



AGENDA FOR BEE CITY USA - ASHLAND MEETING

April 28, 2021

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER, CHECK-INS, AND WELCOME
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 1. Approve Minutes from previous meeting
 2. Review Action Items from previous meeting
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
 1. Open Forum
- IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA
- V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 1. Working Group #1 Updates: Assist Mountain Meadows and Kestral Park in developing a Pollinator Garden Landscape Plan - Kristina (Information, Discussion)
 2. Working Group #2 Updates: Research and undertake a Cost-Benefit Analysis of converting public lawns to other landscape approaches - Lorrie (Information, Discussion)
 3. Proposed Neonic Resolution for City of Ashland - Libby (Information, Discussion)
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 1. Dead bumble bees - Kristina (Information, Discussion)
 2. June Pollinator Week Activity - Kristina (Discussion, Decision)
 3. May 12: BCU sharing Ashland's IPM policies with BCU affiliates - Kristina (Information, Discussion)
- VII. OTHER ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS
- VIII. UPCOMING MEETING DATES
July

ACTION ITEMS (from January 2020 meeting)

1. Libby will set up a meeting between the committee members and Leslie Eldridge and Director Black to discuss the proposed Neonic Resolution. **NEEDS TO BE SCHEDULED**
2. 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. **NOTED**
3. Kristina will work on the Annual report, due by the end of February. She may have requests from the other sub-committee members provide information. **COMPLETED**

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

IMPORTANT: If you wish to virtually attend the Bee City USA Ashland subcommittee meetings, send an email to libby.vanwyhe@ashland.or.us by 10:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. In order to virtually attend or listen to the commission meeting, please provide the following information:

- 1) The subject line of the email: "Bee City USA Meeting Participation Request"
 - 2) Include your name.
 - 3) Specify the date and commission meeting you wish to virtually attend or listen to.
 - 4) Specify whether you will be participating by computer or telephone.
 - 5) Provide the name you will use if participating by computer, or the telephone number you will use if participating by telephone.
 - 6) Please note, participants that sign up to virtually attend will only be invited to speak during the public participation forum, if you have provided your topic ahead of time. If you wish to provide oral testimony, please specify the agenda item on which you would like to speak.
- Staff will email you back with the information necessary to join the meeting upon request.

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:
Black, AICP

Mike Gardiner
Joel Heller

Rick Landt
Jim Lewis
Julian Bell



Michael A.
Director

541.488.5340
AshlandParksandRec.org
parksinfo@ashland.or.us

TO: Bee City USA Ashland Subcommittee

FROM: Libby VanWyhe, Nature Center Manager

DATE: April 22, 2021

SUBJECT: Further explanation of agenda items for Subcommittee Meeting on 4/28/21

On Wednesday April 28, 2021, the Bee City USA Ashland Subcommittee will conduct a quarterly meeting. At this meeting, the following items will be discussed.

Working Groups

Two Working Groups have been established to advance the BCUA subcommittee goals for 2021. These goals were established at the January quarterly meeting.

Working Group #1 is assigned to focus on: Assist Mountain Meadows and Kestral Park in developing a Pollinator Garden Landscape Plan.

On May 30, Kristina and Nancy met with a number of residents of Mountain Meadows for a tour of the grounds and an informal discussion of the community's goals. The conversations will continue.

Working Group #2 is assigned to focus on: Research and undertake a Cost-Benefit Analysis of converting public lawns to other landscape approaches.

No update at this time.

Workgroups will not make decisions, outside of the public meeting process. Also, working groups will summarize their progress, to share at the next public quarterly meeting.

Proposing a Neonic Resolution to the City of Ashland

In March of last year, the subcommittee voted to share the Xerces Society's local policy model with Director Black, so that it could eventually be sent to the Park Commissioners for approval. APRC Administration requested that staff conduct more research to determine which of our current seed and plant suppliers are neonicotinoid-free. Once this research is complete, it will be easier to judge the impact of this resolution on our operations. At that point, a meeting can be scheduled.

Dead Bumblebees

Kristina met with Wallis, the young woman who found the dead bees on both sides of the bridge on Ashland Street over several days. The bodies of numerous bees were given to Jeff Isler, of ODA. He has not responded with a prognosis re the cause of death. It is worth noting that neonicotinoids can be fatal

to pollinators a year after application. Kristina will share updates and ask the subcommittee members for feedback about this puzzle.

June Pollinator Week Activity

When the subcommittee decided on two goals for 2021, we selected two items that did not correlate to any "event". Unfortunately, as part of our Bee City USA designation, we are responsible for celebrating Pollinator Week in some way. So, this could mean taking on an additional event, activity, social media campaign, or virtual garden tour(s). The committee members need to brainstorm ideas about what form this should take, and decide on an appropriate project.

We will remind the Mayor's office to issue the Bee City USA Proclamation on the second Tuesday meeting, as Pollination Week begins on June 21.

BCU sharing Ashland's IPM policies with BCUSA affiliates

On May 12, Sharon Selvaggio of the Xerces Society is conducting a zoom meeting to onboard new BCU affiliates. BCU has invited APRC to participate, and share lessons learned in implementing our IPM policy. We thank Mike Gardiner for agreeing to participate and speak about Ashland's IPM policy.



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 28th 2:00-3:30

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