



## MINUTES FOR BEE CITY USA - ASHLAND MEETING

January 27, 2021

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Present today:** Kristina Lefever (Chair), Nancy Appling (Vice-Chair), Lorrie Kaplan (Subcommittee member), Leslie Edridge (Parks Commissioner), Albert Pepe (Subcommittee member), Rachel Dials (Recreation Superintendent), Pat Nichols (Citizen), Libby VanWyhe (Staff Liaison)

### I. CALL TO ORDER, CHECK-INS, AND WELCOME

- Meet new appointment, Commissioner Leslie Edridge  
Commissioner Edridge teaches Environmental Studies at SOU. She has worked with Bee Campus SOU Committee to maintain and create pollinator habitat and has focused on the synergy between landscaping and education.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approve Minutes from previous meeting
- Nancy moved to approve, all voted to approve the minutes.

### III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (10 minutes)

- Pat Nichols, representative of Mountain Meadows HOA

### IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

### V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Proposing a Neonic Resolution to the Parks and Recreation Commission- Kristina  
Having been approved at a previous subcommittee meeting, this proposed resolution needs only to be brought to Director Michael Black, to be discussed. If it meets with Director Black's approval, it can be brought before the Parks Commission. This resolution takes a broad view of pollinator protection from Neonics to ecosystem-informed management of City and Parks properties.
  - Libby will set up a meeting between the committee members and Leslie Edridge and Director Black to discuss the proposed Neonic Resolution.  
Kristina suggests that BCU-A be involved in BCU central's efforts to educate about neonics
- Update on East Main Park and Oak Knoll habitat possibilities - Libby, Kristina (Information)  
APRC is in the early stages of working out the design contract. Michael will share the design timeline with the Commission, and we will wait to hear when it is time for us to provide suggestions on the conceptual design.
  - Rachel will make sure that the Bee City USA team receives information about the timeline for the design of East Main Park, and will provide information about how things are moving forward.  
Patrick is seeking on Audubon certification for Oak Knoll and is working with monitoring and maintenance teams. Patrick is also investigating the Monarchs in the Rough designation for the out of play areas.
- Share map of Bee City USA Ashland approved Pollinator Gardens - Libby

### VI. NEW BUSINESS

- [APRC's Advisory Bodies Handbook](#) as it relates to BCUA - Libby (Discussion)  
Please review this document. We will discuss the finer points that need clarification, or adjustment to our processes, next time.
  
- Annual Report for BCU / Xerces and Annual Renewal fee if any- Kristina (Discussion)
  - Kristina will work on the Annual report, due by the end of February. She may have requests from the other subcommittee members provide information.  
Molly Martin at Bee City USA Central has told us that our Bee City USA Ashland doesn't have to pay an annual renewal fee. Due to current budget considerations, we will decline to pay the renewal fee for 2021.
  
- Goal Setting – (Discussion and Action)
  1. Assist Mountain Meadows and Kestral Park in developing a Pollinator Garden Landscape Plan to be adopted as a model community document. (Kristina)  
This is a proposed collaboration between BCU-A and North Mountain Park, with Mountain Meadows and the new development going in across the street, Kestral Park. Sherri Morgan lives in Kestral Park and has spoken to the HOA president, about joining in. BCU-A would work with these two developments to educate the homeowners and build pollinator habitats in their developments. One of the Mountain Meadows residents is donating a piece of land between Mountain Meadows and Kestral Park, and they want to seed 8 circles of pollinator habitat in that area. Klamath Siskiyou Native Seeds will be involved in revegetating this 1/3 of an acre. We have the opportunity to work with these two communities to build a stretch of pollinator corridor along Bear Creek. There is already momentum from the HOAs so our involvement would be a support role. We would help identify spaces that could be converted to pollinator habitats, provide consultation, give presentations
  2. Research and undertake a Cost-Benefit Analysis of converting public lawns to other landscape approaches with greater biodiversity. (Lorrie)  
We are seeking an approach/direction toward increasing biodiversity in Parks and Rec landscaping. The Committee would seek information about the costs and benefits of different landscaping management decisions. The Commission has already committed to the Ashland Climate and Energy Action Plan, and this is an important benchmark for how Ashland takes responsibility for our emissions and supports more biodiverse habitats. How can this committee understand the factors that are at play in different land management decisions inside APRC? It is important for the Commission to be explicit in the way they integrate the Climate and Energy Action Plan into our work. In this goal, we would consider an approach to finding out the costs and benefits of achieving and maintaining different diverse landscape configurations.
  3. Develop HOA partnerships: Identify a list of HOAs that BCUA might engage with around use of public spaces, plant lists, etc.  
This goal is being removed and incorporated as a future extension of Goal #1.
  4. Adopt the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, by asking the Mayor to make a proclamation and taking on two of their suggested action items in 2021. (Libby)  
This is a somewhat symbolic designation, in which the Mayor would commit to giving a proclamation, and the Bee City USA subcommittee would promise to undertake two additional goals from the suggested actions listed on the Monarch Pledge website. Some of the suggested actions are things that this group does already, so it wouldn't be difficult to attain this designation. However, making more public statements and then filling out more annual reports, would be quite a lot of work.
  5. 2021 Ashland Pollinator Garden Tour. Plan and offer the event, and/or to effectively run a virtual educational event if necessary.  
We now have 76 designated pollinator gardens in the town of Ashland. How will the pandemic impact the proposed pollinator tour? If the COVID health and safety restrictions are still in effect, and

APRC has to “ensure” social distancing and masks, then the tour will have to take place virtually. The Master Gardeners are planning a garden tour in the spring, and it will be filmed by a videographer and their tour will take place virtually. If we chose NOT to do our Pollinator Garden Tour in 2021, we could offer to be a co-sponsor of the tour that is already in the works. Could we provide a list of some interested BCUA approved gardens to the master Gardeners, and ask them to help promote the certification program?

Results of Goal Setting Vote:

The two goals adopted by the Bee City USA subcommittee for 2021 are:

- Assist Mountain Meadows and Kestral Park in developing a Pollinator Garden Landscape Plan
- Research and undertake a Cost-Benefit Analysis of converting public lawns to other landscape approaches

VII. OTHER ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kristina speaking as a representative of Pollinator Project Rogue Valley, would like committee members and friends to help with an idea. PPRV would like to be involved in the habitat restoration after the Alameda fire. Kristina is reaching out to anyone in the valley who has garden plants, seedlings or plants that need to be divided. She is asking that people get ready to share their plants with home owners who experienced devastation due to the fire. Next fall, PPRV hopes to host several plant swaps and donation events.

VIII. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

April 28<sup>th</sup> 2:00-3:30

- Libby will set April 28<sup>th</sup> 2:00-3:30 for our next meeting date, create a zoom link and initiate the public meeting process.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Libby will set up a meeting between the committee members and Leslie Eldridge and Director Black to discuss the proposed Neonic Resolution.
- Rachel will make sure that the Bee City USA team receives information about the timeline for the design of East Main Park, and will provide information about how things are moving forward.
- Kristina will work on the Annual report, due by the end of February. She may have requests from the other subcommittee members provide information.
- Libby will set April 28<sup>th</sup> 2:00-3:30 for our next meeting date, create a zoom link and initiate the public meeting process.