

Coalition of Gresham Neighborhood Associations
March 10, 2020 – Oregon Trail Conf Room, Gresham City Hall
Meeting Minutes

NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES	NEIGHBORHOOD	ATTENDEES
Centennial	INACTIVE	Northeast	INACTIVE
Central City	INACTIVE	North Gresham	Mike Elston
Gresham Butte	Jim Buck, Theresa Tschirky	Northwest	John Bildsoe, Kat Todd
Historic Southeast	Allan Krim	Gresham Pleasant Valley	
Hogan Cedars	Matt Callison	Powell Valley	
Hollybrook		Rockwood	Catherine Nicewood
Kelly Creek	Carol Rulla, Charles Teem	Southwest	Gail Cerveny
North Central	Mary Gossett	Wilkes-East	
Staff & Guests:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Gonzales, Chris Strong, Joanne Hovis, Matt Clay (GPD) 		

A quorum of neighborhoods was present. Carol Rulla called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Minutes from 2/11/20 were approved as presented.

Lt. Matt Clay from the Gresham Police Department introduced himself. He supervises traffic team and emergency response among other duties. He came to learn more about the Coalition. In response to Carol’s question about people reporting speeding cars that routinely were seen at the same location and same time of day, Lt. Clay said they could be forwarded to him. He asked about communication and Carol said she was a conduit for the Coalition members and Michael Gonzales also could be a point of contact for us.

American Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan:

Chris Strong was introduced for an explanation of the city’s draft ADA Transition Plan. He distributed four copies of the document. The Americans with Disabilities Act was passed originally in 1991 which obligated governments to provide access for public facilities. People understand implications for right of way, e.g., curb cuts, but the government required transition plans for cities above a certain size. The deadline originally was 1993 for preparing the plan, and while agencies were aware of the need, they typically hadn’t prepared them. If the city had complaints about a particular access, they responded to that concern. But some agencies have been taken to court with expensive litigation (Portland, Bend and others outside OR) for not responding sufficiently. DOJ (Department of Justice) then asked for completed transition plans and thus promoted their importance. First purpose of the plan is to identify physical obstacles in accessing public facilities. The second purpose puts a line in sand for marking milestones at compliance. For example, there are 770 ramps in the city for wheelchairs and some are in compliance but most aren’t. Some may not have the textured surface, for example, now required.

The draft ADA Transition Plan includes standards and in chapter 4 reviews programs and services and their accessibility by the public. Chapter 5 explains how the city can achieve compliance. Chapter 6 outlines the budget and timeline for achieving compliance.

The city has 96 traffic signals and all are deficient in some way. No detailed inventory has been conducted. Some buttons may not be positioned properly as one example. The draft plan proposes to have an inventory of all signals completed in a year. City hall had already conducted a study to review its access, but that hasn’t occurred with all city facilities. Fear of litigation is pushing plan completion.

Public comment period on the draft plan is open now which invites comment on priorities (sidewalks, parks, etc.). In the development of this plan, the city has reached out to advocacy groups and now there is a draft to review. Chris asked neighborhoods to share it with their members and invited feedback about what was highlighted in the plan and if it represented what should be addressed. Complaints from constituents mainly come from use of city parks, not city hall. If there is a curb cut not compliant near a school, for example, Chris would like to know. The period for receiving comment extends until April 17 and then it's slated to proceed to the City Council June 2, 2020 for action.

Theresa Tschirky asked about table in 6.2 and what the "Inventory" column referred to since it showed years. Chris indicated that was the projected length of time to complete the inventory on access. The last column titled "Barrier Removal" indicates the timeframe for addressing the barriers at those park locations. The plan isn't binding on the city budgeting to achieve all the compliance requirements, but it helps identify direction and need.

Catherine Nicewood asked about sidewalks' absence around Davis Elementary and said that schools should be a priority. Sidewalks are toughest to address on this, Chris said. If you look logically at ADA, it would require sidewalks, but the letter of law doesn't address sidewalks. In the plan sidewalks remain a component of accessibility but a plan to address them has no timeline. Currently there are sidewalks with raised panels, mailboxes, plants, etc. and the city is only addressing them on a code enforcement complaint basis. The city has not conducted an inventory on all its sidewalk conditions.

