



WENA GENERAL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

11 AUGUST 2025

In person, at the Moose Lodge, 16411 NE Halsey.

Call to Order	Kris	7:01
Roll Call of the Board: Kris (president), Bob (media), Claudette (treasurer), Janet (secretary) were present.	Kris	2 min.
Kris introduced the first speaker, Judy Han.	Kris	1 min.
JUDY HAN	Judy	17 min.

REPLACING THE OTTER IN NADAKA

- Introduction: Judy Han, president of Gresham Outdoor Public Art (GOPA) and the non-profit group, Gresham Arts Festival; co-owner of the Sunny Han restaurant for 30 years.
- Rip Caswell (<https://caswellsculpture.com/>) is the bronze artist who created the otter and raven sculptures. At the unveiling, the children in attendance named the otter Slider, and the raven Seeker (check).
- Everyone was heartbroken about the theft of the otter, which happened in shortly before May 3, 2024.
- The original otter was installed in 2017, and nothing happened until 2024. We can't be afraid to put art out in public.
- \$6800 to have it made again.
- Judy is proposing a new approach to mounting the otter – cement and blocks and bolts and water.
- Judy will ensure that the new otter will return to Nadaka rather than somewhere else. She has to persuade the city. They install the Otter because it's on city property.
- We may get cams to watch the park.
- After it's installed, it belongs to the city. The city has insurance, but the otter was not of high enough value to insure.
- There will also be a plaque near the sandbox.
- The new otter will look a little different – a little more mature.
- There will be an event to unveil the new otter.
- Look for an article in the Gresham Outlook by Chris Keizer.

Kris introduced the next speaker, Carol Rulla.

CAROL RULLA	Carol	28 min.
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THE NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION

- Introduction: Carol is the co-president of the Neighborhood Coalition with Jim Buck. The N.C. is made up of all the Neighborhood Associations in Gresham.

- Because of our discussion about the otter, Carol will make a motion to support restoring the otter to Nadaka in tomorrow night's N.C. meeting.
- Carol got involved with the N.C. 21 years ago (2005), because there was a plan for an apartment building to go in in the neighborhood that would have been a bad fit.
- An ENN (Early Neighborhood Notification) was required, which was a fairly new idea in Gresham. An ENN invites the nearby neighbors of a new development to a meeting for discussion.
- The meeting was going to be waived but the neighbors got wind of it.
- 60 people attended the meeting at City Hall.
- The project was canceled.
- For Carol, one thing led to another, and she was elected to board.
- At the second N.C. meeting, she was elected VP.
- In her neighborhood, there are lots of land use issues because there's a lot of open land.
- 250 townhomes on farmland are going in.
- Working with the city, she created the ENN training.
- The N.C. meetings are beneficial to all Gresham residents because they can ask questions and discuss things going on in the city. The N.C. provides feedback to the city about land use.
- Developers were getting any kind of variances they wanted.
- N.C. advocated that there should be a good reason for variances, and squeezing more houses into odd-shaped flag lots should not be allowed.
- N.C. members complained about flag lots with rear of house 5' from back of lot, got code changed to 10'.
- Current issue: Middle housing allows quad houses and town houses on any lot.
- The city has lost staff, it's far less than it used to be.
- Communications are not a strength.
- N.C. works with the city to advocate innovations, such as My Gresham.
- During the pandemic, meetings were on Zoom, and public comment had to be written, rather than oral on Zoom. N.C. pressured the mayor and staff to allow oral testimony on Zoom and succeeded.
- NC sponsors mayoral and council candidate forums and discussion of ballot measures.
- N.C. sponsors the Repair Cafe and Clothing Swap.
- N.C. invites speakers from city and county government.

THE FIRE DISTRICT

- This is currently the biggest issue in Gresham.
- Gresham is bearing most of the cost of fire service for other nearby cities. They need to pay 87% more, which they aren't able to fund.
- One proposal is to have Gresham, Troutdale, Fairview, and Wood Village join together to form Fire District 10.
- Response times are very poor in Wood Village and Fairview. To address that, Clackamas Fire District may build a fire station between Wood Village and Fairview, which would be a bad thing for Gresham. The two fire stations (?) would not have enough fire fighters to deal with a structure fire. Gresham would have to lend more fire fighters and Gresham doesn't have the funds.
- If the district were to be approved, it's not certain what the tax rate would be, but we in Gresham wouldn't need a levy again.

