



MINUTES FOR BEE CITY USA - ASHLAND MEETING

December 1, 2021

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER, CHECK-INS, AND WELCOME
Present: Kristina Lefever (Chair), Nancy Appling (Vice-Chair), Kate Jackson, Albert Pepe, Leslie Eldridge (APRC Commissioner), Charisse Sydoriak (community member), Rachel Dials, Libby VanWyhe
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 1. Approve Minutes from previous meeting
Nancy moves to approve the minutes. Albert seconded.
Unanimous approval.
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
 1. Open Forum – no one present.
- IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA
- V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 1. Working Group #2 Updates- Lorrie (Information, Discussion)
Refer to the packet for Workgroup Meeting notes. Lorrie has submitted a proposal for how to move forward, and she would like feedback.
Looking for a discussion about how this goal fits in with the Commissioners 2021 goals for a system-wide master plan.
Commission goal #10 has not been moving forward, yet, in this calendar year. The working group has only convened once.
Kate pointed out that we need to coordinate this work with the Parks Maintenance sub-committee. Our group may be committed to this, but we don't have much leverage right now, because it is difficult to schedule time to collaborate Parks Maintenance.
Kristina mentioned that, at the moment, our City Master Plan doesn't include Bee City USA. A future goal might be to incorporate our Bee City USA goals into the City's Master Plan.
 The discussion about Working Group #2 could be carried forward in a goal-setting meeting in January.
 2. Neonics Resolution for City of Ashland - Kristina, Leslie (Proposal)
More than two years ago, the Resolution was brought forward as a suggestion for Parks to adopt. This pertains to a class of pesticides known as Neonicotinoids. The types of chemicals that fall into this category are not often labeled as such, so the chemical names need to be studied.
Kristina, Rachel and Leslie have met about this resolution language, and reviewed it at least twice.
 Rachel will provide a draft of the Neonic resolution language. Libby will email it out for review

by the subcommittee.

We are working to soften the language somewhat so that the resolution says we are “striving” to follow the recommendations.

Further research must be done to get clarity around the neonic chemicals themselves.

This could be a great step forward for our town, and an exciting possibility for press.

To investigate: Are other Bee Cities in Southern Oregon considering this Neonic resolution?

Also, is there any there similar, relevant guidance from ODA about how school districts use chemicals?

3. Pollinator / Firewise 2022 Garden Tour - Kate (Discussion, Action)

Nancy, Libby, Kate and Charisse have met to discuss the possibilities of including Firewise gardening methods and practices into the Pollinator Garden Tour.

Nancy brought up a concern that we may not have a sufficient number of new gardens to populate the tour. We have some trouble getting gardeners to commit to being on the tour.

We need to identify more gardens this spring, nominate them, approve them, invite them be fire-assessed, and convince them to be on the tour.

Pick a tour date and describe the tour in marketing language by the first week of January.

Identify which gardens will be on the tour (and which will have a fire-wise focus) by the end of March, so that Libby has time to develop the tour booklet.

Of all the approved gardens, we need to pick out two or three gardens that are good examples and could undergo a wildlife risk assessment in advance of the tour. Charisse has offered to have certified wildfire risk assessors to be present at gardens during the tour.

We discussed a few gardens that might qualify for having this dual branding, of pollinator-friendly and fire-adapted: Verde Village, Mountain Meadows, Pauline Black, and Kristina's garden are potential gardens that also demonstrate fire-wise landscaping.

Conduct outreach and marketing for the Approved Pollinator Garden Program, so we can get more gardens nominated, approved, and fire-wise assessed by March.

Nominate more potential properties to become Bee City USA Ashland Approved Pollinator Gardens. For example, Charisse and Kate's properties might make a good example properties, so we need to certify their gardens.

Kristina will share the email list, and addresses of all approved gardens (in Excel), and will share the language from the last tour invite.

Nancy and Kate will develop emails and hard copy letters to our approved pollinator gardens. They will invite approved pollinator gardens to participate in a fire risk assessment, and ask them also whether they want to be involved in the tour.

Nancy will ask Viki of the Ashland Garden Club whether they are doing anything with fire-wise landscaping. Also try to determine the dates for any competing garden tours.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

4. Vote for Officers - Kristina (Action)

We have two officers, Chair and Vice-Chair. We became approved by Bee City USA Central in 2014, and Kristina has been the Chair since our first meeting in April of 2015.

Nancy has been Vice-chair for several years.

Kristina is asking to entertain a motion for a new chair. She is not intending to leave the subcommittee.

Nancy lauded Kate as a great communicator and leader. Nancy nominated Kate, and Kristina seconded.

Kate's official retirement date is February 1st, and she will have more time, so she accepted the nomination.

Nancy nominated Albert to be vice-chair. In this role, he would cover for Kate if she couldn't be present at a meeting.

All members voted to approve.

In 2022, Kate Jackson will be our Vice Chair and Albert would be our Vice Chair.

Kristina and Nancy will continue to approve nominated pollinator gardens.

