

Rockwood Neighborhood Association

March 17, 2025 6 p.m., Rockwood Village Community Center

13 residents, 3 speakers

At 6:10 p.m. the Meeting was called to Order. President Nicewood introduced Jason Naumann as the new Vice-President. John Nelson has resigned from the Board.

Because of tutoring in the Community Room until 6 p.m. on weekdays, the meeting time needs to be changed. Discussion was to change the meeting time from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. An agreement was to change the meeting time to 6:30 p.m. from now on.

Kim Jacobs made a motion to approve the November 18, 2024 minutes. Janice Henderson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Sgt. Tommy Walker, Gresham Police Department gave an update on the Gresham Police Department. He has been with the Department for 18 years. He has attended lots of events, deals with serious crimes, traffic, guns, violence, works on evictions, thefts, and over doses.

The number one focus for the Police Department is hiring more staff. The current budget is for 135 positions. Currently we are just over 100 positions. Seven Officers and one Sgt. are on any evening shift. Six Community Safety Specialists do follow up, collect evidence, and take lower priority calls. Two Safety Specialists are stationed at the Rockwood Police Station. The hours at the Rockwood Police Station are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The second focus for the Department is Juvenile Gun Violence. Six Officers and two Sgts. are assigned to this area of focus. They are coordinating with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and Portland Police.

Currently the Police Department has one NET Officer, and one School Resource Officer for all Schools in Gresham. The Behavioral Health Unit is paid for by a

grant. An Officer is partnered with a mental health worker from Cascadia to work on calls that require more time than a traditional call.

Another focus is on auto theft. The Department coordinates with the Portland Police.

It takes 18 months for a Police Officers to be fully trained to go solo from the time of hiring.

The Youth Department in the City of Gresham works with 30 non-profits to focus on activities for youth. Sgt. Walker goes to their meetings every month for coordination and connection with the City of Gresham.

Rockwood Village is adding more security cameras to their property.

Sgt. Walker stated that these cameras will be connected to the Gresham Police Department's surveillance network, and he also invited any community members with security cameras on their property to connect them to the GPD surveillance network. No further details were given regarding that initiative.

Residents living at the intersection of 190th and Yamhill mentioned cars doing "cookies" at the intersection. They asked if the Police Department would be willing to put cameras at that intersection. Sgt. Walker said that they would have to coordinate it with the City of Gresham Traffic Department.

At 6:40 p.m. Aileen Santoyo, Deputy District Attorney/MAAP Rockwood spoke on what she does as a Deputy District Attorney. She focuses on youth and health. She works out of City Hall on Thursdays. She can help you if you are a victim of a crime, help you with victim rights, and with restraining orders. She also keeps in touch with probation officers.

The East County Courthouse handles parking tickets, and misdemeanor cases if the person is not in custody.

At 6:52 p.m. Kathryn O. Kohn, MSLIS/ Rockwood Library Administrator spoke on the refresh at the Rockwood Library. The Rockwood Library will be closed for four months. The last day the Rockwood Library will be open is April 21st. The refresh is being paid for by the Bond passed in November 2022. The Rockwood Library

will be getting new bookshelves, new chairs, new tables, new carpet, a sink in the Makerspace, new 3D Printer, new engraver, and A/V equipment in the Community Room for hybrid meetings. Residents are encouraged to use the Midland, Gresham, and Troutdale Libraries during the closure. The phone number for information during the closure is 503-998-5123.

The East County Library at 223rd and Division plans to be open mid 2026.

Citizen Comments: Scott Muilenbury spoke on the difference of his car and home insurance since he lives in Gresham, but has a Portland zip code. The insurance companies determine the insurance rates based on your zip code, not your street address. He said that his car insurance would be \$300 lower and his home insurance would be \$250 lower if the insurance company went by his Gresham street address. There was a discussion following about the City Council petitioning the Federal Post Office to change the West Gresham addresses to a Gresham zip code 97030. The Federal Post Office denied the petition because they said that the Gresham Post Office is not big enough to accommodate the over 20,000 households that are affected. The Gresham Neighborhoods that are affected are Rockwood, Wilkes East, North Gresham, and Centennial. Jason Naumann stated that it is important to consider the vehicle related crime in Rockwood, which was discussed in this meeting by Sgt. Walker, it is not accurate to suggest all rate determination impacts are from Portland neighborhoods. There is no guarantee that changing the zip code of Rockwood would not bring elevated insurance rates to 97030.

Ernest Connect spoke that his insurance rates are going up because of auto theft. He had a motorcycle stolen at Rockwood Village.

Jason Naumann would like to propose an email newsletter for the Rockwood Neighborhood Association. Concerns were brought up about security. The focus would be on keeping the residents informed between meetings on activities going on in the Rockwood Neighborhood.

At 7:58 Anthony Crosman made a motion to adjourn. Jason Naumann seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.