

SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING
Thursday, April 17, 2025
7:00PM – KYOUDOU CENTER AT GRESHAM JAPANESE GARDEN / ONLINE VIA ZOOM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions - Group

Quorum established. Meeting called to order by President Kathy Gardenhire at 7:02pm. Approximately 15 members in attendance in person and remote with two guests.

2. Meeting Minutes - Brandon

Draft meeting minutes from SWNA Jan 16, 2025 general meeting were presented for approval. Motion to approve without amendments by Dana Duval, seconded by Monica Ford and passed.

3. Treasurer's Report - Dana

Treasury balance of \$259.51. No expenditures last quarter. A neighborhood matching grant application will be submitted for the July 24 information fair and ice cream social.

4. Guest Speaker – Denise Lopez, Climate Action Analyst and Shannon Martin, Solid Waste and Sustainability Manager from City of Gresham

Denise and Shannon presented on the Gresham Climate Action plan which was passed in 2024. There are six chapters including emphasis on climate preparedness, heat strategy, debris management and wildfire preparedness.

Heat Strategy development planning is underway due to the heat dome occurring a few years ago. Ideally more tree canopies would be created and there are a couple tree grants in progress. However, \$4M in funding is no longer available for an urban forestry grant due to recent Inflation Reduction Act orders.

Renewable diesel tanks will be installed at the city Operations Center in order to serve as our own supplier and to have capacity during ice storms when it may be difficult to obtain fuel deliveries.

There will be a Climate Action Journey workshop on June 8 in Main City Park with many education opportunities based on extreme events that have occurred historically. Pet emergency preparedness, Neighbor Ready info, food/water/sanitation emergency kits.

A debris management plan is in effect during events such as snow/ice storms or earthquakes in our area. Contractors are arranged and ready to move when an event happens. Gresham is the only agency in the metro area to fully complete planning for debris management so far.

A defensible space preparedness code is being considered. Information was shared regarding filtering your home's air from smoke on your furnace/heat pump. Work continues on new groundwater supply tanks as part of the new water project.

Residents can contribute to the climate plan by contacting city council or staff with ideas or concerns.

The city does not have a formal position on residents purchasing generators for emergency power. Consider your needs during an outage, such as important medical devices.

Gresham Butte NA recently had an assistant fire marshal present on emergency preparedness. Some mitigation recommendations included placing ¼" hardware cloth on vents and gutters to keep fire embers from incursion, keep bushes five feet away from your house and no taller than five feet high. Firewise USA has an Oregon chapter and more information about wildfire preparedness can be found online.

5. Land Use Update – Kathy

No new land use applications have been submitted. Butler Creek middle housing plans have adjusted the development lot sizing from 8,000 square foot single family homes to partitioned and subdivided lots per middle housing regulations.

SW Phyllis Place cul-de-sac development – middle housing application for three lots with six homes expected in total on the site.

A newer resident living at the existing home at SW Linnemann and McKinley commented about the new Pleasant Valley development surrounding their property and increased traffic and parking concerns. Many trees were removed and cars are using street parking nearby on Linnemann because there are more vehicles than driveway and garage space available in these townhomes.

Carl Clinton shared information regarding the city's street renaming (MISC-25-00038) for the existing Butler Road at the new development where Butler/Binford now will extend east in front of the elementary school past where SW Rodlun Road intersects. The Butlers and descendants have resided on this property since homesteading in 1865, including a heritage oak tree and cemetery. There is a public hearing at City Hall on May 6. The Clintons have submitted a statement against the proposed renaming of the current segment of Butler to SW 39th Street.

Monica Ford shared that SW Binford Lake Parkway was originally named SW 19th Drive so there may be some precedent about renaming processes.

6. Future Meetings

Dana Duval - July 24th will be the Butler Creek Park information fair and ice cream social. Last year's event was successful with beautiful weather. Volunteers are needed for the event, positions including ice cream servers, setup and takedown, games/activities chaperone and manning the SWNA information booth. Invitations to organizations will be going out, we hope to have police and fire departments as well as Metro recycling and medication turn in at the event.

An application for Neighborhood Matching Grants will be submitted when the program opens next month. The funds are matched with in-kind labor from volunteers. Contact Dana if you know someone in a community organization for setting up a booth at the fair (907-230-6543).

Amy McCoy – Neighborhood Garage sale will be the same weekend as the ice cream social, Thursday to Sunday July 24-27. Social media and word of mouth will spread word of the event, signups via a QR code for whatever days neighbors would like to participate. Amy creates a map with the participating addresses and what days they are holding their sale. If anyone has a connection for sign makers to assist in recovering old election signs to use for publicizing, contact Amy. Volunteers are needed to create and post signs throughout the neighborhood.

There was discussion on whether the portable toilet in the park for the Thursday info fair could potentially be left in place but it is generally picked up the next day. A booth will be setup at the information fair as well. For information: text/call 503-407-4403 or email amymccoy@gmail.com.

7. Old Business

Upriver Village senior support program is starting July 1st. Program coordinator Jane Foreman presented at a previous SWNA meeting. The subscription program provides support to seniors, part of a national movement to aid aging in their own homes.

8. New Business

Brian Jacoby provided an update regarding illegal motorcycle use in the neighborhood. This has improved but is still occurring multiple times a week with wheelies and speeding. In particular SW 30th between Pleasantview and Willow Parkway are a hot spot. GPD Officer Skeehan has been responding.

New utility poles are being installed at Rodlun and Butler with the new street alignments but the lines have not been moved to new poles yet.

The next regular meeting is October 16, 2025 at the Kyoudou Center and online option via Zoom.

Motioned, seconded and approved to adjourn at 8:24pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandon Harer
SWNA Secretary