

DRAFT MINUTES

Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association (GBNA) General Meeting

February 11, 2026

7pm, Hybrid

Gresham Japanese Garden Kyoudou Center and via Zoom

Attendees:

Board Members

Stephen Estes (President), Sue Protz (Vice President), Tamaryn Newton (Secretary), Jim Buck (Land Use Director), Cheryl Breeden (Treasurer)

Guests

Rick Till - Honl Tree Care, Community members

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 PM by President Estes. A quorum was confirmed.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes from the January 14, 2026 GBNA meeting were reviewed. A correction was noted to the spelling of Cheryl Breeden's name.

Motion to approve the January 14, 2026 minutes as corrected was made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Main Agenda – Tree Health, Insects, and Risk Management Presentation

Rick Till of Honl Tree Care provided a presentation on tree biology, health, and risk management, with a focus on insect pests and tree stress.

Topics discussed included basic tree physiology, soil and root health, drought stress, and indicators of tree failure such as canopy loss, decay, fungal growth, and root instability.

Discussion addressed boring insects commonly observed in the area. Rick Pill explained the importance of distinguishing whether insects are the primary cause of decline or secondary pests attacking already stressed trees.

Emerald Ash Borer was discussed as a significant regional concern. Treatment options via trunk injection were described as potentially effective when applied early, but limited once substantial canopy decline has occurred. Other borers that farm fungi within wood were discussed, noting that chemical treatments are generally ineffective in those cases.

The importance of accurate insect identification was emphasized. Participants were encouraged to photograph insects or submit samples for confirmation by state entomologists when necessary.

Tree Care Best Practices – Mulching and Watering

Best practices for maintaining tree health were reviewed. Discussion included the importance of deep, infrequent watering during dry periods, adjusted for soil type, and extending watering beyond the trunk to encourage outward root growth. Mulching guidance included maintaining mulch depth of approximately 2–4 inches, keeping mulch several inches away from the trunk, and avoiding “volcano mulching.” Arborist wood chips were identified as an effective and low cost option.

Ivy and Invasive Species Discussion

Ivy growth in green spaces and its impacts on trees were discussed. Key points included that ivy produces seeds only when growing vertically and that cutting ivy at the base will eventually kill upper growth. Caution was advised when removing ivy from dead trees, as ivy may be structurally supporting the tree. Management of ivy in city owned green spaces may require coordination with the City.

Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer reported that there have been no expenditures since November.

Authorized signers on the bank account have been updated.

The current account balance is \$2,886.88.

Land Use Report

There was no new land use activity to report.

Fire Risk Assessment Discussion

The Board discussed the possibility of organizing group wildfire risk assessments for homes adjacent to green spaces. Discussion included assessment requirements for contiguous properties, voluntary participation, potential risk classifications, and coordination with nearby neighborhood or homeowner associations. Firewise Community designation and potential grant funding were discussed.

No formal motions were made.

Future Meetings and Topics

The regular meeting schedule remains the second Wednesday of each month.

The Board discussed flexibility in meeting frequency when no agenda items or speakers are scheduled. No speaker has been scheduled for March.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned without objection. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 PM.