

**Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations  
May 9, 2023 – Remotely Held (Zoom)  
Meeting Minutes**

NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES	NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES
Centennial	Rick Dwyer	North Central	Mary Gossett
Central City	INACTIVE	Northeast	INACTIVE
Gresham Butte	Jim Buck, Theresa Tschirky, Stephen Estes	North Gresham	INACTIVE
Gresham Pleasant Valley	INACTIVE	Northwest	Kat Todd, John Bildsoe
Historic Southeast	INACTIVE	Powell Valley	Stella Butler
Hogan Cedars		Rockwood	Catherine Nicewood, Deanna Stewart, Anthony Crosman
Hollybrook		Southwest	Dana Duval
Kelly Creek	Charles Teem, Carol Rulla	Wilkes-East	Krista Harrison
Staff & Guests	Michael Gonzales, Neighborhood Services Division; Ashton Simpson, Metro Councilor; Jodi Erickson; Cathy Keathley, Laura Pramuk, Sue Ruonala, Thomas Stanley, Janet Unruh		

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

1. Minutes for April 11, 2023 meeting: Janet Unruh’s name as an attendee was left off of the draft minutes. Her name will be added to the final minutes. Otherwise, the minutes were approved as written.

2. Public comment presented by Stephen Estes: Attention of the Coalition is requested concerning House Bill (HB) 3414, which was described as a bill that would change the way variances are allowed for residential projects within the urban boundaries. The Historical Society and Restore Oregon, have come out publicly to oppose this as it is currently phrased. Three mayors in Oregon (Milwaukie, Oregon City, and Sherwood) have come out and say that it should be shelved. This request is not to ask the Coalition to oppose or take a position on this but rather to bring it up with your neighborhood associations. The essence of the bill is to grant variances by a claim to this particular law without hearings and with a limited set of appeal processes. It could have an impact on historical integrity, trees and environment. Each of the neighborhood associations should become aware of the bill.

3. Update from Metro Councilor Ashton Simpson:

a. Councilor Simpson provided some personal background for himself, including that he was sworn-in to the Metro Council in January 2023 to represent District 1 (Gresham, Troutdale, Fairview, Wood Village, parts of East Portland and unincorporated). He also provided a list of his priorities (transportation and safety, jobs and workforce

development, resiliency and preparedness, and access to greenspaces) as well as a short overview of how Metro works.

b. Update on Metro's housing bond: Metro works on two tracks—building affordable housing through the 2018 bond program and overseeing the regional support of services which aims to functionally end homelessness in the region by 2030. The Metro housing bond is on track to deliver what was promised to the voters with 837 affordable homes open; and 2,555 more homes in design, permitting, or construction phases. This is more than 90% of the total unit goals while only allocating 60% of the program's resources. Due to smart investments, strict oversight, and prepared partners, Metro is on pace to over-deliver on behalf of the voters. It is expected that all the remaining funds will be committed by 2024 and the final projects to break ground by 2026.

c. Update on Regional homeless services funding: This program fills in gaps in each county's existing homeless system of care. This is one piece of the larger effort to address homelessness across the region. Metro is leveraging multiple public funding sources to connect people to permanent housing—tailored to their needs, rental assistance and other stabilizing services. Through the county partners, regional funds have helped at least 9,300 households avoid becoming homeless primarily through rent assistance and, in many instances, a case manager that can provide support and connection to resources to keep these people off the streets. More data about the progress can be found on-line at <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/housingservices>.

d. Garbage and recycling: The RID patrol has been doubled. In the last three months the patrols have been picking up about 3 tons of trash a day. A live dashboard can be viewed and illegal dumping can be reported at <https://www.ridpatrol.oregonmetro.gov>.

e. Trails and nature: \$20 million in regional trail grants were approved region-wide. The funds came from the current parks and nature and local option levy. In District 1, \$1.9 million was contributed to the Sandy River Greenway and \$4.2 million was contributed to the Gresham-Fairview trail.

f. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): The 2023 goals are equitable transportation, climate action and resilience, mobility options, thriving economy and safe system. The RTP is formed by a number of strategies, policies and public engagement. The next public engagement opportunity is July 10-August 25 and a publicly available RTP draft with project and program priorities will hopefully be available by July.

#### 4. Proposed Changes to Council Citizen Advisory Committee (CCAC) Structure:

a. Michael Gonzales gave the following overview: There was a staff recommendation to Council to dissolve some of the CCAC's as they currently stand and reshape them into more ad-hoc style taskforces. This began in the fall with a survey that was put out to volunteers, the CCAC groups and neighborhood associations. The Staff's recommendation to Council was to dissolve all but 4 of the CCAC's (the 4 being

required by ordinance, charter, etc.—the Planning Commission, the Design Commission, the Finance Committee, and the Gresham Redevelopment Advisory Committee). In addition, the Youth Advisory Council will remain. The committees recommended for dissolution are: Community Development and Housing Subcommittee, the Urban Forestry Subcommittee, the Transportation Advisory Subcommittee, the Historic Resource Subcommittee, the Coordinating Committee, the Community Enhancement Advisory Committee, and the Gresham Art Committee. Council has asked for staff to come back with more detail on what dissolution of the committees would look like. Staff is working with current committee members to collaborate on ideas for how a new taskforce model could look. Ultimately, the staff is looking for a better, more effective engagement so the community feels that their time and input are valued as well as the ability to get representative feedback across different communities throughout the city.

b. Meeting attendees were given the opportunity to comment. Most expressed disappointment/dissatisfaction with there not being any CCAC involvement on the proposed changes prior to the presentation to Council.

## 5. Neighborhood and City News and Reports:

### a. Neighborhood Services Division Report. Michael Gonzales:

1) The community enhancement grants were all awarded last week. Gresham Butte neighborhood received one of the grants to place a peace sculpture at the Ebetsu Plaza.

2) The neighborhood matching grants are open for application through the end of the month.

3) The volunteer picnic is tentatively planned for June 15<sup>th</sup>.

### b. Co-President Report.

#### 1) Carol Rulla:

a. June 17<sup>th</sup> is the repair café and swap at 10 a.m. at the Library. If anyone is interested in helping out, let us know.

b. We want to acknowledge the policy for any Coalition endorsements that if it does not get on the agenda, we will be sure it gets announced so that people are aware that there will be a discussion on the endorsement.

#### i. Discussion concerning Coalition endorsements.

Jim Buck: When an endorsement from the Coalition is given for a political measure, some may read into this that the neighborhood associations have also supported the endorsement. The question was raised of do we need to go back to our neighborhood memberships for input before we, the Coalition, vote on the endorsement. We haven't done this in the past but should we? Do we need to have a little more protocol before we endorse a levy measure?

Stephen Estes: When the Coalition makes an endorsement, it implies that underneath there is a stack of democratic process.

Carol Rulla: An endorsement by the Coalition isn't an endorsement by the neighborhood associations but is an endorsement by the collective leadership of the neighborhood associations based on our knowledge of the issue, just as the City Council can make endorsements without seeking input from residents.

c. NA Reports and Concerns. No reports.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dana Duval – Coalition Secretary-Treasurer

Next meeting: <b>Tuesday, June 13</b>
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