

SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING
Thursday, October 19, 2023
7:00PM – Virtual Meeting Held Via Zoom Conferencing

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions - Group

Meeting called to order at 7:01PM, Secretary Brandon Harer is meeting facilitator. Approximately 20 persons in attendance including the board, members and guest speakers. Meeting participants introduced themselves, time in the neighborhood and their interests.

2. Meeting Minutes - Brandon

Motion to approve minutes from April 20, 2023 general meeting by Gail Cerveny, seconded by Peter Schmidt, all in favor - motion passes.

3. Treasurer's Report - Dana

Treasury balance of \$320.89 with no expenses in the last period. Thea asked about how funds are generated. Donations at meetings or events, neighborhood matching grants money and savings.

4. Guest Speakers - City Councilor Janine Gladfelter and City Manager Nina Vetter. Nina is a Southwest neighborhood resident.

Grants information: One new grant was just announced within the past 48 hours, these are incredibly important sources of revenue for the city. Behavioral health specialist(s) are being funded as well.

Dashboards: Police Transparency Hub

<https://police-transparency-gresham.hub.arcgis.com/>

Public Crime Map was demonstrated under Crime and Incident Data page – this refreshes daily and provides the last 28 days of data. Other dashboards include Use of Force and Workforce Diversity statistics.

The city is seeking feedback on these as they are newly released within the past couple of months. Janine mentioned it would be nice to get feedback on what to add as the city wants data to be accessible and transparent.

Strategic Plan Performance Dashboard

<https://city-of-gresham-strategic-plan-gresham.hub.arcgis.com/>

Action Plan Status dashboard, can see performance on city determined action plan items, click to drill down to see the priorities and objectives.

Q: Peter Schmidt – did we get \$12M grant for trees? Did Jim Buck resign as lead of the urban forestry committee? Will there be additional meetings to discuss use of the grant for trees/forestry?

A: Nina Vetter - Jim is acting chair of the Forestry Committee. How do we update tree code update for canopy in neighborhoods. There is a parks and recreation team that worked on this grant.

Q: Peter Schmidt – is there a ‘tree person’ contact at the city?

A: Nina Vetter - There is an arborist, there is a parks planner, there are a number of staff in the parks department that work with trees.

Janine Gladfelter - It is important to take steps to look at the code because it’s currently not fitting for the situation we’re in with increasing development occurring.

Q: Jim Endy - What’s wrong with our Gresham library? [Why build a new library in Gresham]

A: Janine Gladfelter - This was voted on by the public as a county initiative, the new, larger East Multnomah County building will be more than a traditional library and includes a community space. Follow up by Jim Endy asking about parking plans. The public parking area may remain by the transit center. An underground parking garage for the library is planned.

Q: Peter Schmidt follow up on traffic and speeding on SW Brittany Dr - What about engineering options and enforcement. Peter wrote GPD and they didn’t have the resources at the time. Speed bumps are challenging and fire dept doesn’t like them but they exist in Portland and Gresham. Recommend lowering to 20 and periodic enforcement.

Monica Ford: She was part of the speed bump project on Binford Lake Parkway and it was onerous. More recently there have been No Parking signs erected on one side of Binford, could we get some speed signs added to those same signposts. There is only one now right after turning on 190th and the additional 25 MPH on existing posts may be effective.

Dana Duval: We could consider inviting Chris Strong from the transportation department as a future guest.

Nina Vetter: We have a traffic calming program, there is a process for addressing traffic issues. Different tools are available for different neighborhoods and situations.

Traffic enforcement – the public safety levy failed so City still doesn’t have enough staff. Police respond to 911 calls and due to staffing and funding the traffic division has very limited resources.

Kim Bundy: what about roundabouts? They seem to be effective and could be part of the conversation.

<https://greshamoregon.gov/Neighborhood-Traffic-Calming/>

Closing comments: Nina Vetter - Join the Champion Gresham program if you'd like to get more involved and you'll be invited to conversations and other opportunities to participate. Receive monthly newsletters from Nina. <https://greshamoregon.gov/Champion-Gresham/>

Jim followed up regarding the library and indicated a majority of Gresham residents within Multnomah County voted no and "Portland wanted this".

