

# Northwest Neighborhood Association General Meeting

Monday, May 6, 2024

The meeting was held at the Kyoudou Center at Main City Park. It was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Kat, Alex, John, Mary, and Barb were present. There were 7 neighbors and community members present.

Kat began with introductions. Chris Fast was not able to be here (he usually handles the technology at our meetings). We managed to set up the zoom, although the sound was pretty quiet so the people on-line were difficult to hear.

Gresham Fire Department Captain Chad Freyer presented information about the Gresham Safety Levy. If passed the levy would fund more firefighters and police, which will decrease response time. He said that over the years the 911 calls have increased 47 percent, but funding has not increased to meet that demand. He said normally when one call comes through and responders are out on that call, another call comes in during that time.

On April 2, 2024, there was a fire call, enlisting all available firefighters. In the meantime, a second call came in (a fire) but there were no rigs/fighters to respond to that call in a timely manner.

Freyer said every dollar collected through this levy will stay in the community, providing much needed services and decreasing response time to emergencies.

A neighbor asked why the police and fire were lumped into the same levy. Freyer said it was a city council decision. Keeping in mind how challenging it is to get levies passed, the decision was made to try to pass a levy that would add funding to both departments.

The City of Gresham's police and fire ratio per capita is lower than other cities that are smaller than Gresham. There has been a rise in shootings and other types of crimes within the city's service area. Even though we might not see this so much in our neighborhoods, there are many areas within the city's service area where crime is high.

A neighbor asked about safety issues at Gresham High school, and if passed, will the levy fund a safety officer at the school? At this time, they don't know if a safety officer would be reinstated at the high school.

## **Jane Foreman with UpRiver Steering Council:**

Jane said they are coming to Gresham and they are looking for two volunteers. The organization supports keeping seniors in their own homes as long as they like, and to keep seniors active in their community.

Jane said she moved to Gresham recently. She said she lost the volunteer activities that she enjoyed within she was in Portland and active with East Side Village.

The “Village Movement” is a group of like-minded people who live in a defined geographic area. They embrace the strategy of bringing services to people’s homes. There are not 350 “villages” active within the United States.

UpRiver Village will be a “spoke” of Villages NW network.

Services provided: transportation is the most needed service, technology help/support, social activities, cultural activities, pack/unpack (moving), light housework, light yard work, etc. (Three areas that are not provided: Do not provide direct physical care, do not provide financial advice, recurring services like weekly housecleaning or lawn mowing)

Three ways this organization is different: 1. Volunteers that the seniors will see will be their friends and neighbors. 2. Provide an extensive array of services. 3. Volunteers are available every day of the year nearly every hour of the day.

Services will not be available for about a year. Currently looking for an outreach coordinator and a communications coordinator (volunteers).

Question: Do volunteers go through a background check? Yes.

Vetted vendors: trusted vendors that can be recommended to seniors.

Ages that are served: 55 and older and disabled community members of any age.

Expectation for volunteer availability: Jane said that there’s usually enough volunteers to cover the community’s needs (so a volunteer spends as much time as they are able).

The first community meeting will be later this month as a social.

Jane is in communication with someone from the Gresham Senior Center and hopes to make a presentation there soon.

February 5, 2024, minute approval: approved.

**Tree Committee Chair update:** Alex said the next meeting will be later this month. Goals will be discussed for the following year.....grant opportunities, planting trees. Alex said the committee is interested in having a voice at the city level. He added that he is looking for more committee members.

Kat said that the Nwana created the Tree Committee and the chair position last year in June. Technically we would hold the election for that position at this meeting. Kat proposed that we hold that election during our annual election meeting in the fall.

John Bildso made a **motion that we hold the annual Tree Committee Chair election during our annual board election meeting in October.** Pete Forsyth seconded the motion. In favor: 10 in favor. Opposed: Zero

Kat made a **motion that Alex Kemp continue to serve as the Tree Committee Chairperson until the October 2024 election.** It was seconded by Trevor Todd.

In favor: 10 Opposed: 0

Kat said the Adopt-a-Park event in early April went well. About 20 volunteers showed up to help pick up sticks and do general clean-up.

Land use report: John said there isn't a lot of new development going on in the neighborhood right now. He said Home Forward is still working on building a mixed-use development near CAL on Civic Drive.

Treasurer's report: \$387.04 On-Point balance

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.