John Bildsoe asked if in-fill construction will require sidewalks from developers and Chris confirmed that it would. Most current home owners who bought residences without sidewalks, John said, don't want to foot the cost for them. Chris agreed with that assessment. Active transportation plan might include a street striping change for bikes, but John felt that shared use could be confusing.

Allan Krim asked about requiring a timeframe for sidewalks and Chris said there is no number in the law about when they need to be installed. Chris shared more details about ramp repairs and signals that have been updated to ADA standards. He said the city really has no money to fund further sidewalk expansion. The Cleveland Ave. sidewalks and other right of way improvements came from a Metro grant using federal dollars rather than city resources according to Carol Rulla and Chris. There is a current grant for Division sidewalks and other right of way improvements between Birdsdale and Wallula.

Charles Teem asked about a Salquist property that was developed as part of a larger subdivision. The original house was leveled and new one built on a new corner lot, but no sidewalk was constructed on the Salquist frontage. Chris said that he will look into it if Charles sent him the address. Carol said the reason might have been the cost of the total improvements with the subdivision since the city can't require it if infrastructure costs are too high.

Mike Elston said that Halsey to Glisan on 188th has no sidewalk—there are ramps, however, installed to nowhere. This is the street that is critical access to Hartley School but has no sidewalks. Chris said staff would need to study this street to determine if it could be placed be on list so in the event of funding improvements it could be prioritized higher in relation to other proposed projects.

On the city website for the draft plan, there will be a form people can complete about their suggestions regarding missing sidewalks, ramps, etc. Chris said there was discussion about putting it on My Gresham but the purpose is seeking information not filing complaints. John Bildsoe suggested putting completed inventory for Main City Park out there to show what is needed. The website URL will be sent to Carol for distribution to members.

Municipal Broadband Study:

Joanne Hovis was introduced and she chose to just share comments and not use media and stated her colleague Karen White would not be calling in. Joanne is President of CTC Technology based in Washington, D.C. The company was commissioned by the county, city and other jurisdictions to study options for a new broadband network for members of the public. They were hired to evaluate the feasibility of a model for high speed internet to the public. Her purpose in presenting was to share what they are doing and gain input on the effort. The effort rose from county interest and city jurisdictions also on the need for a high broadband network. She summarized that some work sought to identify what

needs for broadband were not being met. They've done surveys of residential and commercial markets on how internet is used. The information provides data on how internet is used and how satisfied customers are with their current plan. Commercial response was high from small business, addressing how does internet support their business, how pleased are they with speed, use, etc. The study is looking at both the demand and supply side of the equation. Substantial portions of county have no broadband—namely, 30% largely in unincorporated areas. Government does supply grants for rural areas receiving broadband. Their study examines what competition exists and how does it vary across the region. In some areas there is only one provider.

Joanne said the study is asking engineers to study the gaps in service and develop a design for the network and determine what the cost would be. Based on cost inputs, another team explores revenue plans for supporting that network. It should help identify the opportunities available. This would include looking at partnerships that would possibly involve current carriers and how could they expand the current footprint. Joanne works all over country and in some areas there are lots of opportunity for collaboration, less so in other areas. Some unincorporated areas may be eligible for federal funding and private firms may be interested in partnering to provide service in those areas.

Carol Rulla asked about Frontier network. Joanne said some of Frontier's infrastructure was purchased from Verizon. Frontier is currently in bankruptcy so there is an element of uncertainty with that looking forward. Gail Cerveny said people taking over from Frontier said television was coming from another carrier (not fiber optics). FIOS is just a brand name, Joanne said. Carriers typically have provided internet, voice, and cable TV. Increasingly companies are not offering video but pushing other streaming services. She said rarely do people under 45 pay for cable connection anymore as they select to stream because it is more cost effective. Gail asked then if the plan was to provide broadband but not cable. Joanne said interest is in providing broadband access, not necessarily cable TV.

Jim Buck asked how the change in technology (small cells) will affect a municipal plan. Joanne replied that the cellphone calls are mainly transmitted via wires and only use an antenna on each end. The "wireless" call is actually transmitted over long stretches through fiber optic cable. You don't need high speed cable to talk or text, but if doing something else like media, you need the capacity. If fiber optics are in place, you will have better wireless reception on the 5G as small cells will go where the wire infrastructure exists. Gresham has an advantage with its fiber optics infrastructure.

