the existing police and fire positions as well as hiring more police and fire positions. It also includes training and other items that will help the police and fire services to better respond overall.
3. Climate Action Plan (CAP): Presentation by Johnny Dea, Sustainability and Climate Action Technician, City of Gresham.
  - a. In 2023 there were 37 community engagement events and 105 follow-ups with community partners on the climate action plan. A survey asked participants to rank climate strategies in

terms of priority. The strategy ranked highest on the survey was “improving and maintaining tree canopy to reduce urban heat.” The strategy ranked the lowest on the survey was “supporting EV charging and infrastructure.”

b. 2024 work plan:

1) Buildings and Energy: Pursuing funding from the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), Community Renewal Energy Program (C-Rep) and Green Tariff (working with PGE on 100% renewable energy).

2) Urban Form and Transportation: Comp Plan update working on climate lens, TSP update climate lens and EV charging

3) Solid Waste: Increase repair and reuse access

4) Community Health: Early warning systems (need for translation of text messages, currently only in English), resiliency hubs (working on funding), community workshops for certification, and food access

5) Natural and Building Environment: Tree code update is coming, Rockwood IRA Grant for increasing tree canopy, and stormwater update climate lens.

6) Next steps: Finalize CAP document, present CAP to council for adoption on April 16, implement 2024 plan and prepare for 2025 and engage with city leadership on importance of CAP

c. Coalition members expressed concerns about the lack of goals and metrics in the CAP. Johnny Dea stated that the issue is that the CAP was developed by city staff and specific metrics will have to come from the council.

4. Planning for Expanded Tree Canopy: Presentation by Tina Osterink, Natural Resources and Park Planner, City of Gresham.

Tree planting has primarily been in partnership with Multnomah County and Friends of Trees. Gresham has an overall tree canopy of 28%. The tree canopy on the buttes, for example, is about 67% but other areas have from 12%-24%. A central portion of Rockwood in the triangle between Stark, Burnside and 181<sup>st</sup> has only a 8% tree canopy and about 90% impervious surface. In addition to planting trees, they are looking at how to bring this Rockwood triangle and surrounding area up to 32% tree canopy. Some of the mitigating solutions are green roofs, removing pavement, planting evergreen trees near new buildings and using structural soils when planting the trees to increase successful growth. The city will receive \$4 million from the \$12 million Inflation Reduction Act Grant. Other grant money includes EPA G2G grant of \$1 million (300 trees over the next 3 years), FEMA Rockwood Heat Island Mitigation grant of \$400K (50 trees in the Rockwood heat island with pavement removal and structural soils) and EMSWCD Partners in Conservation grant to Friends of Trees which includes the Gresham area. Two strategies included in the CAP are 1) Maintain and improve tree canopy in neighborhoods with low tree canopy coverage and 2) update city tree code and policies to support climate-informed management of trees and urban canopy.

5. Consideration of Coalition Endorsement for Revised Levy Ballot Measure. Stephen Estes made a motion that the Coalition endorse the passage of the levy based on our understanding of City presentations about revenue sources, expense categories and planning for the future. The motion was seconded by Rick Dwyer. After some discussion, Carol Rulla clarified that this endorsement is by the coalition members only and does not include endorsement by the individual neighborhood associations. The motion to endorse the revised levy was approved by unanimous vote.

#### 4. Neighborhoods and City News and Reports.

##### a. Neighborhood Services Division Report. Alex Logue:

1) More reshuffling at the city—Lina Sizman and Alex will be the main contacts for the neighborhood associations (NA).

2) Reminder that the Kyoudou Center is available to be used by the NA's for their meetings.

3) Training on the "My Gresham" app is available for the NA's.

4) Green and Clean volunteer event on April 20<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to noon with lunch following. RSVP to volunteer with the event by April 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a clean up event focusing on Main City Park, the Springwater trail, the Saddle trail on Gresham Butte and the Butler trail to prepare for the Lilac Run.

5) The Lilac Run will be on April 27<sup>th</sup> and they are still looking for volunteers.

6) They are prepping for the neighborhood matching grants. More information will be out in the next few weeks.

7) Heads-up, the Gresham website is changing. Some of the links will change.

8) Some of the NA's have asked to have a Habitat for Humanity Restore collection event. They are working on that and will get information out soon.

##### b. Co-President Report.

1) Carol Rulla: Reminder that if any of the NA's make changes to their bylaws, the Neighborhood Services Office should be notified and there is a requirement to give them at least 3 weeks to review the changes before they are adopted.

2) Jim Buck: The city clear cut about 200 trees on the Shaull property within 150' of neighboring homes due to liability concerns after a tree fell on a house during the recent winter storm, contrary to the plan the city Naturalist's has been putting together to restore the health of the stand. He will share a copy of the questions that the Urban Forestry Sub-Committee have sent to Joe Walsh. Stephen Estes requested that the Urban Forestry Sub-Committee and city staff come to a coalition meeting to discuss this issue.

3) Carol Rulla: The Pleasant Valley appeal was dismissed. Some discussion concerning the appeal timeline, who can appeal, etc. There will be a presentation concerning the Pleasant Valley Plan Update at the next coalition meeting.

##### c. NA Reports and Concerns:

1) Stephen Estes: Announced the presentation on geological hazards at a Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association meeting has been rescheduled to May 8.

2) Carol Rulla: Reported that the city replaces street signs every 10 years due to federal requirements.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dana Duval – Coalition Secretary-Treasurer

Next meeting: **Tuesday, April 9th**