



AGENDA FOR BEE CITY USA - ASHLAND MEETING

April 28, 2021

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 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), Libby VanWyhe (Staff Liaison)

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve Minutes from previous meeting
Albert moves to approve, Leslie seconds, all approved.
2. Review Action Items from previous meeting

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Open Forum
No public participation, today. However, the subcommittee discussed that there are members of the public who are concerned about herbicide use around the Greenway.
Albert discussed that there are certain properties where it is unclear who has ownership and responsibility, and which agencies might use herbicide along the Greenway.
The Alameda fire started on APRC Land, but the impacts move through multiple jurisdictions.
 Libby will try to get the committee a property ownership map for the area where the fire started and the Greenway. Seeking info about County vs. City jurisdiction, and abutting private ownership. RVCOG is involved in the restoration initiative, and they might have access to the maps, because they are the lead in dealing with fire remediation.

IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Kristina mentions an email communication from Bee City USA Central. BCU and the Xerces society have made funding available for disaster remediation. They have up to \$1,000 available to Bee Cities or Bee Campuses that have experienced impacts. The grant application seems to be a simple process.
The question is whether we are interested in setting a goal and going after this money.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Working Group #1 Updates: Assist Mountain Meadows and Kestral Park in developing a Pollinator Garden Landscape Plan - Kristina (Information, Discussion)
Nancy and Kristina had a meeting with 10 people from Mountain Meadows, and they had a lovely tour around the Mountain Meadows community. They are interested in how we can support, and we are interested in seeing what they are going to do.
Committee members have started to discuss pollinator habitat continuity northward from North Mountain Park. Initial contact has been made with Mountain Meadows, Kestral, RiverWalk HOA,

~~Quiet Village~~, Verde Village. All the people they have talked to are enthusiastic about native plants and the goals of Bee City USA. Several existing homeowners are BCU-A certified gardens. If the entire area is going to unify around this effort and seek designation, then Molly Martin with Xerces should be brought into the conversation.

Mountain Meadows is taking out 8 feet of turf out at the sidewalk on North Mountain Ave.

No specific goal or deliverable has been identified yet.

We are looking for a map of property ownership in this area. Including the HOAs and the Lord Property.

Nancy will ask the planning department for the land ownership and HOA's around Mountain Meadows.

Eventually, we would like to have a meeting of HOA representatives.

2. Working Group #2 Updates: Research and undertake a Cost-Benefit Analysis of converting public lawns to other landscape approaches - Lorrie (Information, Discussion)

This working group has not met yet.

Lorrie would like to more people to partner with her in the working group for this goal. In the interest of having more diverse landscapes, instead of an abundance of lawns. Lorrie would like to do a cost benefit analysis comparing lawns with diverse native landscapes. Wants to analyze different landscapes and the variety of different land management practices.

Lorrie would like an APRC staff person to discuss the possible approaches. Lorrie would like to hear from Xerces about whether any research exists for land management in climates like ours.

Leslie suggested possibly interfacing with Lomakatsi, to see if they have resources in riparian restoration or estimates for land management costs.

Objective to reduce water use, fire-wise, pollinator friendly and possible to test low-water landscape planning at the Grove garden.

Libby suggests that if we are seeking to really identify cost, we will need to describe potential initial and final habitat conditions. These kind of land management changes are often meet resistance because they are assumed to be too expensive. There is a lack of evidence and a tendency to assume what kinds of habitat conditions someone proposing. A scientific approach and transparency about initial and final conditions would help these conversations.

Leslie suggests that we just undertake tangible projects and see what happens. Kristina suggests doing a practice at the Grove Garden. Work on this would help show us what it takes to bring a garden bed to a low-water, native condition.

Albert and Leslie are interested in incorporating Ethnobotany and Traditional Ecological knowledge into the discussion.

Lorrie will reach out to the subcommittee and set a meeting to kick off working group #2.

