

Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association

January 11, 2023

Officers present: Jim Buck, President; Sandy Davidson, Vice-President; Theresa Tschirky, Treasurer; Lynn Saint, Secretary; Stephen Estes, Land Chair

7:04 p.m. Meeting Called to Order

Jim Buck called the meeting to order, followed by introductions.

7:12 p.m. Discussion: Inviting More Neighborhood Members

Social Media

Next Door is not working. Jim Buck explained he had difficulty finding his own notice from Saturday. The Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association appears on the city website. A suggestion was also made to have a mailing list using Mail Chimp to facilitate the mailing. The Japanese Garden used email. We could investigate their strategies for emailing.

Regarding meeting notification for the city, **Facebook comes in first** with 270, 150 hits for Twitter; some respond to Instagram; Next Door rests at the bottom. If using Facebook, it might be best to start a coordinated effort with Instagram, Twitter and Next Door.

A root page—the city page—provides a critical jumping off point. A pdf is easy to generate and can present a complete discussion of services rendered, along with accomplishments. An agenda can be included. City software is customizable. Both Kelly Creek and Powell Valley neighborhoods have a more distinctive look, even though they use city software.

We have physical signs to use. However, the signs may have to be remade. A QR code should send them to the city website.

A **hybrid meeting** with the city and Zoom could solve attendance issues. Michael Gonzales, ONCE director, has agreed to return meetings to City Hall. Most people are connected with the Zoom meetings, which seem to be one of the best options.

Attracting attendees might include offering a goodie bag reward for bringing a QR code. A thank you note afterwards would lend a personal touch. Asking people directly, neighbor to neighbor could build relationships and draw in participants.

Question: Is the neighborhood association a tax-deductible option? People may wish to donate if they could receive some benefit. Many will take part on a limited basis. People may have tools or materials to lend or give for a gardening project.

7:50 p.m. Land Use and Treasurer Reports

Land Use Chair Stephen Estes had nothing new to report.

Treasurer Theresa Tschirky reported the total amount remaining in the treasury as \$1,847.19. The most recent expenses have funded projects for the Peace Garden. She has written several checks to Jim Buck and to the Japanese Garden to reimburse expenses to assist in setting up the Peace Garden.

7:53 p.m. Old Business

Status of Enhancement Grant Final Report

Jim Card has secured the metal for a bench. It should absorb the remaining \$300 grant money from last year. The bench will be installed on the other side of the arched pathway where the ginkgo tree was planted.

Several slabs have been donated to the city. Embossing English letters of peace would explain that the area is a peace plaza. Questions about vandalism are also an issue.

The matching grant needs to be considered from \$1,000 to \$2,000. We are eligible, beginning on February 1, for enhancement grants with a total amount of \$70,000 available. There are several groups that have obtained money. Applications are open until the end of March.

One suggestion is to redo signs for neighborhoods. There are iffy thoughts about whether this would truly enhance the neighborhood. Not all feel this would benefit or enhance the area.

We need to look at services which are more substantial, costing \$500 or more. Beautifying the neighborhood, enhancing the trail or creating a toddler/children's playground, providing a bridge over Regner at the trail are all ideas presented to introduce a positive change.

8:00 p.m. New Business

Topics for future meetings

- Fallen and falling trees are a concern for Gresham Butte, in particular on Walters Road, coming up the hill.
- Blackberry eradication.
- Safety issues include speeding on Butler or on Regner, alternatives to speed bumps, trees and vines obscuring signs.
- Flowers and plants on the Springwater Trail could include pictures or a walking tour.
- Another enhancement grant might include adding signage to an area within the boundaries of GBNA. In Ebetsu Plaza, Caswell could create a bronze peace sculpture.
- A tour of Ebetsu Plaza could be forthcoming.

8:10 p.m. Next meeting

GBNA is looking at the possibility of asking Shirley Craddick's replacement, Ashton Simpson to present his views on Metro's focus in the coming season. Because he is new, he may not address issues until later. If there is not a topic person, GBNA will delay meeting until March.

8:12 p.m. Meeting adjourned

Addendum: Meeting will be held on February 8 to discuss social media opportunities to advertise meetings with the Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association.