



## MINUTES FOR BEE CITY USA - ASHLAND MEETING

September 1, 2021

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER, CHECK-INS, AND WELCOME  
Kristina Lefever, Nancy Appling, Lorrie Kaplan, Albert Pepe, Leslie Eldridge, Rachel Dials, Libby VanWyhe  
Guests: Patricia Nichols, Louise Shawkat, Charisse Sydorik
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  1. Approve Minutes from previous meeting  
Lorrie motion to approve, Albert seconded. All approved.
  2. Review Action Items from previous meeting
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
  1. Open Forum
    - Pat Nichols, from Mountain Meadows. Mountain Meadow's recently developed and approved a long range landscape plan that focuses on native plants, limiting pesticides, and looking at the campus as a whole. Members of their landscaping team provide quarterly recommendations to the landscaping committee.
    - Louise Shawkat, who has participated in our garden tour, would like a photograph of the daffodils there at the Mountain Meadow sign in the spring!
- IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA
- V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  1. Status of BCU grant application (Information) – Libby  
The information needed for the grant application is not forthcoming. We can remove this project idea from future agendas.
  2. Working Group #1 Updates: Assist HOAs and other neighborhoods in developing Pollinator Landscape Plans" - Kristina (Information)  
Kristina and Nancy have been working with Beth Essex, Pat Nichols and Rochelle Newman of Mountain Meadows. Pat shared about the project in process with Lomakatsi - they are clearing the blackberries and replanting native plants with herbivore protection. Lack of water is putting those plants at risk, especially since the TID has been shut off. The landscaping plan has been adopted by the Mountain Meadows Board. Part of the plan is to develop an ongoing education plan, including weekly updates and signage. Residents are interested in the landscape at Mountain Meadows because people are paying for the landscaping directly with their monthly dues.
    - Pat will try to get us a copy of the Mountain Meadows landscaping plan, so that we can use it as a model for future arrangements with HOAs.

Pat will inquire about whether our subcommittee members can be on the email list for the Mountain Meadows newsletter. If not, Pat can at least keep us apprised of any developments or press.

We are hoping that other HOAs will adopt the same model, and that this model can be shared with Bee City USA Central.

3. Working Group #2 Updates: Research and undertake a Cost-Benefit Analysis of converting public lawns to other landscape approaches - Lorrie (Information, Discussion)(should this be the new name now?)

Lorri, Leslie and Libby have met in July to discuss this goal. They decided to change the language from "cost benefit analysis" to "evaluating opportunities for and barriers to converting lawns on APRC-owned and managed lands to other landscaping approaches."

Bee City USA could participate in the active Commission goal of developing "design and maintenance guidelines."

APRC has suggested alternative language for this goal. Michael Black was concerned about the phrase "recreational resources", because it seemed to imply that we'd be recommending converting recreational spaces, like ball fields to other uses. \

Modify Goal #2 to remove the mention of "recreational resources", and add phrasing about "working with or collaborating with the Parks Maintenance subcommittee."

The Parks Maintenance subcommittee meets every other month or so. This sub-committee includes Commissioners Bell and Lewis, Michael Black and two Parks supervisors.

Leslie asked about the minutes for this subcommittee.

Lorrie points out that budget is often a conversation stopper, but that we are looking for an exchange of information and collaboration.

Since this goal is about land-use rather than recreation or education, Lorrie is requesting that Bee City USA have more interface with Parks supervisors.

Rachel Dials is investigating if a supervisor from the Parks Staff can attend these discussions so that the members of the subcommittee have more interface. With the loss of the Parks Superintendent position in parks, Michael Black is filling that role along with his Director duties.

4. Proposed Neonic Resolution for City of Ashland - Kristina (Update)

After our meeting last time, Kristina and Leslie were supposed to meet to discuss some questions.

Leslie and Kristina will meet soon to discuss the Neonic Resolution, and then Leslie will interface with staff.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

5. Application for Bee City USA Ashland membership - Kristina, all (Decision)

Kate Jackson submitted an application. She has a lot of experience in local government as well as ecological perspectives. Lorrie moves that we accept Kate as a member of the subcommittee.

Nancy seconded. All approved.

Libby will communicate with Sean to get the approval of this new Bee City USA subcommittee member into the Parks and Recreation's consent agenda.

€ Kristina will advise Kate that she has been approved by the subcommittee.

6. Proposed 2022 Pollinator Garden Tour with Fire Wise Landscaping focus. - Kristina, Charisse (Information, Discussion)

Charisse is on the Wildfire Safety Commission.

She is retired from National Parks Service and has worked in the science of public lands management, and is trained as a botanist. She has attended past Pollinator Garden Tours. She would like

to leverage volunteers for face-to-face engagement by working in conjunction with BCUA's Pollinator Garden Tour, involving volunteers who are trained in fire wise landscaping. The goal of a combined Pollinator / Firewise Tour would be to demonstrate how fire-wise landscaping doesn't lead to desertification, and should not be harmful to the local ecology. Charisse proposes that our 2022 tour include some homes that demonstrate fire-wise principles, and that fire-wise risk assessors could be on site.

The Wildfire Safety Commission could co-sponsor the tour, but any work required would be on the shoulders of volunteers.

This plan would require us to identify which of our Bee City USA Ashland Approved pollinator gardens are ALSO good examples of fire-wise landscaping.

Getting this assessment done would require some lead time, and the waiting list for this assessment is long. We need to start planning now, to get interested gardeners on the list for a fire-wise review.

- We will send a letter out to the 75 BCUA approved pollinator gardens, inviting those land-owners to participate in a Wildfire risk assessment.