3. Proposed Neonic Resolution for City of Ashland - Libby (Information, Discussion)

Before we can schedule a meeting with Michael Black, the Admin team has requested that staff complete research into the supply chains that APRC uses for plants and seeds. Staff are reaching out to all our plant and seed suppliers, requesting information about neonics.

Once staff have completed the research into our plant and seed suppliers, Libby will get a meeting scheduled to discuss the proposed neonic resolution with Michael Black.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Dead bumble bees - Kristina (Information, Discussion)

Kristina was contacted by a young woman who noticed a lot of dead bumble bees and native bees along the bridge along Ashland Street. She found a whole bunch of bees over several days in a row. She got in touch with ODA, to do a test for chemicals, and they haven't heard back yet. The

effects of Neonics can last in the ecosystem for a year. Difficult to determine the cause.

Kristina will report back to the committee if she hears any more information.

2. June Pollinator Week Activity - Kristina (Discussion, Decision)

We need a simple way to highlight our Approved Pollinator Garden program in June, since we are not doing the tour. We could showcase existing pollinator gardens, through videos or photos. Videos required quite a bit of work, and the quality of the home-made videos is highly variable. Instead, we can find a volunteer to take photos and made it into a social media campaign.

If we gave the photographer the addresses, he could visit those gardens (front yard only) and take some photos.

Kristina and Nancy could identify 10 of our approved pollinator gardens that might be good to highlight with photos shared on social media during Pollinator Week.

Rachel Dials will reach out to Bob Palermini to see if he will volunteer to take photos of gardens.

3. May 12: BCU sharing Ashland's IPM policies with BCU affiliates - Kristina (Information, Discussion)
Bee City USA Central has asked the City of Ashland to discuss IPM on a training call with new Bee City USA affiliates. Mike Gardiner is going participate on the city of Ashland's behalf. Our thanks to Mike Gardiner.

VII. OTHER ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Returning to the Disaster Remediation Grant

Lorrie suggests that we don't really meet the intended criteria, and that the short turn around makes this unfeasible.

Albert feels that if we can qualify, we should apply in order to provide funding support to an existing on-the-ground project.

Nancy wonders whether or not we can toss our \$1,000 into Phoenix or Talent and work with them on a project. Or if we can contribute the \$1,000 to APRC to support the work at Ashland Ponds.

Leslie thinks that the funds should go to Ashland Ponds project to restore the habitat. Suggests using the \$1,000 to purchase and install the trees and shrubs which are already recommended.

Kristina will ask Molly when the Disaster Relief Grant needs to be dispersed. Also she will ask whether our \$1,000 can go to a neighboring city.

Libby will ask APRC staff whether the \$1,000 would be useful for the Ashland Pond project, and how much influence and oversight the subcommittee would then have on the use of any plants they purchase.

Albert suggests that our subcommittee should use the funds purchase the plants ourselves and organize community volunteers to do the planting.

VIII. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Last week in June, Wednesday June 30th. 3:00pm-4:30pm

ACTION ITEMS

Libby will try to get the committee a property ownership map for the area where the fire started and the Greenway. Seeking info about County vs. City jurisdiction, and abutting private ownership.

Nancy will ask the planning department for the land ownership and HOA's around Mountain Meadows.

Lorrie will reach out to the subcommittee and set a meeting to kick off working group #2.

Once staff have completed the research into our plant and seed suppliers, Libby will get a meeting scheduled to discuss the proposed neonic resolution with Michael Black.

- Kristina and Nancy could identify 10 of our approved pollinator gardens that might be good to highlight with photos shared on social media during Pollinator Week.
- Rachel Dials will reach out to Bob Palermini to see if he will volunteer to take photos of pollinator gardens.
- Kristina will ask Molly when the Disaster Relief Grant needs to be dispersed. Also she will ask whether our \$1,000 can go to a neighboring city.
- Libby will ask APRC staff whether the \$1,000 would be useful for the Ashland Pond project, and how much influence and oversight the subcommittee would then have on the use of any plants they purchase.