John Bildsoe asked about pricing potentially going down. Joanne said she didn't think that would occur. The City is concerned about both equity and service. There is only so much you can do in lowering prices since normally there are just one to two carriers who have huge infrastructure investments in these systems. John thought, after infrastructure was paid for, you still have cash cow revenues coming in. Joanne said the goal is not to reduce pricing or have it paid through taxes. She acknowledged companies are reaping substantial profits with the current system.

Carol Rulla asked about what federal assistance existed for impoverished areas. Joanne said that government does already provide subsidy to hospitals, libraries and schools. Also, low income households are eligible for subsidy of \$10 per month for access from the federal government. This is low band width though, not broadband.

Kat Todd asked what is length of infrastructure life and was told 20-30 years is expected. Joanne said lasers transmit over strands of glass on fiber optics. Replacement of damaged sections over time can allow them to last an extensive period of time. Fiber optic strands can scale up to heavier loads also.

John Bildsoe asked about Frontier and who will end up owning the fiber optic system. Joanne said it has been purchased by another firm in Chicago. John asked about the franchise fee paid for cable TV use, which is declining. Joanne said that the fee dates to early 1980s but didn't apply to internet, just cable revenue. Theresa Tschirky clarified that Wave Division Capital is the name of the firm that bought the cable infrastructure from Frontier.

The feasibility study is expected to be completed by late spring or early summer and next steps will be up to policy makers. All major cities in county are involved as a consortium. Matt Callison asked if other cities are going this direction, and Joanne said many others have studied it, but largest to implement municipal broadband is in Chattanooga, TN, which is a quarter of the population of Multnomah County. More modest solutions may be examined rather than county wide as well.

John Bildsoe said Maupin implemented broadband under a federal grant program. Theresa Tschirky said Hillsboro is also installing one. Sandy has a popular broadband program also according to Joanne. There are 150 broadband networks in cities across the country, some very small though. Many more cities have studied it, but often local companies under the threat of competition pay attention and get upgraded so the need to implement another model disappears. Joanne was thanked for her presentation and information shared.

Neighborhood News:

Michael Gonzales had to depart early in the meeting and was not here for his report.

Carol raised the issue of candidate requests for time on Coalition agendas after Tracy Slack expressed his discomfort with politicians using the Coalition without any protocols for this. Carol explained background or context for allowing a DA candidate's request for time on last month's Coalition agenda, which she considered public comment. However, she did allot time for Coalition questions. Carol asked if we should adopt another policy approach. Theresa Tschirky said we can't restrict public comment at our meetings, however, she agrees with Tracy that these shouldn't be forums that would represent favoritism toward a candidate. Theresa explained how GBNA handled a discussion on a ballot measure and the fact both sides were represented. Theresa thought we should avoid even the appearance of favoritism. John Bildsoe and Catherine Nicewood noted that Rockwood NA had decided not to have any ballot measures or candidates at meetings after a bad experience with having the supposed-other side not really being representatives of the opposition. Carol explained about Deborah Kafoury hearing our concerns when she came out and she considered that beneficial for the Coalition. Carol said we could keep it off the agenda but place it in the public comment section. Jim Buck said parameters were needed such as limiting it to an introduction and where information about the person or campaign could be found. Mike Elston felt his NA board wants to stay out of political races and issues. Matt Callison said candidates should come after they win to share with us so they listen to our concerns. Catherine Nicewood said the county auditor after the election came to the Coalition and her visit was a good example for this. Carol Rulla in summary said the candidate's introduction would be limited to 3 minutes in the public comment time only and there would be an invite after the election if the Coalition wished to hear from an elected official.

Carol noted that land use items on the city's Projects in Progress active list are no longer being sorted by neighborhood as in the past. They are now sorted by application number like the other Project in Progress lists. Several Coalition members objected to this change. Carol reported that planning staff would consider changing it back but only if other residents besides NA leaders expressed a desire for sorting active projects by NA. Catherine Nicewood noted that she had some NA members who would object to this change and asked who to contact. Carol suggested contacting Planning Director David Berniker. Matt Callison asked if lists corresponded to ENN file numbers and where Projects in Progress lists were located. Carol said the lists include pre-app file numbers which are used at ENN and application file numbers which are used at public comment. There is an "E" next to the file number if it is an ePlan. The lists can be accessed through Planning's webpage for neighborhoods, which can be accessed through a link under the land use resources on the main NA webpage.

