



MINUTES

Wilkes East Neighborhood Association Public Meeting

March 28, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Greg Hartung, Vice Chair at the Albertina-Kerr campus in Gresham, Or.

Introduction of Board Members

Vice Chair Greg Hartung, Treasurer Billy Simmons, Member at Large (Website/Communications), Member at Large: Juanita Null. Not present: Chair Kris Freiermuth, Co-Land Curt Duvall.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to all: Volunteers of Nadaka Nature Park. Newsletter delivery volunteers (we need help in Cypress Park and Sandstone), Albertina-Kerr for the use of the facility for the meeting, Owen-Corning, Albertsons, Jazzy Bagel, Metro, Myer Memorial Trust, East Multnomah County Soil and Water, St. Aidan Church, Eastrose Fellowship Unitarian Church, HB Lee Middle School.

Approval of November 2015 Public Minutes

The minutes were presented from the November 16, 2015, meeting. Motion to approve minutes: Al Harrison. Second by Juanita Null. Minutes approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurers Report (Billy Simmons)

- \$2.00 donation from November 2015 meeting (we forgot to pass the hat at last meeting).
- City Grant of \$623.00 to be used for Nadaka Park festival activities. It is placed in WENA account to be managed.
- Donations go to our domain name, maintain of website, Secretary of State assumed name, and P.O. Box.

Jack Balart, Friends of Children

- Friends of Children is a non-profit mentoring program that works with kids that come from high risk and vulnerable environments. We select kids from certain public schools starting in kindergarten (6-7 years old) and we provide intensive one-on-one mentoring services for 12 ½ years.
- Three long term goals for these children: To avoid early parenting, to avoid involvement in the corrections system, and to successfully graduate from high school.
- There center in NE Portland in former school, in Lents area.
- Because of gentrification, many families have moved to Rockwood area so Friends of Children has a new facility to bring these services closer.
- The new facility on NE 172nd was built with the kids in mind. It has an awesome gym, a teaching kitchen with 3 teaching stations for nutritional instruction for families, a media room to teach kids editing and filming skills. A grant from Mt Hood Cable Regulatory Commission that provided film, lighting and sound gear.



Jack Balart, Friends of Children (cont.)

- In terms of programing, we have a big interest in our gym and thanks to the City of Gresham, they have help organize things in our gym. Joe Walsh and the city of Gresham helped get property and
- organize Saturday Night Basketball, much like what they do on Friday Nights at HB Lee Middle School. On Sundays, starting April 17th, there will be indoor soccer with the help of City of Gresham and non-profit Active Children Portland (who provide basketball and soccer programs). Folding in lessons on nutrition and conflict resolution.
- The facility is available to neighborhood groups and youth in the community.

NET (Neighborhood Enforcement Team) Officer Estes and Officer Lee, Regarding Homelessness.

- Obviously, we have a homeless issue not only in our city, but national and across in many other nations. Causes Economic issues, drug issues, choices, lawlessness.
- From the start of the program the NET was team forced into transient issue from the original avenue it was going to go. Many transients are regulars and are usually compliant. (They know us, we know them). Because of the Portland problems, we are seeing new faces here in Gresham.
- Homeless count in 2015, Gresham count was about 6 to 8% of the overall population. That was a lot of our “regulars”. But now some of the regulars are no longer homeless. The few remain either have substance abuse issues or choose to remain out on the streets.
- In January 2016, HB2002 went into effect which basically is a police for police on profiling. We cannot stop somebody because they are homeless, they are a protected class. Written into this law, if an officer was found to be profiling, they could face up to a \$100,000 fine. This scared the police and the city of Portland. The results what you see in Portland, if your homeless you can camp on any public space in Portland. It is still trespassing if someone enters and unlawfully remains on private property.
- Dan and I are the officers in Gresham that deal with the homeless. Some other officers we have tried to educate about the homeless remain scared to death in deal with homeless.
- Offensive littering, urinating in public, drinking in public are crimes and that is a reason to stop and talk to the homeless. The Broken Window theory is to address small stuff first before they become larger stuff, therefore people are less likely to progress to other things. We are enforcing those crimes.
- We are down to just a few camps along the Spring Water trail and sporadically around the city. When we are having these people move, they are moving into places like Nadaka Park, Pat Pfeiffer Park, Vance Park. A lot of these people are from Portland, so they believe we can't make them leave.
- In the city of Gresham, it remains unlawful to be in the park afterhours. All our parks close, 10 PM in the summer time, 8 pm in the winter time. This is for every citizen, not just the homeless. It is only afterhours when the police have the authority to move anyone from the park.
- Biggest complaints are mostly of the remnants, trash that is left behind. The city is working on getting those cleaned up faster on a grander scale. Tents can be up, but must be removed by the time the park closes.
- Family shelter is now open at SE 162 & Stark. They are strict about who they let in, must be a family unit and cannot be sex offender or have warrants.



