

Northwest Neighborhood Association

General Meeting

Monday, May 11, 2026

The meeting was held at the Kyoudou Center at Main City Park. It was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

We began with introductions. The NRNA board was present, as well as three presenters and 5 neighbors in-person, no neighbors attended online.

Chief Hairston with the Gresham Fire Department began with an update about the fire department.

- ◆ Gresham has six stations, but a city this size should have about 12. He said as it is now, he has to rely on other fire departments to help when needed. He said ultimately, he would like the department to be big enough/staffed enough to handle big emergencies. We are in Station 71's boundaries.

- ◆ He shared maps with visuals of different types of calls and the density of the calls within the city over a three-year time period. Cooking related fires are among the highest calls received. Twenty-five percent of the fires responded to are intentional, arson related fires.

- ◆ Hairston said younger people apply to work for the Gresham Fire Department because of all of the training and learning opportunities in our area. Fire fighters like working in busy stations, which Gresham's is. He said the current workforce is fairly young, so there is more training necessary.

- ◆ Station 72 on Kane was recently remodeled. He said the life-span of a fire truck is about 15 years, and each one costs about one-million dollars.

- ◆ Strategic focus: 1. Stabilize and strengthen command and organizational capacity 2. Improve response resiliency as call volume continues to rise 3. Expand prevention and community-focused initiatives.

- ◆ 2026 is about sustainability, readiness, and resilience.

- ◆ Backyard burning is only allowed on property 1-acre or larger, permit required. If we observe someone illegally burning then we should call non-emergency to report it, or make contacts through the MyGresham app.

- ◆ The department is putting out a newsletter via YouTube each month educating/informing residents about what's going on with the department and rules and regulations.

- ◆ A neighbor asked about wildfire prevention in Gresham. The department is working on a wildfire prevention plan. The forecast is that this summer will be a hot summer, more risk of wildfires. During wildfire season that begins now and extends through December. The season has been growing longer as temperatures rise. More information will be shared with the community soon regarding plans for evacuations, etc.

Keren Standley, a Backyard Habitat program volunteer, made a presentation about native plants in neighborhoods.

◆ Why are native plants important? They are part of the balance of nature; they help sustain native wildlife. A habitat is an area and resource used by a species to survive.

◆ Why create a backyard habitat?

1. Erosion control
2. Stormwater management
3. Carbon sequestering
4. Lower maintenance
5. Creates shade and lower temperatures
6. Help restore populations of native pollinators
7. It adds beauty to a space

By adding or restoring habitat:

1. More wildlife
2. Biodiversity
3. Less watering
4. Improved soil conditions
5. Providing a wayside for native insects, birds, and mammals

Backyard habitat program:

1. Habitat technicians come out to assess your yard and make recommendations
2. Website has lots of helpful info on planting plans, landscape professional, etc.
3. There are three different levels of certification, silver, gold, and platinum

Keren shared slides of an unfunded park near her house that she and others are making into a certified backyard habitat.

Treasurer's report: \$364.00

We will be scheduling an adopt-a-park cleanup soon.

Because we don't have a quorum we can't approve the January 26, 2026 general meeting minutes. We will plan to do it at our next meeting.

Our annual picnic in the park is scheduled for August 6.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.