

**Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations
October 10, 2023 – Remotely Held (Zoom)
Meeting Minutes**

NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES	NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES
Centennial		North Central	
Central City	INACTIVE	Northeast	INACTIVE
Gresham Butte	Jim Buck, Theresa Tschirky, Stephen Estes	North Gresham	INACTIVE
Gresham Pleasant Valley	Richard Barker, John Maxwell	Northwest	Kat Todd
Historic Southeast	INACTIVE	Powell Valley	
Hogan Cedars		Rockwood	Deanna Stewart
Hollybrook		Southwest	Dana Duval
Kelly Creek	Charles Teem, Carol Rulla	Wilkes-East	Kris Freiermuth
Staff & Guests	Michael Gonzeles, Neighborhood Services Division, City of Gresham; Ashton Simpson, Metro Councilor, District 1; Mariell Bossio, Metro; Steve Fancher, Chair, Urban Flood Safety Water Quality District Board; Aster Moulton, Multnomah County Drainage District; Johnny Dea, Sustainability and Climate Action Technician, City of Gresham; Thomas Stanley; Janet Unruh		

The meeting opened at 7:01 p.m., Carol Rulla, Coalition Co-President presiding.

1. Minutes for September 12, 2023 meeting: After establishing quorum, the minutes were approved as presented.

2. Flood Safe Columbia River Project:

a. Ashton Simpson, Metro Councilor: With a changing climate, Portland Region is at risk for a major flood event along the Columbia River. Levy safety standards have been updated and the levees along the Columbia River no longer meet those standards. By acting now, we could be able to access nearly \$100 million in Federal funds to protect lives, homes, jobs and environmental quality and save millions of dollars in disaster relief. Because of the age of our levees and their condition, we are at risk for a major flooding event. Our system of levees, drains and floodwalls stretch 27 miles along the Columbia River. The issue is not just the levees. The system also includes 12 pump stations and 45 miles of conveyances (drainage ditches, sloughs, pipes, culverts, etc.). Major flooding would directly affect nearly 8,000 residents, approximately 50% of the area's manufacturing and warehousing jobs, the 2nd largest drinking water source in Oregon, Portland International Airport, approximately \$16 billion in economic activity, and 2,000+ acres of natural habitat. Cost-effective solutions would be raising the levees and improving the floodwalls in the vulnerable areas, upgrading pumps and other aging infrastructure, and increasing the resilience with natural flood protection solutions. Congress has authorized nearly \$100 million for needed improvements, as long as we provide a local match. Voters will be asked to approve a modest bond measure (\$21-

\$41 per year per median household) in Multnomah within the Urban Growth boundary, to provide the local match. The bond measure is anticipated to be on the May 2024 ballot.

b. Steve Fancher, Chair, Urban Flood Safety Water Quality District Board: The Board has 17 members which includes members from the cities of Gresham, Wood Village, Fairview, Troutdale, and Portland. Engineering studies have been done to determine what needs to be done to bring the levees and related infrastructure up to the standards. Failure to make the improvements would impact area residents' ability to access affordable flood insurance and, in some cases, access loans to develop property in the affected area. In addition to the bond measure, the Board is considering a fee of \$1-\$2 a month for future maintenance of the levy systems. The majority of this cost is expected to be borne by the residents that actually live behind/and are protected by the levy system. There is a webinar in November which will give an opportunity to provide input and learn more about the initiative and sign-up for updates is at floodsafecolumbia.org/getinvolved.

2. Residential Recycling Cart Tagging Project Proposal, Johnny Dea, Sustainability and Climate Action Technician: Cart tagging provides recycling information on a feedback card on a resident's recycle cart. The City will be doing a cart tagging pilot program this fall. This will involve lifting the bin lid to provide individual feedback and leaving an information card on the cart. Cart tagging is the #1 most effective way of reducing contamination in the recycle bin. No one will be touching anything in the bin, fining residents that have contaminates in their bin or removing the bins. The City is partnering with an associate professor and five student interns from the University of Portland for this project.

3. Neighborhood and City News and Reports:

a. Neighborhood Services Report: Michael Gonzales: Welcome to the Gresham Pleasant Valley Neighborhood Association. They have been inactive for a few years but now have a full board. The city is moving forward with the Council Citizen Advisory Committees as they are currently structured (the City Manager had put the committees on hold for review) and staff will be meeting with the individual chairs to "get them on the same page going forward." Recruitment and appointments to fill vacancies will now proceed for all committees. They are finalizing the process to fill some of the vacant positions in the Urban Forestry Subcommittee and will be going to Council for approval of the candidates.

b. Co-President Report: No report.

c. NA Reports and Concerns.

1) Carol Rulla KCNA: We have a gmail account and are not able to sign in because of the two-factor security process will only use one phone number. This causes a problem if more than one person needs to use the account. Does anyone

have an email account that doesn't present this problem? John Maxwell (GPVNA) offered a couple of ideas for possible solutions.

2) Jim Buck GBNA: GBNA will be having their first in-person meeting tomorrow at the Kyoudou Center, formally the Gresham Japanese Garden Resource Center.

3) Kat Todd Nwana: Nwana had a successful in-person meeting at the Gresham United Methodist Church last fall and will be having its next meeting at the Kyoudou Center.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dana Duval – Coalition Secretary-Treasurer

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 14