Janine Gladfelter/Michael Gonzales responded: It wasn't just the flagship east county library, there were several other improvements to other locations that were voted on as well. The County and TriMet collaborated on the site planning.

Gail Cerveney asked about the restriction on having meetings in the current Gresham library due to SWNA having a sign in sheet, this was disallowed previously and may have been a previous policy. Michael suspected it could relate to the gathering of information such as email and physical address for a mailing list. Brandon and Gail indicated that is the information we did have listed on the sign in sheet.

Kathy asked about the meeting room availability in City Hall as they are still unavailable for public use, Michael indicated this is an operational question that would be good for Nina. Staffing to keep the building open in the evenings is the largest logistical issue. There are other NAs that have been beginning to meet outside of Zoom this year.

Kyoudou Community Center at Main City Park – it is now functional and some NAs have been using that space. Wilkes East is using the Moose Lodge in their neighborhood. The location needs to be ADA accessible. Peter: Historic Southeast utilized a school and Argay (Portland) met in a fire station conference room. Pleasant Valley Grange can be an option, Gresham Pleasant Valley NA recently reactivated and used this facility.

5. Land Use – Kathy

There have been no new land use notifications within SWNA boundaries this quarter.

Butler Road – Butler Creek subdivision is underway with very recent bulldozing and graveling. Development is proceeding per approved permitting and erosion plans.

Imagine Pleasant Valley project – PV Plan update – upcoming community meeting will be held Mon. 10/30 5:30-7:30p in the cafeteria at Pleasant Valley Elementary School. RSVP if possible to Hayley.Hamman@greshamoregon.gov

Pleasant Valley: Verdana subdivision is proceeding forward with 183 lots in three phases on a 38 acre parcel on SE 190th between Richey and Cheldelin.

Reminder to neighbors to watch for the signs posted for future development. Colors of the signs? Purple mean Early Neighborhood Notification (ENN) meeting is upcoming. Blue signs indicate Public

Hearing upcoming. Green are public notice of a new application itself beginning. Grey are for industrial applications and Orange for city abatements.

The following is a link to understand what takes place at an Early Neighborhood Notification meeting (ENN). The colored signs posted that Kathy referenced notify neighbors of these meetings and how to provide input and ask questions. Look for QR codes on the posted signs to direct you.

<https://greshamoregon.gov/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=10542>

Elsewhere: SE 182nd Ave at Division currently occupied by Domino's Pizza, new 3500 sq ft multi-use building with a drive-thru is proposed.

Christina Hur – Presented an idea about uses for open land with common area concentrating on permaculture which can reverse environmental effects. This idea for the parcel if the landowner would be willing to sell Beacon Hill Village in Boston, Mass is an example.

<https://www.permaculture.co.uk/what-is-permaculture/>

Thea asked how it would be possible at this time as there is currently no available lot at the Butler Creek area. Kathy stated if she hadn't heard back from Jim Leeper then it may be very unlikely to be successful.

Link to open letter to the neighborhood from Christina, who reached out to developer and current landowner Jim Leeper regarding the possibility of an alternative use of the parcel.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1i-FPI_cFoCWl3etXWGBi4UPRH4g7oVWe/view?usp=sharing

6. Elections:

Christina Hur indicated a willingness to serve as a nominee but resides outside the SWNA boundary.

President: Kathy Gardenhire nominated herself
Motion by Dana Duval, Seconded by Gail Cerveny
Majority approves

Vice President: Monica Ford nominated herself
Motion by Dana Duval, seconded by Brandon Harer
Majority approves

Secretary: Brandon Harer nominated by Gail Cerveny
Motion by Gail Cerveny, seconded by Monica Ford
Majority approves

Treasurer: Dana Duval nominated herself
Motion by Kathy Gardenhire, seconded by Thea Hayes
Majority approves

Land Use: Thea Hayes nominated herself
Motion Brandon Harer, seconded by Kathy Gardenhire

7. New Business – Group

Ideas were exchanged for future meeting topics, including special events (community picnic, sponsoring recycling event), guest speakers such as parks, police and fire who have presented in the past, traffic calming, traffic impact due to Pleasant Valley development. To be discussed at January meeting.

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:47 pm by Dana Duval, seconded by Monica Ford. Motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,
Brandon Harer
SWNA Secretary