Carol discovered she and her NA were not getting Neighborhood Connections and learned that they had been opted out, likely by someone who wanted to unsubscribe to a Neighborhood Connections she and her NA had forwarded without removing the footer information. She indicated if Coalition members aren't getting Neighborhood Connections that it could be due to one neighbor who unsubscribed and cancelled it for them. She suggested that footer information be removed when forwarding an e-newsletter to NA lists or others.

Carol introduced discussion of the issue of timing on the proposed notices that the city will send out for a limited period for all applications for wireless communication facilities in the right of way. Should the notice be sent once an application is complete or wait until later since it could take some time to build it? Kat Todd noted that the communication wouldn't change anything about the project, it would just be information. Several Coalition members thought a later timing would be better, but Charles Teem noted that it would be good to have a way to collect feedback on projects that get approved but don't get built. Carol said to think about it. The city will be preparing a draft notice for Coalition review before it's finalized, but if anyone wants to work on early drafts, contact her.

Carol mentioned the open house on the Development Code and Process Update project which is expected to become effective in August. Change in the ENN notification becomes effective then, so if NAs don't want letters by certified mail,

they will need to notify developers regarding preferred options for receiving them, e.g. regular mail and/or email. NAs can ask now for email even before these changes are made.

Jim Buck shared briefly about Tracy Slack's planning effort that enables GBNA to use the freeconferencecall.com program to connect its monthly meeting with members' smart phones or home internet-linked devices. He said this would be tested at its meeting on March 11 and involved no cost to the city or those who would be using the connection. Jim felt with COVID19, this capability made even more sense but likely would cause changes in bylaws about meeting participation/quorum. Carol noted that a change to the city administrative procedures for NAs would also be needed. Given the interest by other members, Jim said Tracy could share more about the program at our next Coalition meeting.

Carol shared about Arbor Day activities and will send a follow-up email on activities (Note – activities were cancelled by the city following the meeting due to Coronavirus).

Gail Nicewood asked if anyone was cancelling meetings due to the Coronavirus. Kat Todd and Catherine Nicewood said they are planning on going ahead right now. Plans could change if circumstances warrant. Carol said please let city know a week in advance if you are cancelling meetings at city hall in time to change security personnel schedules.

Allan Krim said the officers in the Historic Southeast NA were reelected with the exception of vice president (which is now vacant) and they invited an administrator at Dexter McCarty to talk about the recent deaths of two children on Hogan at 5th. He said a school district administrator also spoke and got quite a response from members. This person described the deaths as someone under the influence killing a child and the other one as a kid who made a mistake and paid ultimate price. He said kids don't listen and pivoted to blaming children which generated questions by those in attendance. Allan said there were questions about crossing guards, lack of sidewalks, etc. He felt the administrator pivoted on everyone's good intentions. Carol suggested that Allan write a letter to the school superintendent sharing those perceptions regarding how the administrator's comments were received. Allan said people are upset about speeding and lack of enforcement. Should we as a body address the deaths and nothing being done? Carol said the city is looking at pathway on one side of Hogan Rd. Theresa Tschirky said more development is occurring off of Hogan so there will be more traffic materializing but infrastructure is not keeping up. Carol said the Planning Commission hearing on the capital improvements program will be on 4/13 but nobody gave testimony at the work session on Feb. 24. She encouraged people to come and raise concerns then since it's a public hearing and includes all the projects slated in the five year plan. It takes testimony and awareness to change any of the project priorities. Carol said it may not change this slate of projects but may help in future considerations. Kat Todd said speeding behavior is difficult to change. Allan Krim felt tickets do change behavior. Lt. Clay said three motorcycle officers are now assigned on traffic enforcement. Also he responded to both of the traffic deaths. The 11 year old child was killed by intoxicated driver in a cross walk. Other student was warned but the student veered directly into traffic and the driver was not at fault.

Kat Todd said the city has contracted for doing sewer upgrades in her neighborhood and said the new clean outs were covered by a 2' X 2' concrete pad. While this is appropriate when placed in sidewalks, since her street has no sidewalks, her clean outs are in the middle of yards and the appearance of the concrete pads was shocking. In calling the contractor and the city, they agreed to change back now so the clean out access in these situations will be served by a smaller plastic model which looks far better. She felt Steve Fancher was very helpful in making this change.

Meeting adjourned 9:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jim Buck, Coalition Co-Secretary-Treasurer

Next meeting: **Tuesday, April 14, 2020**– City Hall Oregon Trail Room