DRAFT MINUTES
Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association
Regular Meeting October 14, 2026 7:00 PM
Gresham Japanese Garden Kyoudou Center and by Zoom

Welcome and Establish Quorum. After difficulty starting Zoom, the President called the meeting to order at 07:16 PM. Quorum was had with 15 members attending, including 4 officers.

Public Comment. No public comment was had.

Approval of Minutes. Minutes of the April 8, 2026 meeting of members and the May 13, 2026 meeting of officers were duly approved by the members and officers respectively.

Alice Busch, Gresham's Emergency Manager.
Kelle Landavazo was the Gresham Emergency Manager for 26 years; she retired. I came on board in January.

Genasys Protect is a national alerting map platform. The state of Oregon has paid for all the counties. https://protect.genasys.com

Gresham Butte is our one wildfire hazard area. We are all still learning how wildfires behave. The Eagle Creek fire is still fresh in mind. We are not out of fire season. The biggest wildfire in my fire district was on Thanksgiving. In winter, trees pull their moisture down into their roots.

Level 1 evacuation notice— we see a hazard in your area— you could be sentinels on the lookout for fire.
Level 2— evacuation may be imminent.
Level 3— we say, go.

In emergency management, we think about all of the possible things that could go wrong.

Law enforcement, not firefighters, do evacuations. Gresham has 7 police officers on duty at any time, so Multnomah County Sheriff, Portland Police, and other law enforcement agencies will show up to help do an evacuation, which is why we have the zones mapped. I will be talking with Gresham Police and about doing some workshops with you and a door-to-door in May, discussing roads and routes out.

The "Great Shakeout" is tomorrow, 10/15 at 10:15. Everyone around the world will practice for an earthquake: stop, drop, cover, and hold on.

The tsunami is not going to come up the river, but the soil around the river is liquifiable and may subside 6 to 9 feet.

Mount Hood is not an extinct volcano. If it did erupt there would be a destructive flow called a lahar along the river valley.

After the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake we would lose a lot of our main roadways. In a serious earthquake the bridges over Johnson Creek aren't going to make it; probably the culverts aren't either.

Along any river you get a liquifaction zone. The tank farm in Linnton is a Tier 2, pre-existing, non-conforming storage facility. It has gasoline, diesel and hazardous materials stored. In the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake the tank farm would sink into the river. The "Tank the Tanks" organization is active on this. There are 72 toxic inhalation hazard sites all along the Columbia. The plumes can move far. Nobody has plume-modeling for all the chemicals together. Some chemical plumes rise, and some sink. We are working on ways to message about protective measures.

After the Cascadia earthquake about 88,000 people will be rendered homeless in Multnomah County, about 4,300 of those will be in Gresham. About 27 people in Gresham will die. Gresham Butte is way better situated than Interlachen.

This earthquake will happen, maybe not in your lifetime. In context, more people die in traffic accidents each year.

Because of bridges and culverts, etc. there are about five "islands' in Gresham that would be unreachable by truck. We need to figure out how to get water and tarps and food to those areas. Knowing about hazardous materials, I expect that people will be evacuating from the northern part of Gresham to the southern part.

Depending on where you live in Gresham, we'll get significant shaking. Ground deformation happens when the water table is close, because the water rises with the shaking. The amount of shaking felt depends on the soil structure. The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) maps show a number of other things like landslide risk. Unlike volcano risk, there's not much advance warning of an earthquake. ShakeAlert gives some short notice warning.

I need help from the community— you— to redesign the booklet, "Gresham's Neighborhood Ready." Getting everyone's name on a list is hard. Here's a Help / OK sign. Take as many as you want to distribute. Put this in your front room. After the earthquake, if everyone is OK, put the OK sign facing out in your front window. Or put the Help side out. The evidence is that neighbors helping neighbors saves far more lives than preparation kits. But protecting head, feet, hands and ears is a good thing. A hard hat, gloves, and a mask. Really, get to know your neighbors.

We'll use the MyGresham app for people to report things down or damaged, after an earthquake or even a winter storm.

Wood frame construction does pretty well during earthquakes. You may not want to live there afterward, but odds are it's not going to kill you. You should get down lower than other things like chairs. Away from windows.

Election of Officers. Thanks to our outgoing Secretary, Tamaryn Newton for her valuable service. Nominations for all the elected officer positions were solicited. The incumbent President Stephen Estes, Vice President Sue Protz, and Treasurer Cheryl Breeden accepted nomination. No other candidates were nominated. The incumbent candidates were reelected by acclamation. The President will re-appoint Jim Buck as the Land Use Director. The board will work on filling the Secretary position.

Reports.
Treasurer, Cheryl Breeden
Our balance in the July 15th statement of our account was $2,396.61. Our August expenses for the Ice Cream Social were $444.50. On September 8th, our grant money of $1,449 was deposited, so our current standing balance is $3,401.11. If anyone has any questions, please let me know.

Land Use Director, Jim Buck
The Schaeffer Run subdivision will be right off the Ambleside natural area, slated to have 110 home sites on about 23 acres. Not a lot of trees will be removed. These are middle housing style homes, fairly dense.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings.
Tomorrow night the Coalition is putting on the second of two candidate forums, online. The first one was last week.

We will probably have Mike Whitely, Gresham Water Director at our next meeting. Subsequently, we'll invite Multnomah County Vector control, about animal disease vectors, e.g. rats. Then maybe have a workshop on putting fine mesh screens on your house vents to prevent embers getting in during a wildfire.

Adjournment. The meeting was duly adjourned at 8:26 PM.