



## **Wilkes East Neighborhood Association**

### **Public Meeting Minutes**

August 14, 2022

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; Billy Simmons, Treasurer; Bob Lundbom, Website & Newsletter.

#### **Kris Freiermuth, President**

Kris thanks to all the volunteers that delivered WENA August newsletters.

Speakers:

Steve Fancher -Asst. City Manager – Update of Parks Division

He gave us an overview of his job experience. Palmquist park will be upgrading soccer fields, basketball courts and pickle ball. 5.5 million has come in from the state lottery for Drayden sports park. This includes 2 more soccer fields and 2 more softball fields. City council did not approve and money for Gresham parks. Gresham High School is redoing the tennis courts to add lines for pickle ball. His staff is working on a online guide of how to access all parks. The metro local share of money is going to acquiring the Shaull property. Vance park is owned by Multnomah county.

Travis Gullberg – Police Chief City of Gresham – Update

He started with giving us a background of his job experiences. The police department are having staffing issues. There are 19-20 openings as the moment. It takes a lot of time to get people trained. They have introduced monetary incentives to come and work here. There is a rise in gun violence and they are getting the work done as best as they can. He stated that he is supported by City of Gresham leadership. The school resource officers were taken out of schools because of low police staffing. The NET Team was closed due to low police staffing. The training set up for the police officers for mental health, de-escalations and other subjects.

CVIPS – Volunteers that work with the Gresham Police department. There work supports the police. The group is getting started from being off because of COVID.

Cadet Program – They are working on recruiting 18 to 23 year old. This program lets the cadets see if they would like to work as police officers.

A couple of the audience wanted the Chief to know that they were impressed with Gresham Police Dept.

Jay Higgins – Associate Trans. Planner – City of Gresham Kirk Park



Neighborhood Association raised money to put in a children's playground. Kirk park was finished 2 years ago and had the grand opening during the last night out.

**Armani Thomas – Neighborhood Trees Specialist, Friends of Trees**

Armani works out of the Gresham area. They have planted trees in Columbia View Park. These trees are also watered by Friends of Trees. If they die then they will replace. Friends of Trees will work with anyone to help plant trees in your yard. Check with them to see if they can help with pruning trees in your yard. There is a \$25-\$35 fee for planting trees on your property.

Next Public meeting, November 14, 2022

Next Board Meeting, Monday September 12, 2022.

Website: [www.wilkeseastna.org](http://www.wilkeseastna.org)

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.