Kris introduced the next speaker, Janet Unruh

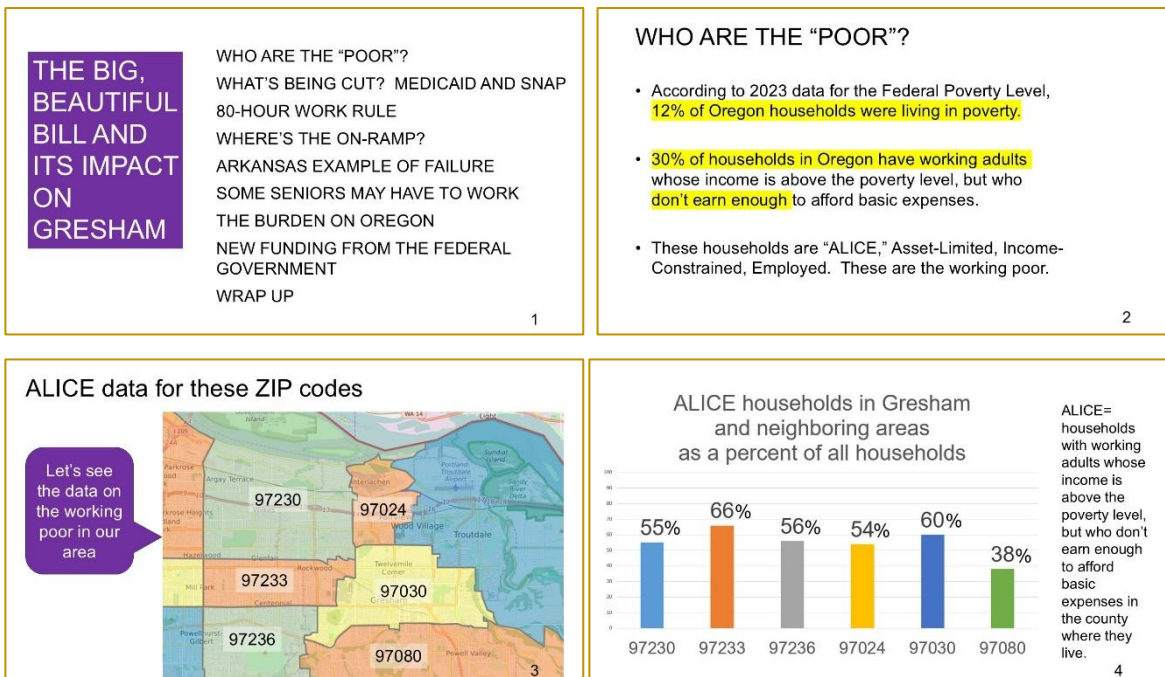
JANET UNRUH

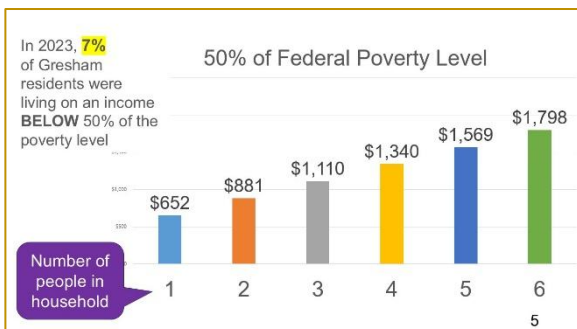
Janet

30 min.

THE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL AND ITS IMPACT ON GRESHAM

Note: Janet is the WENA board secretary. The following slides represent her presentation to the meeting.





WHAT'S BEING CUT? MEDICAID AND SNAP

MEDICAID
Medicaid will be cut by over \$1 trillion over the next 10 years, leaving nearly 12 million people without coverage

SNAP*
SNAP food stamps will be cut by \$230 billion over 10 years— about a 20% reduction
This will affect more than 40 million people

*SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

SNAP AND FOOD BANKS

The SNAP cutbacks could impact 700,000 Oregonians who depend on the program for food security.

In Multnomah County, 142,603 people will be affected.

In Oregon and Southwest Washington visits to food banks increased from about 860,000 to 2.5 million in the past five years.

MEDICAID

In Multnomah County, 35.9% of the population are Medicaid recipients

NOTE: Medicaid pays providers directly. Recipients don't receive any money from Medicaid.

The bill could lead to at least \$1 billion in Medicaid cuts to Oregon between 2027 and 2029

100,000 Oregonians could lose Medicaid coverage (some estimates are as high as 200,000)

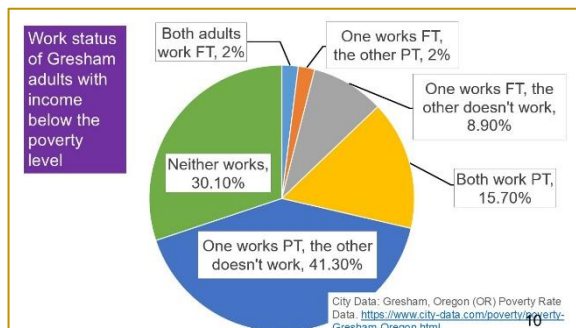
80-HOUR WORK RULE

Begins at the end of next year, on December 31, 2026

SNAP and Medicaid recipients must work at least 80 hours per month:

- Work at a job
- Volunteer for an approved agency
- Participate in a work program
- Take part in an educational program
- Get an exemption*

*Pregnant women, people with serious medical conditions, tribal members, and parents or caregivers of a dependent child aged 13 or younger—or with a disability—are exempt.



