

Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association

February 8, 2023

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

7:05 p.m. Meeting Called to Order

Jim Buck called the meeting to order.

7:05 p.m. Discussion: Social Media and Attracting Attendees

Stephen Estes shared his thoughts about options for announcing the meetings as discussion continued from the meeting in January.

Send out announcements.	Web presence lists the meeting and advises the time and location.	City needs a link to deposit to a calendar.
When a meeting is coming, Push a text message.	Phone tree with members sharing meeting information	Google mail may provide a way for GBNA to announce meetings.

The Japanese Garden has its own website through DreamHost. They use Mailgun to manage their mailing list and send out bulk emails. Links are provided for people to subscribe or unsubscribe. Mailchimp is a similar service. Using a service like this prevents outgoing mail to lots of subscribers from getting marked as spam.

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor, etc. present an advertising medium. Managing the website ourselves gives us an open, public space. The content can be mainly PDFs which we can create using MS Word. Our website and subscribe links can be advertised on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and similar social media platforms. At some point, we might pay to push ads to promote more interest.

Stephen offered to set up a website and an email service. Let's keep track of people attending meetings and use this as a marketing tool. DreamHost costs about \$3.00 a month. We will look at the treasury to see if it can handle the cost of \$36 yearly; donations can also be solicited.

Jim wants to start over and let people subscribe for list placement. Mary Ann Buck noted people move in and out of the neighborhood. We need to invite others. How do we get a list of phone numbers for texting? We can see how this will grow.

To better understand how this will work, Stephen will try to present something to demo by our next meeting. A periodic newsletter and an annual report can highlight our accomplishments. A history of Gresham Butte would present a review for residents. The historical society might share what they have about the Gresham Butte neighborhood.

7:25 p.m. Coming Meetings

On March 8, we will focus on Metro by inviting Ashton Simpson to explain actions taken by Metro on behalf of the community.

Kathy Majidi will join GBNA to present current activities within the city's Natural Resources Program in April. No study has been reported on green space for ten years.

Co-sponsoring a meeting with another neighborhood association will open our group to other activities within Gresham. One consideration is to join with the Northwest Neighborhood Association to look into more planting of trees as a subcommittee for woodland restoration.

The **Neighborhood Coalition is open** to everyone who would care to attend and address the neighborhoods within the city limits. New bylaws are currently under consideration.

Without a brick-and-mortar presence, Gresham Butte lacks structures found in other neighborhoods with no schools, businesses or churches. We could **hold meetings at the building within Ebetsu Plaza** as the neighborhood boundaries follow the creek. Views from the City online maps show more details about the areas covered by Gresham Butte.

7:35 p.m. Community Enhancement Grant—Statue Model from Rick Caswell

Jim Buck presented photos of a clay **koi model by Rick Caswell**. Eventually a bronze casting will be made costing \$7500, with another \$800 to \$1000 estimated for placement onto a basalt or granite pillar. The community enhancement grant process for application starts on February 15th to March 31. The city has \$80,000 allocated for neighborhood projects. Our application will ask for \$8500. Jim will price out the pillar and seek someone who inscribes stones. The cemetery within our neighborhood may have recommendations.

Colors, preferably subtle ones, can be baked into the metal. Koi colors include orange, yellow and white. After discussion about problems with fungus on white, for example, the consensus was to stay with plain bronze. The koi figures lend a Japanese flavor to Ebetsu. In the Plaza are salmon, dancing cranes and a duck. "Peace" in kanji strikes a balance for the description. However, the aspect of "harmony" was also suggested to blend with "peace."

If, after submitting an application, there is only a partial award, GBNA will not commit to a fundraiser. If the amount is within reason, contributions could be solicited. The Koi Association might wish to join. Members of the community might also wish to take part in providing the statue to enhance Ebetsu Plaza.

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

Land Use Director Stephen Estes had nothing new to report.

7:52 p.m. New Business

Mike Wallace shared with Jim this past week that **woodland acreages** require a lot of restoring. Currently, the city has allocated resources to replant two acres a year out of 400 acres needing it, factoring out to 200 years to complete. Gresham Butte will stay static in green space, meaning acreage will not be sold for development. The Butte could offer a sanctuary for the native Pacific yews.

Removing and cutting back invasive Himalayan blackberries are essential actions, but there needs to be an effort to distinguish them from native blackberries and salmonberries.

Question about green space: What happens with alder snags? Next to Stephen's property, the city came and cut down three alders. The natural space keeps the fallen logs for habitat and soil regeneration.

Do we want to ask the city about **in person meetings** so that people can see each other? This might encourage more people to join. We might want to wait a while on this. City Hall has not yet re-opened. We could do something outdoors later in the spring. As noted, the Japanese Garden Resource Center is remodeling, and it may be available for us to use.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.