

DRAFT MINUTES

Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association (GBNA) General Meeting

May 13, 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

Community members

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:01 PM by President Stephen Estes.

A quorum of Board members was present.

No public comments were received.

Grant Closeout and Financial Review

The Board reviewed the status of the 2025 Neighborhood Matching Grant and discussed remaining grant funds and reporting requirements.

Treasurer Cheryl Breeden reported a current account balance of **\$2,886.88**. Discussion focused on the remaining balance associated with the previous grant cycle and possible expenditures related to wildfire preparedness equipment and community outreach activities.

Jim Buck reported that he remains in communication with Lena Sizmin regarding final grant reconciliation and clarification regarding any allowable carryover of unused funds. The Board discussed the possibility of using remaining grant funds to purchase a covered 50 gallon water container for tree watering activities at a cost of approximately **\$214** and an additional 40 volt battery for the Association's brush cutter at a cost of approximately **\$104**. The proposed purchases would total approximately **\$318** and would support ongoing vegetation management and tree maintenance efforts.

The Board discussed the importance of maintaining detailed accounting records for future grant reporting and tracking volunteer contributions. Jim Buck reported that volunteers have contributed more than 135 hours toward grant related projects during the current reporting period.

2026 Neighborhood Matching Grant Application

The Board discussed submitting a 2026 Neighborhood Matching Grant application focused on continued improvements to the Hiroshima Peace Garden within the Gresham Japanese Garden.

Discussion included installation of three Akebono cherry trees, removal of existing Norway maples, garden renovation work, landscaping improvements, and volunteer labor opportunities associated with the project.

The Board agreed that the proposed Neighborhood Matching Grant should remain separate from the pending Kubota Garden Foundation grant application to avoid duplication of funding requests.

Motion: To apply for a Neighborhood Matching Grant to install three Akebono cherry trees with volunteer and contract labor assistance and to expand and renovate the existing Peace Garden.

Motion made by Sue Protz and seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Jim Buck and Sue Protz will continue development of the grant application and associated project estimates.

Summer Ice Cream Social

The Board discussed hosting a summer neighborhood social event to increase community engagement and encourage participation in the Neighborhood Association.

Discussion included use of the Kyoudou Center, promotional mailings, informational displays highlighting Association accomplishments, opportunities to collect resident contact information, and possible participation by volunteers from the Japanese Garden and bonsai community.

The Board reviewed potential costs associated with ice cream, supplies, and event promotion. Members also discussed requesting use of the City's community activity trailer and lawn games.

Motion: To hold a GBNA Ice Cream Social on July 23, 2026, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM and establish a planning committee to coordinate the event.

Committee members include Marianne Buck, Mary Jean Oliva, Sue Protz, Tamaryn Newton, Cheryl Breeden, and additional volunteers.

Motion was seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Cheryl Breeden reported a current account balance of **\$2,886.88**.

No additional financial activity was reported.

Land Use Report

No formal land use report was presented.

Jim Buck noted that ongoing land use discussions remain limited and no significant neighborhood projects were reported.

Bylaws Review

President Estes reported continued progress on revisions to the Association bylaws.

Discussion included the possibility of establishing a future bylaws review committee consisting of Board members and interested neighborhood residents.

Adjournment

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately **7:56 PM**.