

**Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations
September 10, 2024 – Remotely Held (Zoom)
Meeting Minutes**

| NEIGHBORHOOD | ATTENDEES | NEIGHBORHOOD | ATTENDEES |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Centennial | | Northeast | INACTIVE |
| Central City | INACTIVE | North Gresham | INACTIVE |
| Gresham Butte | Stephen Estes | Northwest | Kat Todd, John Bildsoe |
| Historic Southeast | INACTIVE | Gresham Pleasant Valley | |
| Hogan Cedars | INACTIVE | Powell Valley | |
| Hollybrook | INACTIVE | Rockwood | |
| Kelly Creek | Charles Teem, Karin Zackow, Carol Rulla | Southwest | Kathy Gardenhire |
| North Central | INACTIVE | Wilkes-East | Kris Freiermuth |
| Staff & Guests | Alex Logue, Neighborhood Services; Tina Osterink, Natural Resources and Parks Planner, City of Gresham; Jef Kaiser; Jennifer Kaiser | | |

The meeting opened at 7:05 p.m., Carol Rulla, Coalition Co-President presiding.

1. The meeting minutes for August 13, 2024, were approved as written.
2. No public comment presented.
3. Gresham Parks 2035 Plan, Tina Osterink, Natural Resources and Parks Planner
 - a. Gresham parks systems includes 1200 acres of land, 300 acres of designated parks, 25 developed parks and 8 miles of trails.
 - b. The Gresham Parks 2025 plan is currently under evaluation and assessment and is expected to be presented to council in the spring of 2025.
 - (1) Demographics in Gresham: 25% of population is under age 20, there is a high percentage of Latino residents and immigrants, the population is aging (over 60) and it is anticipated to have a relatively slow rate of growth—adding about 9000 residents in the next 30 years based on U.S. Census data and projections from the Portland State University Population Research Center. This last demographic was questioned, given the amount of middle housing being built in Gresham.
 - (2) The technical analysis for the plan included operations and maintenance assessment, level of service (current and what is needed for the future) and equity mapping, statewide goals and policies, and parks and facilities recommendations.
 - (3) System Evaluation: There are maintenance challenges throughout the system. Gresham has a significant amount of undeveloped park land. There are ADA accessibility challenges throughout. The focus of planning efforts is to ensure that before anything else is built that the city can maintain what it already has. The last statement was questioned, given the desire to improve the undeveloped parks with Metro local share funding. Tina clarified that this was a recommendation from the consultants but community input did not agree with this.
 - (4) Community engagement included targeted engagement meetings (with specific groups), on-line community survey (300 responses so far), pop-up events at our parks, parks task force meetings (composed of the parks and rec community advisory group)—one meeting held in April 2024 and three more meetings to be held: September/October 2024, January 2025 and March 2025.
 - (5) Questions were raised concerning the development of the 6 undeveloped parks. The funding available is not enough to develop all of the undeveloped parks. Funding sources include \$3.6 million remaining from Metro local share, grant applications (such as the possibility

of a \$1 million award from an Oregon Parks and Recreation grant), some ARPA funding, and some system development charges. Another concern was the lack of a park or green space in Civic Neighborhood. Other discussion addressed demographics, how parks mitigate heat, the ways different communities use parks, and replacement of damaged equipment.

4. Planning for the candidate forum in October 2024:

a. The Rockwood CDC and Rockwood Market Hall are sponsoring a meet and greet on October 3rd from 5 to 7 p.m at the Rockwood Market Hall. The Gresham Chamber of Commerce will host a candidate forum at their monthly luncheon at Mt Hood Community College on October 15th from 11:30 to 1 p.m.

b. The coalition's candidate forum will be Thursday, October 17th. The following candidates have agreed to participate: Position 1: Kayla Brown and Jack Hollis; Position 3: Kathy Keathley and Jacquinette McIntire (candidate Thomas Stanley has not responded); Position 5: Sue Piazza (incumbent) and Timothy Yonker. Chris Fast from Northwest NA has agreed to create our flyer. In the past, Jim Buck and Carol Rulla have asked the candidate questions from a script. A timekeeper for the forum is needed. In the past, the timekeeping was done on the zoom platform and was visible to the candidates and the moderator. Also, one or two people are needed to help look through the questions that are submitted through our survey and put together the advance questions that are given to all forum participants. Candidates are given 2 minutes to respond to the advance questions and one minute to respond to all other questions.

5. Neighborhoods and City News and Reports.

a. Alex Logue, Neighborhood Services: Lina Sizman will be the point of contact while Alex is on leave. Alex will return from leave in February. This week we are having briefings with the Mayor and council to solicit their feedback on the priorities for the community engagement program. We are looking for ways to improve the structure, increase participation and barrier reduction. We are launching a new volunteer platform that will include volunteer opportunities with the city and will also enable groups (such as Neighborhood Associations) to post opportunities on the site.

b. Co-President Report.

Carol Rulla:

(1) The first public meeting concerning the Cook Plaza conversion to a day-use center and village-style pods will be on September 23rd at 7:30 p.m. at Cook Plaza. Carol will share the link to RSVP to attend the meeting. The name is being changed to East County Homeless Resource Center.

(2) Carol will send out the Police newsletter. There are some workshops coming up such as Using Drones in Policing (September 26) and Neighborhood Crime Prevention (October 16). The workshops are in chambers at 6:30 to 8 p.m. and RSVP is required.

(3) Carol will send out the link for the East Multnomah Transportation Safety Survey.

(4) Reminder that the tree survey is open through the end of September.

(5) Saturday, November 9th is the date for the next Repair Café and Swap. It will be held at a new location: the Rockwood Center (the old Rockwood Methodist Church next to the Rockwood Library).

c. NA Reports and Concerns:

1) Stephen Estes (Gresham Butte): The GBNA received a grant to replace some siding on the Kyoudou Center. That work was done last Saturday (August 10th).

2) John Bildsoe (Northwest): A developer notified our president and land use chair of an Early Neighborhood Notification (ENN) meeting and we agreed on a date for the meeting then the developer changed the date without notifying us. The developer blamed the city for not

giving them the signs or information they needed. John reached out to the city and they gave him the information on the new date and the zoom link. (Carol Rulla: You should contact Jim Wheeler to let him know that this is not the date agreed upon and the meeting could be rescheduled, if this is what you want.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dana Duval – Coalition Secretary-Treasurer

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| Next meeting: Tuesday, October 8 |
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