



Wilkes East Neighborhood Association

Public Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Kris Freiermuth. This Public 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, Dimitrios Zourvos, Member at Large

Guest Speakers

Kris introduced **Robin Sells, Chief of Police for the City of Gresham**. Robin believes in the 6 Pillars of Character which is Trust, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. Community Trust - There needs to be transparency in the agency. They worked hard to get body cameras. It took a couple of years to have the funds to purchase. We received a Grant to help pay for the cameras. Respect – The Police in her division treat people well. There will be a renaming of Mental Health to Services Coordinator Team. \$750,000 is being used for 2 full time Services Coordinator to go out with police officers to access the situation. Caring – Officer Wellness is important. More officers die by suicide than die on duty. We have a gym set up for them and a psychologist for officers to talk to.

We have lost 8 officers due to budget cuts. We need to have officers going into classroom to talk about drunk driving.

Discussions item for Robin:

How much does the body cameras cost? The cost \$99 per officer per year. It has been very helpful with having the cameras.

With all of the problems with racial profiling going on in the country Robin was proud that Gresham came out with a good rating for not racial profiling. Three years ago the State of Oregon required the police departments to gather Stop Data information. This included age, race, and gender.

During this Covid time officers have cut back on training and only doing online courses.

Juvenile crime is a problem and is on the rise because of Covid.

Greg brought up the problems Portland has been having with car racing. There have been almost 400 cars at one of these races. He wanted to know what Gresham was doing. Robin replied that they are not doing much due to the fact that the new district attorney will not prosecute.

Gresham has had some Black Lives Matter protests and they have been peaceful.



Gresham Police are stopping motorists to give traffic tickets.

Lee Dayfield, Neighbor & Advocate for Parks, asked about the Officer that worked at H.B. Lee school. Robin Sells replied that this officer is paid by the school district.

If there are any other questions for Robin her email address is robin.sells@greshamoregon.gov.

Dimitrious introduced **Emily Bauer, Executive Director of Gresham Redevelopment, Downtown Rockwood Rising.**

Josh took leave and Emily took this position. Emily has been with this project since the beginning in 2015. Emily gave us a power point overview and background of Rockwood Rising. The Business Center and the Workforce Center is now open, the market hall and public plaza will be opening in 2021. If you would like any other information you can go to www.downtownrockwood.com or www.rockwoodrising.com.

Discussions

There is a yellow building that is close is that part of Rockwood Rising? No it is not part of Rockwood Rising.

The food at the market place will have a diversity of food.

If you have any other questions for Emily her email is Emily.bower@greshamoregon.gov

Kris invited her to write an article for the next newsletter.

Sarah and Bob added the August Public Meeting that was saved on Zoom and put it onto the website.

Motion for approving the August 2020 Public Meeting. This was seconded and approved.

Election of Officers

Kris commented that it has been great to have Dimitrious and Sarah join the Board. She also asked the Zoom participants if there was any that would like to join and be a member at large. Sarah shared her viewpoint on working with WENA.

One of the participants Erica Porras said she would like to join as a member at large.

Motion for having Erica Porras join WENA as a member at large was seconded and approved.



Motion to accept everyone now holding WENA positions at this time. It was seconded and approved.

Lee Dayfield – Neighbor & Advocate for Parks

Lee stated that there is money for Park improvements. She gave us an overview regarding the Parks Coalition that will be responsible for this project. They are waiting for the final elections. The Parks Advisory Committee is coming up with a master plan for each park. There are 6 parks in Gresham that this money will be divided too. The parks will need to have a concept plan set up. The money that is coming has specific items that the money can be used for.

Kris

If anyone would like to attend Gresham Neighborhood Coalition meeting they meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month via Zoom. Carol Ruella is the President Gresham Neighborhood Coalition.

City Council meeting on November 10th via Zoom. Some items up for discussion are the adoption of water development master plan. Middle Housing is a discussion point. In cities of 10,000 or more people, duplexes will be allowed in areas currently zoned for single family homes.

Lori Stegman will be having a meeting in December about the Census. Kris will share the information.

Meeting ended at 8:43

Next Public Meeting, Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.