



AGENDA FOR BEE CITY USA - ASHLAND MEETING

February 22, 2022

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER, CHECK-INS, AND WELCOME
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 1. Approval of Minutes from the 12-1-21 meeting
 2. Approval of Minutes from the 1-18-22 meeting
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (10 minutes)
- IV. Planning for 2022
 - A) Organization and Prioritization of ideas from last meeting
 - B) Establish Working Groups
- V. OTHER ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS
- VI. UPCOMING MEETING DATES
 - April

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.



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

There were no changes to the agenda.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Working Group #2 Updates- Lorrie (Information, Discussion)
Kristina thanks Lorrie, Libby and Leslie for their work on this goal. Refer to the packet for [Workgroup Meeting notes](#), in which Lorrie has submitted a proposal for how to move forward, and she would like feedback with a discussion about how this goal fits in with the Commissioners 2021 goals for a system-wide master plan.
Leslie agreed that it fits in well with the Commissioner's biennium goals, but that [Commission goal #10](#) has not been moving forward, yet, in this calendar year. The working group has only convened once.
Kate pointed out that eventually we will need to coordinate this work with the APRC. Our group is committed to this and eventually will work with park maintenance on this as staff time allows.
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. Neonic Resolution for City of Ashland - Kristina, Leslie (Proposal)
More than two years ago, the Resolution was brought forward as a suggestion for APRC to adopt. This pertains to a class of pesticides (insecticides) known as Neonicotinoids. The wording on the product labels for this class of pesticides are not often labeled as Neonicotinoids, so the chemical names need to be studied to be recognized.

Kristina pointed out that our Integrated Pest Management Plan already indicates that Park property is not treated with neon's except in emergency situations, ie for wasps.

Kristina thanked Rachel for guiding us through this review process.

Kristina, Rachel and Leslie have met about this resolution language, and reviewed it at least twice. (Kristina has provided MSDS sheets to Rachel for the other chemicals that are mentioned in the resolution that are not neonics).

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 determine if any products APRC or the City are using contain neonics.

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 similar, relevant guidance from ODA about how school districts can or cannot use neonics?

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 to be fire-assessed, and encourage 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. Firewise gardens will be featured and firewise practices will be highlighted, but non-firewise pollinator garden will also be included in the tour.

Of all the approved gardens, we need to pick out two or three gardens that are good examples and could undergo a wildfire risk assessment in advance of the tour. Charisse has offered to have certified wildfire risk assessors present at these 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, Kate and Kristina will develop emails and hard copy letters to send 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.

Charisse has already submitted language to include in the email to invite gardeners to participate

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.

Kristina thanked Nancy for holding the Vice-chair position 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 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)

Kristina mentioned that this fits into our Goal #1. 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 members of the HOA board on December 15. We are hoping to work with them to engage more residents in maintaining the garden and solidify an "Adopt a Park" agreement with them.

Nancy and Kristina have been working with the Mountain Meadows community which now has a long-term landscaping plan that can be used as a model for other HOAs. Perhaps they would be interested in working with Riverwalk.

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 be able to do a presentation for them in January inviting participation in the tour and raising awareness about fire resilient 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, with Kristina's assistance, will work on the 2021 report and will seek input from the other subcommittee members to answer specific questions.

Kristina will share the 2021 report with Kate and Libby.

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”. Charisse indicated that this would require more research - Kristina offered to talk further about that and share the resources available.
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 who 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 their 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 draft design for the park right now, which will be reviewed by the East Main Park working group. Then, APRC will be asking for input from other community members, including members of 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 working group.

Kristina mentioned that Oak Knoll Golf Course has a pollinator garden in front of the club house. There will be a meeting with Sulaiman and Mike Gardiner on January 11th at 11:00am there will be a meeting to discuss improvements to the garden. Other committee members are welcome.

Leslie has reached out to Bee Campus USA and the Pollinator Club. 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 determine if any products APRC / City is using contains neonics.
- 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 can or cannot use neonics?
- 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, Kate, and Kristina will develop emails and hard copy letters to send 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.
- Kate and Libby, with Kristina's assistance will work on the 2021 report and will seek input from the other subcommittee members to answer specific questions.
- Kristina will share the 2021 report with Kate and Libby.
- 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 working group.
- Leslie will send a copy of SOU's IPM strategy to the subcommittee members, and Libby will share with Sean.
- Libby will set the 2022 goal setting meeting for January 18th, 3:00-4:30pm



DRAFT MINUTES FOR BEE CITY USA - ASHLAND MEETING

January 18, 2022

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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

Kate Jackson, Leslie Eldridge, Lorrie Kaplan, Nancy Appling, Kristina Lefever, Libby VanWyhe, Rachel Dials

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes were not approved, as the committee dove right into goal setting. At the next meeting, we will have two sets of minutes to approve.

III. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no requests for public participation.

IV. **PLANNING FOR 2022**

This is an important meeting of the year, for this subcommittee. In this meeting we hope to establish our project goals and working groups for 2022.

The group discussed the fact that our commitment to being a Bee City USA requires the Mayor to make an annual statement. Libby suggested that this statement recommits Ashland as a Bee City USA. However, Libby misspoke. In fact, the Mayor's annual proclamation is related to National Pollinator Week. As part of our commitment to "Celebrate National Pollinator Week", Bee City USA Central asks that all Bee Cities issue a "Proclamation" recognizing and celebrating the importance of this work.

Dispositions and Preferences

What have committee members enjoyed doing during their time with Bee City USA? What are your preferences for engagement over the next year?

Nancy joined the committee because she enjoys working with and learning from Kristina. Tabling wasn't a real great fit for Nancy. She found most satisfaction consulting with people about their pollinator gardens. Between Kristina and herself, they are usually able to make great plant recommendations. Her focus is really on approving gardens. She likes getting outside and wants to help with the Garden Tour.

Lorrie also joined because of Kristina, and she enjoys volunteering and gardening at North Mountain Park. Has only been involved for one year. Lorrie is interested in big ideas and strategic changing. Less interested in gardening projects and more interested in strategically changing our community for the better. She understands if the time isn't right for strategic political change. Lorrie is a climate advocate, and her first priority is positioning this community for a changing climate. She enjoys doing independent research in her own time, and would be willing to work independently to conduct helpful research for the committee.

Kristina is proud of the work so far. Kristina enjoys talking to people one on one and sharing what she knows about pollinator plants. Enjoys talking with the community about plants, and going into people's gardens and working with HOAs. She has less time now than before. Until now, she has been doing record keeping and tracking of the gardens, but would like other people to help with the computer parts of that. Kristina realizes that we could be bringing in more training and education to the community. Also sees a need for more education about pollinators and climate resiliency for pollinators.

Leslie sees herself as being useful in being a connection between the Parks and Recreation Commission and the subcommittee. She enjoys actions like the Neonic resolution, that push and prod officials to enact policy and organizational change. She is on a number of working groups and advisory councils, and she enjoys networking and connecting people and groups. Leslie wants to get more interaction between Bee City Ashland, and Bee Campus SOU. She is on the Environmental Sustainability committee for SOU. Leslie wants to improve communication between the Bee City subcommittee and on-the-ground parks managers and Parks maintenance staff.

Leslie offered to get more information about how Bee Campus SOU is run and organized, including who is currently spearheading that effort.

Leslie explained her capacity over the next year. She is committed to working on getting the Neonic resolution pushed through. She is interested in getting an SOU student to be a member of the committee, and she could work on facilitating Capstones.

Kate's motivation in joining was to understand better the various groups that are acting in our community. She is interested in unifying the messaging for gardeners and landscapers who are getting different recommendations about habitat, fire adaptations, native, drought tolerant qualities. Even the City has multiple committees that all have different messages coming to Council. The Climate and Energy Action Plan requires the City and individual citizens to contribute. Because we adopt the title of a Bee City USA we have a commitment to education and landscaping methods and activities. The City, Parks and Rec and SOU are large entities that need to make changes, but they need consistent guidance. We need to strategize and time our approach.

Review Big-picture Goals, and Current Projects

Kate acknowledged that our current annual projects (like the pollinator garden tour) take a lot of effort. To take on additional project goals, we will need to find partnerships and synergies like with the fire resiliency efforts, the climate and conservation commission and student projects from SOU and Bee Campus.

Libby reiterated the historical focus on pollinator friendly landscapes and education. The approved pollinator garden program, the tour and the consulting with HOAs have all been in service of that. We need to find goals that is reasonable to achieve in the climate of the pandemic.

Can we grow the committee itself, or can we find volunteers who will support our working groups?

Rachel and Libby will investigate how to increase the number of citizen members that can be on the Bee City USA Ashland subcommittee.

We went over our list of active or potential projects, pre-populated into our collaborative brainstorming space, in Jamboard.

New Project Brainstorm

Subcommittee members added their project ideas to the shared brainstorming space. The resulting sticky-notes were re-organized into three main Goals categories: "Supporting and building pollinator

friendly landscapes”, “Educating about pollinators and their conservation”, and “Affecting systems, policies and organizational change”. Projects not selected for this year, were moved to the “Parking Lot” for future.



Key take-aways:

The committee decided NOT to undertake the Gardener Social or the Pollinator Garden Tour for 2022. Uncertainty around COVID-19, makes these unfeasible given the amount of prep work required. Instead, the subcommittee intends to take a long view and give ourselves plenty of time to plan a successful Garden Tour with a Firewise Focus in 2023.