5. Riverwalk Pollinator Pocket Garden - Kristina, Nancy (Discussion)

After Carolyn Hunsaker moved away, Diane Jetter of the Riverwalk HOA has been leading work parties in the Riverwalk pocket park Pollinator Garden. Diane is asking for someone to take over the maintenance.

At the last garden party, Nancy and Kristina met Richard, the president of the Riverwalk HOA. Sulaiman Shelton has set up a meeting with representatives of the HOA on December 15. We are hoping solidify an "adopt a park" agreement with them.

Nancy and Kristina have also been working with the Mountain Meadows community and they have come up with a long-term landscaping plan that can be used as a model for other HOAs.

There are about 70 homes in the Riverwalk HOA, and there's a potential to inspire them to adopt a similar landscaping plan.

Kristina may do a presentation for them in January inviting participation in the tour and raising awareness about fire resistant landscaping.

6. 2021 Annual Report and Goals – Kristina, Libby (Information)

The annual report is usually due in February of the next year.

We need to identify the accomplishments of 2021, and the chair will need to help put the report together.

Kate and Libby will work on the 2021 report and will seek input from the other subcommittee members to answer specific questions.

In 2022, we need to continue keeping track of our accomplishments and taking photos.

7. Cross-referenced pollinator and Firewise plant database – Kate (Discussion)

Charisse has developed a database that cross references the flammability and habitat value of numerous plants. All claims are referenced from five different credible resources.

It will be possible for landscapers and homeowners to use this database to decide how best to landscape for a variety of goals.

Several committee members are interested in being involved in this project.

Kristina suggests parsing out "Pollinator friendly" into "nectar plants" and "host plants". This would require the expertise of Bee City USA members to add this dimension to her research.

8. APRC Organizational Chart - Rachel (Information)

This discussion will be tabled for next time.

9. Volunteer Hours Tracking – Libby (Information)

Hours volunteered by members of subcommittee groups, should be documented as these were

valuable hours being volunteered by members of the community. Beginning on January 1st, 2022, APRC Volunteer Coordinator, Sulaiman Shelton, will begin to record all hours of subcommittee group members volunteered in public meetings and on other related projects. Staff requests that all subcommittee members begin keeping track of the hours they contribute to projects and working groups.

Libby will remind members at each quarterly meeting, to email her with a hours summary, so that these volunteer contributions can be recorded.

VII. OTHER ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rachel provided an update about East Main Park:

Terrain Landscape is finalizing the design for the park right now, which will be reviewed by the East Main Park subcommittee. Then, APRC will be asking for input from other community members, including members the Bee City USA subcommittee. There will be a time and a place for subcommittee members to provide input as we move forward.

Rachel will look into sharing the minutes for the East Main Park Subcommittee.

Kristina mentioned that Oak Knoll Golf Course has a pollinator garden in front of the club house. January 11th at 11:00am there will be a meeting about this garden.

Leslie has reached out to Bee Campus USA and the Pollinator Club, and there are two SOU students who might be interested in collaborating with us.

Leslie will send a copy of SOU's IPM strategy to the subcommittee members.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Goal setting meeting: January 18th, 3:00-4:30pm

We will set the March quarterly meeting date when we get together in January.

Action Items

- The discussion about Working Group #2 will be carried forward in a goal-setting meeting in January.
- Rachel will provide a draft of the Neonic resolution language. Libby will email it out for review by the subcommittee.
- Further research must be done to get clarity around the neonic chemicals themselves.
- To investigate: Are other Bee Cities in Southern Oregon considering this Neonic resolution? Also, is there any there similar, relevant guidance from ODA about how school districts use chemicals?
- Pick a tour date and describe the tour in marketing language by the first week of January.
- Identify which gardens will be on the tour (and which will have a fire-wise focus) by the end of March, so that Libby has time to develop the tour booklet.
- Conduct outreach and marketing for the Approved Pollinator Garden Program, so we can get more gardens nominated, approved, and fire-wise assessed by March.
- Nominate more potential properties to become Bee City USA Ashland Approved Pollinator Gardens. For example, Charisse and Kate's properties might make a good example properties for the tour, so we need to certify their gardens.
- Kristina will share the email list and addresses of all approved gardens (in Excel), and will share the language from the last tour invite.
- Nancy and Kate will develop emails and hard copy letters to go out our approved pollinator gardens. They will invite approved pollinator gardens to participate in a fire risk assessment and ask them also whether they want to be involved in the tour.
- Nancy will ask Viki of the Ashland Garden Club whether they are doing anything with fire-wise landscaping. Also try to determine the dates for any competing garden tours.
- Kate and Libby will work on the 2021 report and will seek input from the other subcommittee members to answer specific questions.
- Libby will remind members at each quarterly meeting, to email her with a hours summary, so that these volunteer contributions can be recorded.
- Rachel will look into sharing the minutes for the East Main Park Subcommittee.
- Leslie will send a copy of SOU's IPM strategy to the subcommittee members.
- Libby will set the 2022 goal setting meeting for January 18th, 3:00-4:30pm