



MINUTES FOR BEE CITY USA - ASHLAND MEETING

October 28, 2020

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 3:10pm

Present: Kristina Lefever (chair), Nancy Appling (vice chair), Albert Pepe (committee member), Lorrie Kaplan (citizen), Libby VanWyhe (staff liaison)

Absent: Commissioner Joel Heller

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

Meeting called to order at 3:15pm

Nancy's life is going on normally, and her connection with NMP is very strong. She is proud of Riverwalk accomplishments. Nancy continues to work for the fire department and is swamped with that work.

Albert, says that things are more or less normal, and things are pretty good. He is glad for every morning. Doing ok, and glad to be here for the meeting.

Libby shares the increasing visitation at the park, and the focus we've been giving to setting goals for the natural area, and trying to manage considerable natural area impacts with much reduced staff presence.

Lorrie Kaplan moved into town a little over a year ago and has been connected to community through North Mountain Park ever since. Affiliated with SOCAN, she is helping to organize around an Ashland chapter of SOCAN.

Appreciates the work of BCU-A and would love to be considered to be part of the committee.

Kristina is very busy right now, with PPRV and some of her projects up in the air. Has been volunteering at the Shoppes at Exit 24, and realizing the enormity of the impact of the fire upon people, pollinators, and habitat.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve Minutes from previous meeting

Nancy moved to approve

Albert seconded

All were in favor of approving the minutes.

2. Review Action Items from previous meeting

We appreciated Carolyn Hunsaker for the amazing participation in and support of our work, as she has moved out of town. We appreciate Carolyn's efforts for our sub-committee, specifically her efforts to create the Riverwalk Pollinator Garden.

We will wait until the next Commissioner joins us in a future meeting, and we will share the Xerces resolution against neonicotinoids.

We will add a discussion of the Xerces Society neonic resolution to the next BCUA agenda.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Open Forum

Lorrie Kaplan has observed a lot of awareness of sustainability, ecological land management in the town of Ashland. Her concern is that we have so many parks that are covered with lawn. She

would like to hear more about the rationale for managing our Parks the way we do. She would like Parks and Rec to embrace a more ecologically friendly approach to land management. She would like to understand how many resources are being used for irrigation and maintenance of lawns, especially at Briscoe School. She would like to find out if citizens can work together to adopt more parks, so that our public lands can be maintained as more ecologically valuable habitat.

IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Albert would like to keep the East Main St. property Park on the agenda for next time.

Include a check in about the development of the New East Main park on the agenda for our next meeting.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. BCUA Committee application - Kristina (Decision)

Review application received from community member Lorrie Kaplan

Committee members briefed Lorrie Kaplan on the commitment to four meetings per year, and the projects we undertake.

Kristina moves that we approve Lorrie Kaplan to the subcommittee

Nancy seconds

All approve to admit Lorrie Kaplan as a full voting member of our subcommittee.

2. Pollinator Gardens - Nancy and Kristina (Information)

Update on number of gardens to date.

Nancy reminds us all to keep our eyes open for beautiful gardens that might be worthy of Pollinator Garden Nomination, and start conversations with those people to suggest they become approved habitat.

We now have 76 BCUA Ashland approved pollinator gardens. The last several gardens have been very impressive.

Kristina mentioned that we need a volunteer to help manage the list. We need to seek a student who might be willing to help us with administration.

3. Riverwalk Garden - Nancy (Information, Discussion)

Status of and plan for garden since Carolyn's departure.

Acknowledge Carolyn Hunsaker for developing this model for stewarding pocket parks. Kristina suggests that other communities might be interested in adopting pocket parks.

Lorrie has a contact list of people who might be interested in volunteering to build habitat. She suggests that we present about the success of the Riverwalk pocket park. Lorrie is interested in asking her contacts in SOCAN to partner in future adoptions.

The City of Talent would be a good source of information about the maintenance requirements for pocket parks that are planted by the Bee City Talent team.

We need to plan a goal setting meeting for 2021.

4. Fire Response / gardens impacted - Kristina (Discussion)

Review the GIS map Libby created for the Tour to locate the ones that may have been impacted and consider how we can help.

We don't believe that any of the approved pollinator gardens were impacted by the fire

Kristina will send Libby the current list of approved gardens,

Libby will update the map (using the easymapmaker.com software) to show the location of all approved gardens.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Mountain Meadows - Kristina (Information, Discussion)

Rochelle Newman, David Lee Myers, and Pat Nichols are residents of Mountain Meadows. They have

helped to build a pollinator garden on a common area in the community.

They are interested in getting their grounds and natural area committee to build more habitat in Mountain Meadows. Their vision is that the entire community might become worthy of being an approved pollinator garden. Kristina gave a presentation to their community sharing the importance of pollinators.

Kristina would like to convene a meeting with Mountain Meadows, residents of Kestral Park Development, and representatives of BCUA / North Mountain Park.

Mountain Meadows is seeking Bee City USA's help to educate the greater Mountain Meadows community about maintenance of their yards and landscaping for pollinators. This is an educational opportunity.

Nancy suggests that our committee members could host a walking tour through their landscape, and point out beneficial plants and opportunities for improvement.

Lorrie would like to meet with our subcommittee more than 4 times a year, in order to generate more momentum and move projects forward. However, Libby cautions that when more than a quorum of subcommittee members gather together to discuss projects, it triggers public meeting process.

Libby will investigate how we might be able to have meetings to carry forward projects that we have approved, while staying in compliance with public meeting law.

General agreement to continue the discussion about educating and partnering with Mountain Meadows residents at the next meeting.

VII. OTHER ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kristina remembers that in order to get the 2021 Ashland Pollinator Garden Tour into the Summer Play Guide cycle, we need to submit the program description for consideration in early January.

We will need to move this forward before our next full public meeting, so we need to decide whether we want to TRY to offer the Pollinator Garden Tour next June, and what dates we should save for the program.

The Master Gardeners are planning a spring season garden tour and don't want our tour to conflict.

Lorrie moves to that we try to conduct the Ashland Pollinator Garden Tour, and schedule the event for Saturday and Sunday June 26 and 27 in 2021.

Kristina seconds this, and all committee members voted in favor.

When APRC requests for proposals for Summer 21 programs, Kristina will submit our standard marketing language for the Pollinator Garden Tour and propose 6/26/21 and 6/27/21 as the tour dates.

VIII. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Libby will schedule the next public meeting for Wednesday, January 27th at 3:00pm

Action Items

We will add a discussion of the Xerces Society Neonic resolution to the next BCUA agenda.

Include a check in about the development of the New East Main Park on the agenda for our next meeting.

We need to plan a goal setting meeting for 2021.

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