- Kate will communicate with Charisse about this change and explain that we are still looking forward to collaboration, but that we are pushing the tour out until 2023.

Charisse is moving forward with the firewise and pollinator friendly plant database. As she takes steps to finalize the database in the coming months, Bee City USA committee members would like to provide consultation. This endeavor already has its own work group. The database seems to be a feasible project that will help get important educational information to the public. This is not a time-bound goal.

Leslie has ideas about bringing in SOU students to support our work through Capstone projects, and even to have a student sit on the sub-committee as a full member. SOU is restructuring their Capstone procedures to encourage more collaboration with community partners. There are annual cohorts of Juniors in the 210 class and 310 Capstone sequence who need to select a project. Fall quarter (now) students are looking for projects, by Winter quarter they are desperate to find a project. To make this work, the subcommittee will need to establish clear project objectives that a student could adopt for a Capstone.

□ Leslie will try to get information from the university about guidance and best practices around Capstones. We would like to understand what is expected from us as community partners.

It was suggested, and generally agreed upon, that Systems and Policy Change should be undertaken strategically, with special attention paid to timing. At the moment, recommendations we make upon the Parks and Recreation Department, will not be the focus given the budgetary and political climate. Nevertheless, strategic policy change should be kept in mind as important potential future directions. Where more research is needed, we position ourselves with preliminary research. Even if the organizational or political climate is not right to move some of these ideas forward *immediately*, these projects should be kept in mind as we wait for the moment when our contributions will be heeded.

□ Libby and Rachel will keep the subcommittee informed about “opportune moments” for broaching systemic change discussions: 1) When East Main Park planning is being undertaken. 2) When park maintenance guidelines are being discussed.

There are many options and ideas for educational programs and outreach opportunities. Some options include: a panel discussion about Firewise and pollinator landscaping or a program featuring the pollinator garden development at the Oak Knoll Club House. Ideally, these program ideas could be offered through North Mountain Park’s Community Program schedule. NMP can handle marketing and registration for any programs.

□ If any committee members would like to teach through NMP during the summer months, proposals are due by February 3. To plan ahead for fall programming, fall proposals will be due in late May.

HOA associations are valuable, but it may be difficult to continue seeking more HOAs to partner with on an ongoing basis. We may just want to continue to remain accessible to consult with Riverwalk and Mountain Meadows.

The neonic resolution is still a priority for the subcommittee members, and though this may be a long term goal, it could benefit from a working group to carry it forward.

The Approved Pollinator Garden program is likely to be retained as an ongoing goal. We will continue to seek garden applications. Over 2022, we can approve more pollinator gardens and continue to look at them with a Firewise lens. Any gardens that get approved in 2022 can be invited to undergo a Firewise assessment.

□ In your travels around town, keep your eyes open for properties that might qualify as a pollinator garden or a Firewise landscape. Tell Nancy the address, and we can reach out to the homeowner.

□ We may need to edit the Pollinator Garden nomination form, so that it addresses Firewise components. Add a question to the form about their willingness to undergo a Firewise assessment.

Organization and Prioritization

Before the end of the meeting, committee members circled the projects that we felt were high priority.

We still need to organize these ideas by “short term projects” vs. “long term projects” vs. “projects that are just waiting for the right moment”. Then we will need to vote on the adopted goals for 2022 and affirm working groups.

Libby has adapted the Jamboard so that each committee member has their own page, with their name on it. The page with your name, is yours to work with.

Committee members can go back to the Jamboard space, in their own time, and further organize and prioritize these ideas as they see fit.

V. OTHER ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

VI. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Proposed: February 22, 3:00-4:30pm OR March 1, 3:00-4:30pm

Libby will seek confirmation from Leslie and Albert about whether these proposed times work for them.

ACTION ITEMS

Leslie offered to get more information about how Bee Campus SOU is run and organized, including who is currently spearheading that effort.

Rachel and Libby will investigate how to increase the number of citizen members that can be on the Bee City USA Ashland subcommittee.

Kate will communicate with Charisse about this change and explain that we are still looking forward to collaboration, but that we are pushing the tour out until 2023.

Leslie will try to get information from the university about guidance and best practices around Capstones. We would like to understand what is expected from us as community partners.

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We may need to edit the Pollinator Garden nomination form, so that it addresses Firewise components. Add a question to the form about their willingness to undergo a Firewise assessment.

Committee members can go back to the Jamboard space, in their own time, and further organize and prioritize these ideas as they see fit.

Libby will seek confirmation from Leslie and Albert about whether these proposed meeting times work for them. February 22, 3:00-4:30pm OR March 1, 3:00-4:30pm