



MINUTES FOR BEE CITY USA - ASHLAND MEETING

June 30, 2021

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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

Present: Kristina Lefever, Nancy Appling, Lorrie Kaplan, Albert Pepe, Leslie Eldridge (Parks Commissioner), Rachel Dials (Recreation Superintendent) Kate Jackson (Citizen)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve Minutes from previous meeting
Nancy Moves to Approve the Minutes. Lorrie seconded. All approved.
2. Review Action Items from previous meeting

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Open Forum
2. Guests: Kate Jackson

Kate Jackson: As Kate maintains her garden as pollinator habitat, and she noticed a conflict between the best practices (planting list) for pollinators and the recommended fire-wise recommended planting list. Kate owns property near the proposed East Main Park, and near Mountain Meadows, and is interested in contributing her time to our efforts.

Albert, again expressed his interest in the East Main property and the potential for community gardens and native plant landscaping. Albert speaks in favor of a food share program. Rachel said that there is a public meeting scheduled for August 18, 6:00pm to 8:00pm to discuss the East Main Park plan.

Nancy aspires to having a list of recommended plants for the town of Ashland, which would include fire wise considerations, developed internally, for landscaping in Ashland. We could compare the fire wise list to the current Shooting star nursery pollinator plant list that we are currently using. Libby suggested creating a master list of the recommended and prohibited plants to see how much overlap there is between the two plant lists. We must also consider the distance guidelines for each plant to further refine the list, in order to make the landscaping recommendations as thorough and coherent as possible.

A group of members (less than a quorum) will meet with Kate outside of the meeting to compare the fire-wise plant list and the current Shooting Star pollinator plant list, to look for any species that overlap and look for contradictions.

IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Status of BCU grant application (Information) – Libby
Libby expressed that we are still waiting for project timeline, planting list and cost estimate for this

project. Once we get that from staff, she will forward that along to the subcommittee, and they can complete the grant application.

2. Working Group #1 Updates: Assist Mountain Meadows and Kestral Park in developing a Pollinator Garden Landscape Plan - Nancy (Information, Discussion)

During pollinator week, Bee City USA participated in an open house event to showcase the Mountain Meadows pollinator gardens for other approved Bee City USA approved gardeners. The Mountain Meadows group are knowledgeable gardeners and have the funds to develop their space, removing lawn in favor of pollinator garden habitat.

The group considered developing a relationship with the Chataqua Terrace Home Owners Association. The HOA is primarily responsible for the landscaping on all the grounds in front of the homes. Kate is a potential contact to develop conversations with the Chataqua Terrace.

They proposed that building this relationship should be included in the objectives of this working group.

In future agendas, Working Group #1 will be re-named as "Assist HOAs and other neighborhoods in developing Pollinator Landscape Plans".

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

No progress to report on this yet. Lorrie wants to have this discussion, but wants to know whether there is still interest in moving this goal forward. Wants to develop a common understanding about how landscaping decisions are made.

Leslie reminds us that we had discussed converting a lawn as a pollinator garden to test out what it really takes to accomplish this.

Rachel mentioned that APRC is going through a cost recovery analysis that does include parks maintenance. The analysis will include irrigation, staffing, and supplies for maintaining our different parks, and will bring transparency to the decision making.

Leslie asked if the irrigation data is reliable. Rachel mentioned that water meters are frequently producing errors in how we are charged.

Kate is interested in being involved in this endeavor.

Kristina will forward Kate an application to join our subcommittee.

Albert wants to consider broadening this goal of transitioning lawns to pollinator gardens, beyond just APRC properties to private land.

Lorrie reminds us of the Bee City USA goals to influence City Policy and practices.

Lorrie will invite people to continue the Working Group #2 discussion. Leslie and Libby both want to be involved.

Leslie points out that the community and user groups have a desire for lawns, and that this goal might need to work toward managing public perception and expectations.

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

Kristina expressed that the intention of this policy is to publicly acknowledge the fact that APRC already has a very comprehensive and successful IPM policy. Since we are possibly the best example of this in the region, the subcommittee seeks to codify our already quality practices, and take a stand against Neonicotinoids which will improve public appreciation of the issue.

Libby explained that further research will be necessary to get clarity around each of the points of the resolution: including intent, some scientific research and suggestions as to whether APRC already meets the criteria. While it is up to the subcommittee to provide further clarity, Libby will help support the process and act as a liaison for all APRC communications.

Leslie is interested in being involved in helping get clarity on the Neonicotinoid Resolution, and she will meet with Kristina to discuss the questions provided in today's packet.

- Leslie and Kristina will meet to discuss the finer points of the Noenicitinoid resolution, and will connect with Libby if more information is needed from Parks Staff.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

5. Bee City USA & Bee Campus USA Survey: Protecting Pollinators from Pesticides - Kristina (Information, Discussion)

Bee City USA Central has put out a survey about our IPM, and our hopes and plans. This will help Bee City to understand what resources and support each affiliate city needs. Answers will help them provide affiliates with resources in transitioning toward pollinator friendly practices. The survey is due by July 4.

- Kristina will try answering the questions of the Bee City USA survey, and take screen shots of the draft, and send to the committee members.
- Committee members will send any feedback on the survey responses via email, before July 4.

VII. OTHER ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Charisse Sydoriak, of the Wildfire Safety Commission has contacted the Bee City USA Ashland Group to propose giving our 2022 Pollinator Garden Tour a Fire Wise Landscaping focus. She suggests that the tour could highlight approved pollinator gardens that ALSO demonstrate fire wise landscaping.

- Invite Charisse to attend the next Bee City USA meeting, and discuss this possibility in more detail. Hopefully, by that time we will have analyzed the differences between the two recommended plant lists.

VIII. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

September 1, 3:00-4:30pm

ACTION ITEMS

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- In future agendas, Working Group #1 will be re-named as "Assist HOAs and other neighborhoods in developing Pollinator Landscape Plans".
- Kristina will forward Kate an application to join our subcommittee.
- Lorrie will invite people to continue the Working Group #2 discussion. Leslie and Libby both want to be involved.
- Leslie and Kristina will meet to discuss the finer points of the Noenicitinoid resolution and will connect with Libby if more information is needed from Parks Staff.
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