



Wilkes East Neighborhood Association **Public Meeting Minutes**

March 12, 2018

Call to Order

Kris Freiermuth called to order the public meeting of the Wilkes East Neighborhood Association at 7:00 at Albertina-Kerr campus in Gresham, Oregon.

Roll Call

Kris Freiermuth, Chair, Curt Duval, Land Use, Gail Voge, Member at Large, and Juanita Null, Member at Large.

Attendance: Approximately 30 people

Guests: Officers Taylor, Watkins, Garrison and Lieutenant Weaver; Mario Palmero, City of Gresham Council; Wendy Serrano, Community Affairs Representative; Alice Duff, Zimmerman House; and Michael Gonzales, Gresham Neighborhood Coordinator.

NETeam – The officers passed out papers that had statistics regarding vehicle thefts, vehicle prowls, and residential burglaries.

Question from audience – What is MS13. Answer – It is a gang from the east coast, Miami, and Texas. We do not have them in Portland.

Officers talked about seeing more graffiti in Gresham. You might see MS13 but it means something different to Mexican gangs.

An audience member stated that she witnessed a gang incident. There were around 25 gang members in this location and she speculated that maybe it was some kind of initiation.

Question from audience – Are most of the homeless that the officers see are people that have made bad choices. This brought up a discussion with everyone. The officers try to get the homeless, especially ones with kids, in touch with social services. To help them get off the streets. A lot of the homeless have drug problems – a lot of addiction to meth and heroin. How do we get them off the streets. The homeless people are a protected class here in Oregon. Officer Watkins came in contact with many homeless people and he stated that a large percentage came from out of state. They had heard that Oregon has a lot of freebies. An audience member stated that they saw someone shoplift and take it right out the door with the security right behind them. Store security cannot confront shoplifters.

Question – How many murders happen in Gresham in one year? Answer – about 7 or 8 in a year.



Question – What are some things that all of us can do to protect our property? Answer – Most crime happens at night. Lock your doors, park your car in the garage, don't leave bags in your car, if you are on vacation have good lighting around your house, and get a PO Box.

Officers stated that on average there are only 7 to 9 police on duty at any given time.

Discussion regarding stolen property. Officers said to put some kind of number on trailers, and tools and take pictures of property.

Keep reporting any crime.

Kris – Survey of four things that concern you. Failure of enforcement, security, housing, keeping sidewalks clear, and parking violations.

Mario Palmero – City of Gresham Council – He is tired of having too many affordable housing on this side of town. The homeless shelter on Stark and 162nd closed due to deteriorating building. Homeless has a lot of mental health issues.

Wendy Serrano – TriMet – Capital Projects – The stations on the Max Blue Line on 162nd and 122nd are being renovated. Taking off brick wall, adding cameras, stripping, new benches and new lighting. This will be starting mid-May through December. Burnside will be closed off and on during that time period.

Clay Thomson – TriMet – There is a new bus line on 162nd. It will run about every 30 to 40 minutes. You can check on any future TriMet project by going to trimet.org/future to see all of the plans for bus routes. TriMet is working on an express bus line, using long buses, and looking at condensing bus stops.

Alice Duff – Zimmerman House – The Zimmerman house has house and garden tours. Volunteers are needed. Open house is Thursday, April 12 and Saturday, April 14. The City of Gresham owns the property.

Michael Gonzales – Gresham Neighborhood Coordinator – Office of Community & Livability takes care of code compliance and east metro mediation. Emergency Ready training will be held at the Boys and Girls Club on Stark. They are sponsoring a Workshop for mediation. Green and Clean day April 28, 2018, from 9 am to 1 pm. There will be entertainment and refreshments. You can register at greshamoregon.gov. They have put together a block party trailer that includes coolers, and games for kids.

Motion submitted to approve November meeting minutes. Motion was approved and seconded and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.