



Wilkes East Neighborhood Association

Public Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Kris Freiermuth. This Board Meeting was held via Zoom.

Roll Call: Kris Freiermuth, President, Gail Voge, Secretary, Bob Lundbom, Website and Newsletter, Billy Simmons, Treasurer, and Sarah Jacobson, Member at Large.

Jessica Harper, City of Gresham, Livability Manager, Code Compliance.

This unit normally has a workforce of 3 Code Officers. They work with property owners to understand the codes. These include Abandon vehicles, overgrown vegetation, graffiti, debris, garbage/junk in backyards and RV parking. This is complaint based – they rely on everyone to let them know by using the My Gresham app to report on any of these items.

A large part of the complaints is abandoned vehicles. An impound notice will be put on the vehicle between 24 and 72 hours and if not moved it will be towed.

Property cases – Debris, garbage and junk, overgrown vegetation and more than 5 vehicles in a lot. The process is courtesy letter being sent to property owner, then notice of violation, civil penalty warning, civil penalty (up to 3), then a final notice. Normally it does not get to the penalty stage.

A program called Neighbors helping Neighbors had been started but was put on hold because of COVID. It connects a homeowner that cannot clean out debris on property with other neighbors that would like to volunteer their time to help.

Code enforcement phone number is 503-618-2463.

Q&A – Question about cutting down trees. Jessica suggested that everyone should contact City Planner to see if there needs to be a permit issued.

Vince Jones, Gresham City Council Position 3

At one time Vince worked for the Rockwood Rising. His main concerns are: Community engagement by asking questions and working with the communities within Gresham. Community Safety – participating with police and fire departments. Strive for a better police culture, while working with authorities on police reform and introducing neighborhoods to community policing.

Discussion regarding the retirement of the Police Chief Robin Sells and how they will go about hiring a new Chief.

Discussion regarding the City of Gresham Budget. Gresham budget has a budget shortage over the next two years. City Council plans to begin conversations with the



community to a general levy to take to the voters to fund public safety and/or parks.

Kris Friermuth – Thanks to all attendees in this Zoom meeting and a special thanks to Sarah for getting the Zoom meeting set up.

Travis Stovall, Mayor of Gresham – Travis has lived in this area for about 21 years. He has a lot of challenges to handle for the City of Gresham – Systemic Racism, City Budget, what does a safer city look like and funding parks, proper procedures and policies. He would like to be able to have input from citizens so he can make proper decision for the City. A new City Manager needs to be hired.

Discussion about City of Gresham Budget. Biggest percentage of the budget is Police and Fire departments. How do we want to invest for the best of our community.

Discussion regarding Rockwood Rising. Will there be low income housing?

Motion to adjourn was seconded and approved. Meeting ended at 9:00.

Next Board Meeting, Monday April12, 2021.

All Board Meetings start at 6:30 pm.

All Public Meetings start at 7:00 pm.

Until further notice all meetings will be held via Zoom.