NET (Neighborhood Enforcement Team) Officer Estes and Officer Lee, Regarding Homelessness (Cont.)

- Camps are given 24 hour notice however are given 2-3 days to move so they can collect their belongings. The police have a stockpile of clothes that they hand out along with pamphlets listing resources.
- Two new NET officers will be added to the staff.

Joe Walsh, City of Gresham, Senior Manager for Neighborhood Prosperity and Youth engagement.

- Brought to the city about 2 years ago on the heels of increased gang issues. Summer of 2013 was a tipping point with gang related homicides included some in our parks. Was brought on to see what the city can do on the prevention and intervention angle such as Friends of Children program in the city of Gresham. The city is also involved with the Boys and Girls club.
- The state has a youth and gangs program grant that the city of Gresham wrote. The funds received help start several new programs aimed at at-risk youth from prevention all the way through intervention.
- Friday nights Basketball program at HB Lee started two years ago as a prevention program. Average of 50 youth attend per night.
- We contract with a non-profit agency called POIC which organizes and supervises the program. They also do our gang outreach program. Funds from the grant have been stretched enough to start a Saturday night program as well.
- The state funds also provide mental health program for high school students at Rosemary Anderson High School.
- Jobs program for gang impact teens and young adults, 16 through 24 years old. Contracted with non-profit called Southeast Works to help connect youth and adults with jobs.
- More related to park safety, the staff of the Boys and Girls club to start Summer Kids in the Park for any youth up to the age of 18 and incorporates the federal free lunch program. Staff member will engage with youth in games such as tag, arts, crafts, science experiments as well as a free lunch. The three parks that do Summer Kids in the Park are Vance, Main City and Red Sunset parks.
- Foot sol, (miniature soccer), funding from the Portland Timbers and Operation Pitch Invasion to put a foot sol field at Vance Park. With backing from US Soccer Foundation, another Foot Sol field planned for Davis park.

Lori Stegmann, Candidate for Multnomah County Commissioner, district 4 East County.

- 6 years as a City of Gresham councilor. Prior to that, planning commissioner and Gresham development commissioner.
- Small business owner with an insurance agency in Rockwood. Grew up in Rockwood, was adopted when six months old.
- Poverty and diversity in west Gresham, to help fill the gaps with education, jobs, and programs. Would like to see more funding for the Sun Schools.



Lori Stegmann, Candidate for Multnomah County Commissioner, district 4 East County. (cont.)

- Housing affordability, from homelessness to correct housing policies that our city needs. The Gresham Vista industrial park is a “shovel ready” industrial land that could provide trade sector family wage jobs.

Joe Teeny and Dr. Linda Florence, Reynolds School Board.

- Joe has been on the board since 2009 and the school district has gone through many changes.
- \$130 million school bond had passed, so one of the schools being replaced is Wilkes Elementary. Construction will start this summer. All three schools being replaced will be ready for class in 2018.
- Part of the bond will upgrade security at the schools so each school has secure entrances.
- All three schools being replaced will be ready for class in 2018. Construction would begin January 2017.
- Bond money can only be used for capital constructions. It cannot be used to pay teachers, or hire new people or buy books. We have a citizen’s oversight committee of volunteer citizens that oversees the budgets through public meetings.
- Workshop meeting at Wilkes Elementary on April 5th and April 19th, workshop for initial ideas and then further development. Looking for the publics to share ideas to help design the schools. The design open house at Wilkes on May 3rd. All community members are welcome.
- Reynolds website: www.reynolds.k12.or.us/bondprojects
- Discussion lead to attendance, graduation rates and speeding/safety on school zones.

Monica McAllister and Lee Dayfield, Friends of Nadaka (Nature park Coordinator).

- Passed around signup sheet for festival committee members and park ambassadors.
- Events: Jun 18th, Annual Fund raiser. April 16, Gresham Green and Clean event. April 23rd SOLV IT for Earth Day.
- Monthly bird walks and Tadpole tales (story time, nature walk and arts/craft for ages 2-5).
- Park Ambassador program, looking for volunteers 2-10 hours per week to keep an eye on the park, let people know of upcoming events, and friendly face to meet and greet. Also help with events.
- Volunteers are needed to pull weeds on days other than the cleanup days. Materials such as paper to print on, cookies, coffee, tea for events, paint for the sheds. Dog stations, please put plastic bags in so



Good to order

- Concerns brought up regarding the empty Walgreen building and what it will be used for.

Next Meeting

August 22nd 2016 at Albertina Kerr.

Motion to adjourn was made at 9 pm and was passed unanimously.

Minutes presented by [Greg Hartung], minutes pending approval.

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