WHERE'S THE ON-RAMP?

If the federal government cuts subsidies that people* rely upon, they seem to expect them to get a job.

Possible drawbacks in this approach:

- Training
- Self-discipline
- Work ethic
- Self-esteem
- Lack of jobs

On-ramps (programs) are needed to help people make the transition.

*Excluding people who are exempt

Pain But No Gain: Arkansas' Failed Medicaid Work-Reporting Requirements Should Not Be a Model

Policy Took Away Health Coverage, Added Stress and Red Tape to People's Lives

AUGUST 8, 2023 | BY LAURA HARKER

Source: <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/pain-but-no-gain-arkansas-failed-medicaid-work-reporting-requirements-should-not-be-a-model>

QUOTES FROM THE ARTICLE

Work-reporting requirements **do not increase employment** but are very effective at kicking people off coverage due to excessive red tape and paperwork.

In the first seven months of the Arkansas Medicaid work-reporting requirement, 18,000 people — or **1 in 4 of those subject to the requirement — lost coverage**. Only a very small share regained coverage the next year.

[The assumptions] ignore the research that shows that most people on Medicaid **are already working** or would meet an exemption.

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SOME SENIORS MAY HAVE TO WORK

The 80-hour work rule applies to seniors — unless they qualify for an exemption*.

For SNAP, the BBB raises the age limit for work requirements from 55 to 64.

Medicaid recipients are also required to work until age 64.

*People with serious medical conditions are exempt. Other exemptions for seniors is TBD—such as caring for disabled relatives or children under 13 if they are not dependents.

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WHAT ABOUT THAT TAX BREAK?

How much will seniors actually save with the \$6,000 deduction?

- 12% bracket saves about \$720 per year.
- 22% bracket saves about \$1,320 per year.
- If you don't owe federal income tax currently, you won't save anything from this deduction.

The White House estimates that 88% of seniors will pay no federal income tax on Social Security benefits (up from 64% currently) due to the combined effect of all deductions.

Source: <https://grantsforseniors.org/one-big-beautiful-bill-50-questions-and-answers/>

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THE BURDEN ON OREGON

The BBB puts a heavy burden on Oregon to accommodate the changes.

The state must **figure out how to apply the new rules and manage the cascading effects** of cuts to Medicaid and SNAP on other programs.

Oregon must also **update or build new computer systems and establish new institutional processes**.

Most concerning of all, the state will be **forced to distribute less funding** to people who need it most.

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IMPACT ON OREGON – MEDICAID

Loss of federal funding

\$16 billion over 10 years due to decline in Medicaid enrollment

\$11.7 billion over 10 years due to new restrictions on local provider taxes

New expenses

\$100 million or more due to more frequent eligibility checks

\$5 billion over 10 years due to new limits on federal funding for emergency care for undocumented immigrants

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IMPACT ON OREGON – SNAP

Loss of federal funding

Oregon may be required to pay as much as 25% of its SNAP costs, or \$425 million per year.

Oregon will have to pay 75% of the SNAP administrative costs, up from 50%. Cost is \$76.3 million.

New expenses

\$15.7 million penalty was assessed for exceeding the national average SNAP payment error rate for 2 consecutive years.

\$7.8 million allocated toward corrective actions and the remaining funds are reserved for future liabilities.

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NEW FUNDING FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- BBB legislation provides \$200 million for states in FY2026 for changes to Medicaid.
- It will be divided among all 50 states and territories, averaging just **\$4 million per state**.
- The BBB also provides \$15 million in 2026 for implementation of changes to states' computer systems to support Medicaid cost-sharing requirements.
- It will be split among the 50 states and the territories. **Oregon might receive \$1–2 million at most.**

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READ THE ARTICLE!



<https://www.wilkesastna.org/node/3749>



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IMKE SELLIER

8 min.

SNOWCAP

- Imke described the SnowCap services for folks in need: food, clothing, and school supplies. Families can make an appointment and get clothing and supplies once per month. They can get food twice per month. They spend time with families and document their needs so that they can be anticipated.
- SnowCap has been fortunate to open a new location at 17805 SE Stark. See: www.snowcap.org

TREASURER

Claudette 5 min.

- We have \$5040.62 in WENA's account. Some of this will be used for next year's cleanup event.
- We received \$1376 matching grant from the City of Gresham.
- We also received \$725 in donations during the Spring Cleanup.
- \$500 was donated to the Moose Lodge, especially for the purpose of repairing the vandalism that occurred recently.
- **We owed Hush Ink \$366 for printing the newsletters. Claudette made a motion to pay them, and Kris seconded it. All approved.**

LAND USE

Janet (for Greg) 1 min.

- Greg was absent but he reported that there weren't any new developments.

SECRETARY

Janet 1 min.

- We weren't able to approve July's meeting minutes because copies weren't printed.

Meeting adjourned

Kris 8:30 pm