Nancy and Charisse should meet to cross reference the fire-wise to the pollinator plant lists, and begin the process of collaboration between the Wildfire Safety Commission.

Nancy is interested in also developing a list of fire-wise, pollinator friendly, deer and drought resistant plants.

- Charisse and Nancy (and hopefully Kate) will meet to discuss comparing fire-wise and pollinator-friendly plants for the purpose of honing a recommended landscaping list.

- Lorrie will share Charisse and Nancy's contact information so they can meet.

#### 7. East Main Park - Albert (Information, Discussion)

- Subcommittee members and interested citizens, can complete the online survey to give their opinions about this project to APRC. This survey is due by September 8.

- Rachel will share results of the East Main Park survey.

There is a subcommittee for East Main Park, and Albert would like more information. Albert would like to be on this subcommittee to represent the Bee City USA objectives in the East Main Park planning process.

- Rachel will ask for more information about the East Main Park subcommittee and help us understand whether a Bee City USA member could be involved in this planning process.

Kristina brought up a concern that the development of this park might be challenging in the current budget climate.

Nancy brought up the deficit in Parks and Rec funding, and her concern that the Nature Center and the Senior Center are the facilities and services most likely to be downsized if budget can't be secured.

Nancy made it clear that if there's a deficit, she would be less supportive of a new park. Nancy emphasized that she would prioritize continued funding for North Mountain Park staffing and programs. She also pointed out that the Bee City USA subcommittee that functions with the support of North Mountain Park, and that the continued funding of both is at stake.

Rachel said that East Main Park isn't scheduled for imminent construction. The construction will likely be phased, depending on grant funding.

#### 8. Possible Impacts for BCUA resulting from APRC budget changes – Rachel, Leslie (Information, Discussion)

- Rachel and Leslie suggest that subcommittee members should communicate directly with the City Council, as Ashland residents, and express our priorities for Parks and Recreation as an important community resource.

The talking points might include: We want North Mountain Park Nature Center to continue to offer their services education and sustainability services to this community. We want to ensure that NMP can continue to support the Bee City USA subcommittee in the long term.

Libby will send subcommittee members two documents that summarize North Mountain Park Nature Center's impacts and accomplishments over the last five years.

9. Incorporating Educational Resources into BCUA meetings – Lorrie, Kristina (Proposal)

Kristina thanked Lorrie for raising this suggestion. Lorrie is interested in educating ourselves through resources provided by the Xerces Society. Xerces provides resources to the Bee City USA cities.

Kristina will forward any resources, webinars or articles she is receiving from Bee City USA Central or the Xerces Society.

Once we formalize getting ourselves more educated, we can discuss how we can further disseminate this information to the public in the future. We will add this to the agenda for next time.

## VII. OTHER ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Libby suggests that we prepare the agenda for these meetings with more advance notice..

Libby will work with Kristina to request agenda items at least two weeks before the next meeting date, and publicize the agenda one week ahead of time.

Molly Martin, who was the Bee City USA coordinator for Xerces has moved on, so we can expect a new contact at Bee City USA Central.

## VIII. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

December 1, 3:00-4:30pm

Libby will check with Kate to confirm that the next meeting date and time (12/1, 3:00-4:30) works for her. If Kate finds a conflict, we will try to schedule using the app: when 2 meet

For next time

Have Rachel or Michael Black discuss the APRC Org-chart

Discuss disseminating Xerces Society's educational content to the public

Begin planning for Pollinator Garden Tour

## ACTION ITEMS from 9/1/21

- Pat will try to get us a copy of the Mountain Meadows landscaping plan, so that we can use it as a model for future arrangements with HOAs.
- Pat will inquire about whether our subcommittee members can be on the email list for the Mountain Meadows newsletter. If not, Pat can at least keep us apprised of any developments or press.
- Modify Goal #2 to remove the mention of "recreational resources", and add phrasing about "working with or collaborating with the Parks Maintenance subcommittee."
- Rachel Dials is investigating if a supervisor from the Parks Staff can attend these discussions so that the members of the subcommittee have more interface. With the loss of the Parks Superintendent position in parks, Michael Black is filling that role along with his Director duties.
- Leslie and Kristina will meet soon to discuss the Neonic Resolution, and then Leslie will interface with staff.
- Libby will communicate with Sean to get the approval of Kate Jackson as new Bee City USA sub-committee member. This needs to go into the Parks and Recreation's consent agenda.
- We will send a letter out to the 75 BCUA approved pollinator gardens, inviting those land-owners to participate in a Wildfire risk assessment. We need to start planning now, to get interested gardeners on the list for a fire-wise review.
- Charisse and Nancy (and hopefully Kate) will meet to discuss comparing fire-wise and pollinator-friendly plants for the purpose of honing a recommended landscaping list.
- Lorrie will share Charisse and Nancy's contact information so they can meet.
- Subcommittee members and interested citizens, can complete the online survey to give their opinions about East Main Park. This survey is due by September 8.
- Rachel will share results of the East Main Park survey.
- Rachel will ask for more information about the East Main Park subcommittee and help us understand whether a Bee City USA member could be involved in this planning process.
- Rachel and Leslie suggest that subcommittee members should communicate directly with the City Council, as Ashland residents, and express your priorities for Parks and Recreation as an important community resource.
- To support these communications, Libby will send along two documents that summarize North Mountain Park Nature Center's impacts and accomplishments over the last five years.
- Kristina will forward along any resources, webinars or articles she is receiving from Bee City USA Central or the Xerces Society.
- Libby will work with Kristina to request agenda items at least two weeks before the next meeting date, and publicize the agenda one week ahead of time.
- Libby will check with Kate to confirm that the next meeting date and time (12/1, 3:00-4:30) works for her.