



AGENDA 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
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 1. Approve Minutes from previous meeting
 2. Review Action Items from previous meeting
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
 1. Open Forum
 2. Guests: Kate Jackson, Ogden Kellogg
- IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA
- V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 1. Status of BCU grant application (Information) - Libby
 2. Working Group #1 Updates: Assist Mountain Meadows and Kestral Park in developing a Pollinator Garden Landscape Plan - Nancy (Information, Discussion)
 3. Working Group #2 Updates: Research and undertake a Cost-Benefit Analysis of converting public lawns to other landscape approaches - Lorrie (Information, Discussion)
 4. Proposed Neonic Resolution for City of Ashland - Libby (Information, Discussion)
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 5. Bee City USA & Bee Campus USA Survey: Protecting Pollinators from Pesticides - Kristina (Information, Discussion)
- VII. OTHER ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS
- VIII. UPCOMING MEETING DATES
September

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
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TO: Bee City USA Ashland Subcommittee

FROM: Libby VanWyhe, Nature Center Manager

DATE: June 26, 2021

SUBJECT: Further explanation of agenda items for Subcommittee Meeting on 6/30/21

On Wednesday June 30, 2021, the Bee City USA Ashland Subcommittee will conduct a quarterly meeting. At this meeting, the following items will be discussed.

Status of BCU Grant Application

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. APRC is working with Lomakatsi Restoration Project to develop a revegetation plan for the Ashland Pond fire-site. The Project Manager has confirmed that APRC could certainly use the funds to purchase native and pollinator friendly shrubs, which are already planned for habitat. However, before the grant application can be submitted, APRC would need to provide answers to the following questions: 1. What is the current planting list for the Ashland Pond project? 2. What is the total estimated cost of restoration project? 3. What are the general steps in the restoration plan, and what is the timeline for planting?

Libby is still waiting for those answers, and she will update the subcommittee when that information becomes available.

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.

Kristina and Nancy have been working with several people from the Mountain Meadows community to help educate residents about the importance of pollinator gardens planted with natives. We suggested that Mountain Meadows host an Open House to 'show-off' what they have accomplished in the last year towards their goal of creating a BCUA approved campus. We worked with motivated residents and the Grounds and Natural Landscaping Committee to host an invitation only Open House for Bee City USA Ashland gardeners on Wednesday June 23. Attended by almost 20 BCIA gardeners, and at least 20 MM residents, all concerned the event was quite a success! Mountain Meadows residents prepared a summary and a map for of the Open House [Summary of update], and Nancy and Kristina staffed a check in table for the duration of the event - 9am to 12 noon. We feel that not only did this event create quite the 'buzz' in the community, it laid the groundwork for additional opportunities for BCUA to

expand the educational efforts in the community and then into the neighboring communities of Meadowbrook and Kestral Park, and eventually other HOA's in Ashland.

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

Still in development.

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.

Only some of our plant suppliers could confirm that they do not use Neonics. Others said that "it depends", and some just didn't get back to us. This point of the resolution is likely to be contested, because APRC cannot afford to curtail our plant supply options.

Before this resolution can be considered by the Commission, there are still a few points that need to be answered. If you have any input on the following, please contact Libby.

[The city] will create, restore, and enhance healthy pollinator habitat that provides safe forage and nesting resources, protected from harmful pesticide contamination. [The city] will identify appropriate locations for creating and managing habitat, potentially including parks, open spaces, roadsides, and around facilities. Where possible, [the city] will seek habitat locations that facilitate habitat connectivity. As possible, [the city] will revise land management and mowing policies to allow wildflowers and other appropriate flowering forage species to bloom and flourish.

- What is your take on this point? Do you see a need to make changes to the current management and mowing practices?

Habitat plantings by [the city] will include a diversity of flowering trees, shrubs, or forbs known to provide pollen and/or nectar to pollinators, with preference for ecologically appropriate native perennial species in newly planted or restored areas. Plantings should be designed to ensure that flowers are available throughout the growing season. Habitat should also include butterfly host plants and pollinator nesting sites such as undisturbed soil, undisturbed foliage, and pithy-stemmed plants.

- Will it be necessary to create a preferred species list to use in newly planted areas or restoration sites?

[The city] will adopt an integrated pest and pollinator management (IPPM) policy and program for lands and facilities that it owns or operates. The IPPM program will strive to prevent pest problems, reduce pesticide use, and expand the use of non-chemical pest management methods. Other than targeted control of noxious or invasive species, pesticides will not be used on designated pollinator habitats. Pesticides will be permitted on other lands owned or operated by [the city] only when there is a justifiable reason for the pesticide to be applied. A justifiable reason is supported by evidence that a pest or disease outbreak exists or has strong potential to exist, currently available nonchemical methods are not feasible, and the pest will cause significant harm if not managed with chemical methods. [The city] will discourage pesticide applications,

especially insecticides, for cosmetic purposes or for controlling nuisance pests. [The city] will periodically review its list of chemicals to prohibit and/or avoid, and based on information that is current at that time, will revise the lists as needed. [The city] will provide training to employees in integrated pest and pollinator management practices, such as identification of pests and natural enemies, nonchemical suppression strategies, pesticide risk mitigation strategies, and pollinator conservation.

- Do you think our current IPM meets the intent of this point or would amendments be needed? How would this impact Golf Course operations?

Because [the city] recognizes the critical importance of pollinators and their services, [the city] will support and actively engage in efforts to educate the broader community about the actions it is taking. Through policies and actions of volunteer committees, [the city] will encourage government entities, businesses, homeowners and homeowner associations operating within [the city] to adopt some or all of the strategies outlined in this resolution that will support and conserve pollinators within [the city].

- Will the work of the BCUSA Committee meet the intent of this point or is additional action/resources needed?

Bee City and Bee Campus USA Survey

We received an email from Bee City USA 'Central' requesting information about and our interest in various practices that Bee City / Campuses can carry out. We would like to review the survey to ensure accuracy on some of the answers.



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.