



Wilkes East Neighborhood Association

Public Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:09 by Kris Freiermuth. This Board Meeting was held at the Moose Lodge.

Roll Call: Kris Freiermuth, President; Gail Voge, Secretary; Billy Simmons, Treasurer.

Kris Freiermuth, President

Kris thanked everyone that delivered newsletters and asked if anyone would like to volunteer to deliver newsletters. We will be voting on WENA Board members Kris asked if anyone would like to be on the WENA Board.

Speakers for this meeting will be Bill Smith, Gresham Deputy Police Chief and Steve Fancher, Assistant City Manager for Flood Safety District and Bond Measure.

Motion to approve the August WENA Public meeting minutes. Motion was seconded and approved.

Motion to pay the printer of the WENA November Newsletter. Motion was seconded and approved.

Bill Smith, Gresham Deputy Police Chief

Bill gave us his background of working 27 years being a Police Officer.

He talked about the staffing problems that they have right now. They have hired new people, but they need to be trained which takes time.

Bill discussed the Safety levy that did not get passed on the 2023 election.

There are 2 Police Officers that are assigned to the Behavioral Health Unit. They are paired with mental health clinicians and Police officer to co-respond to 911 calls that involve mental health concerns.

City of Gresham has been using drones to help with crime.

Steve Fancher, Gresham Assistant City Manager

Flood Safety District & Bond Measure – There are 27 miles levee systems along the Columbia River. These levees do not meet the Corp of Engineers standards. The levees protect residents, Portland Airport, businesses, and 2,000 acres of natural habitat and open spaces. The solution is to raise the levees and improve floodwalls in the most vulnerable areas. Upgrade pumps and other aging infrastructure. Increase resilience with



natural flood protection solutions. Congress authorized nearly \$100 million for needed improvements, so long as we provide a local match. Key steps are to issue a modest bond measure to upgrade infrastructure – anticipated for May 2024. Stand up a flood control district to deliver and oversee operations and improvements. Fund operations and maintenance. This is not a City of Gresham project it is a Multnomah County project.

Election of Officers

The Board members now are Kris Freiermuth, President; Gail Voge, Secretary; Billy Simmons, Treasurer; Bob Lundbom, Website & Newsletter; and Greg Hartung, Land Use.

Add Eric and Robyn Elkay which will share a member at large seat.

Motion to keep existing officers and new member at large. The motion was 2nd and approved.

The WENA Board does not meet in December.

Motion for the adjournment of this meeting. It was seconded and approved.

Adjourn 8:07

Next Public meeting, March 11, 2024

Next Board Meeting, Monday January 8, 2024

Website: www.wilkeseastna.org

All Board Meetings start at 6:30 pm.

All Public Meetings start at 7:00 pm.

Until further notice all meetings will be held via Zoom.