

CPO 12C Cornelius & West Dairy Creek

9-7-23 Meeting Notes

CPO 12C meetings are held to inform citizens on current issues & topics of interest in their community & help them participate in their government. Meetings provide a forum to interact directly with city staff and other public officials. You are invited to join your neighbors. Meetings are scheduled the first Thursday of each month September thru June at 6:30 pm in the Cornelius Library, 1370 N Adair Street, Walters Community Room. If you have a few hours each month & would like to improve your neighborhood & community & their interaction with your government, consider serving on your CPO.

CPO program page <https://washingtoncountyor.gov/oeice/community-participation-organizations>

Community Engagement Program Coordinator [Christina Barboza@washingtoncountyor.gov](mailto:Christina_Barboza@washingtoncountyor.gov)

CPO 12C Volunteers - Joseph Auth (Chair), Sarah Jackson (Vice Chair), Margaret Banks (Secretary)
[CPO 12C cpo12cleadership@gmail.com](mailto:CPO_12C_cpo12cleadership@gmail.com)

1. WELCOME & OPENING COMMENTS (Joseph Auth, Chair CPO 12C)

If you have topics you would like the CPO to consider adding to an agenda, please contact Joseph Auth

2. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE with brief Q&A (Cornelius Police Dept.)

- A reminder that school has started and kids will be waiting for and boarding buses. Busses stop outside of Cornelius on TV Hwy where there is no center divider between the lanes of traffic and both lanes need to stop.
- The audience had several questions, including one about noisy cars, speeding and racing and the crosswalk at East Lane to improve pedestrian safety.
- Coffee with a Cop event on Oct 7, 10am, at Starbucks

3. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS – please check the Cornelius City website for additional information

- Oct 2, City Council Meeting
- Sep 5, Cornelius Council Chambers, decision on expedited annexation located at S. Webb Road approximately 490 feet of public right-of-way
- Cornelius Planning Commission Public Hearing, Sep 26, 7 pm for a Type III design review and conditional use permit application to replace an existing elementary school at 200 N. 14th Ave

4. FEATURE PRESENTATION – Cornelius Fire Levy presented by Peter Brandom, Cornelius City Manager, and Jim Geering, Fire Chief

The current local option levy to support fire services has been in place since 2015. It was renewed by voters in 2019 at \$0.487 per \$1,000 of assessed property value and expires in 2024. If the proposed ballot measure is approved, it would replace the current levy with \$1.461 per

\$1,000 assessed value. For a property assessed at \$250,000, the new levy would amount to an assessment of approximately \$30.41/month or \$365/year. It would help the Fire Dept. meet increased costs and call demand, reduce 911 response times and improve advanced lifesaving medical treatment.

The Cornelius Fire Department has historically been volunteer dependent, but today's professional and family demands have altered volunteer services, making it challenging to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. The responsibilities of fire departments have also expanded to cover wildfires and call volume has increased. In addition, Cornelius has only 0.49 fire fighters per capita, which is low, and Fire Chief Jim Geering also serves as the Fire Chief of Forest Grove. It is difficult for their current staff of seven fire fighters to cover three daily shifts.

Between grant funding and the proposed levy, the goal is to provide adequate staffing to meet the needs of the community and improve response times efficiently.

If the levy passes, it will take effect July 1, 2024.