



MINUTES FOR BEE CITY USA - ASHLAND MEETING

September 20, 2022

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85097204485>

In attendance: Kate Jackson (Chair), Albert Pepe, Kristina Lefever, Carolyn Reed, Leslie Eldridge (Parks Commissioner), Tara Kiewel (Administrative Analyst), Piper Von Chamier, Erin Gambacorta, Rachel Dials (Deputy Director)

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

Welcome to Carolyn new member of the Bee City USA Subcommittee
Introductions of the sub-committee members.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes from the 6-30-22 meeting

Rephrase: “we should be cognizant of how we stress the importance of native bees and other pollinators over honeybees and beehives.” To “Our preference is to support native bees and other pollinators over honeybees and hives.”

On #4, Strike first two sentences, and the last sentence referring to coordinating with Faye and her schedule.
Spelling error change “Bex” to “Becs”.

With these edits, Albert moves to approve, all voted in favor.

Minutes are approved.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (10 minutes)

No members of the public are present.

IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

V. EAST MAIN PARK LANDSCAPING (1 hour)

1. Project summary from Landscape Architects

In Meeting Materials: **East Main Street Park Schematic Design**

Project planning began in 2020. We have been working with Piper and her team on the design of the project. APRC is meeting with user groups to get more information about what user-groups want. They are currently working on the details of the design, and seeking feedback before construction diagrams are going to be drawn up.

Landscapers shared current schematic design, including:

parking with rain gardens, dog park (<1 acre), covered structures, multi-use path, less developed walking paths, Nature Play Area, space for pollinator planting, mason bee towers w/ educational piece to it, bike park,

pump track, multi-sport court, community garden (.5 acre), garden parking, trees, hedges around the perimeter, safety lighting, and low-level parking lighting.

Area around the nature playground has a mowed lawn and places for gathering.

Nature play area is surrounded by a split rail fence and pollinator planting areas

The parking stalls are proposed with permeable pavers.

Lighting will be minimal and will be kept low to the ground.

They are interested in using solar panels on some of the shade structures and pavilions

There are only blue porta-potties, rather than restrooms, for cost and security.

There are opportunities for pollinator planting around the community garden.

Community garden has the opportunity for including a food forest, ADA raised beds, a shed, mason bee houses

A currently undesigned area has been proposed as a possible orchard, and there an area near that for pollinator planting the proposed orchard area will need to be adopted by the community gardeners.

The Abbot street entrance, and the passive entrance for gardener parking, the reason that the community garden is in its current location.

Rain garden is proposed as a place where dogs can play in water during the winter months.

There is fence-line around the property.

TID water will be available, and City will water also be brought to the site.

Aside from the dog-park, meadow and mowed-lawn, the rest of the park is on drip irrigation.

They are proposing a drought-tolerant meadow seed mix for the area without irrigation. Overhead spray irrigation is planned for just the first two years of establishment only. Then, the irrigation can be cut off entirely and irrigation heads could be cut off and enclosed in boxes.

They haven't observed star thistle growing in the meadow area yet, but the topsoil won't be removed in this zone, so there will be a seed bank. Suggest that tarp cover be used in this area to solarize the weed seed bank.

There are opportunities for planting along the front of the park, where the sidewalk curves.

There will be screening trees planted, as well as rain garden plants for stormwater treatment.

2. Bee City USA Subcommittee provides input

Dark-sky lighting is important to birds and night pollinators. Suggest keeping lights low to the ground.

Suggest an electric vehicle charging station, possibly supported by solar panels.

Vesper Meadow, Freshwater Trust and Rogue Native Plant Partnership are working on bio-regional specific seed mixes.

For the meadow, native bunch grasses persist in the dry season. Many other native plants *can* survive without irrigation, but they disappear during the summer and are vulnerable to invasion wildland weeds.

How will you remove the non-native grasses? Black plastic solarization?

Alternatives to individually-rented community garden plots? Consider other models for shared garden spaces.

Non-native grasses will invade into the meadow, and seeds may travel from the meadow to the lawn.

Who is doing the maintenance of the pollinator areas? Parks is responsible, and we will need to mobilize volunteers to maintain the pollinator gardens.

Libby is wondering how much area is established as pollinator garden, and points out that garden maintenance is complex and isn't appropriate for volunteer work parties.

There are lots of educational and interpretive possibilities in the park to make sure people understand bee diversity and the fact that there's a very low risk of bee sting. Could there be a wayside sign for this educational piece?

Suggest planting camas in the wet spots.

Deer herbivory is a big issue, and most of the pollinator plants and even native tree species will be eaten. All plantings need to be protected from herbivory.

Native trees are host plants for many native pollinators. Please give preferences to native species.

The Tree Commission and the Conservation Division of the City have a street-tree guide, which we recommend you use. There is also a fire-wise list to refer to.

If possible, committee members would like to see the community garden be a larger part of the plan.

- Please email Libby or Tara, if anyone has comments on East Main Park, that we didn't have time to articulate.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Developing a scope of work for Firewise plant database

If we have a scope of work for this project, then Charise and Kate could bring this proposal to SOU students as a possible Capstone.

This fall, there will be an SOU class called ES210, in which students identify their Capstones. Bee City USA – Ashland could propose a project idea, either a research capstone or an applied capstone.

- Leslie will tell Kate when there's an opportunity to present Capstone project ideas to SOU students.

Carolyn has an interest in firewise plants, and would like to work on this project with Kate and Charise.

- Kate and Carolyn will focus on developing the Capstone project description.

2. Establishing a working group for Firewise Pollinator Garden Tour (including approved gardeners)

The tour is quite a bit of work. Libby will commit to helping with the marketing and the development of the tour booklet.

We may need to seek help from the approved pollinator gardeners, to help plan and conduct the tour.

Ideally, we would identify one or two approved pollinator gardens that are also Firewise. Kate's garden is a good example of this cross-over.

- Kate will ask Charise and Brian Hendrix how they want to be involved in the pollinator tour, and ask them if we have any approved pollinator gardens that also meet the Firewise criteria.

- Kristina will contact Sheri Morgan, who is active with the Jackson County Master Gardeners out of OSU Extension. Find out if Jackson County Master Gardeners are going to have a tour in 2023, and make sure that we are collaborating rather than competing.

- Kristina will share the planning lists for launching the pollinator tour.

- Libby will share details about the tour, including the number of gardens usually featured, the planning timeline, Pollinator Garden Social, and target dates for marketing in APRC PlayGuide.

This working group for the tour will include: Kristina and Libby for now. Kate will be looking at the first steps for coordinating with the Firewise component.

3. Update on the management of Approved Pollinator Garden List

- Libby will meet with Kristina to go over the Approved Pollinator Garden spreadsheet, and ask some remaining questions

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Welcome Carolyn Reed as our newest member

VIII. OTHER ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Leslie wants to talk about her goals for interfacing with SOU students. Leslie is hoping to find a reliable student to work with the subcommittee.

2. Albert met with the board of the Rogue Valley Farmer's Market, and needs to put together a proposal if we would like to table.

- Albert will follow up with Kate about farmers market tabling.

IX. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

January

- Libby will Doodle Poll for the second or third week in January. 3-4:30

ACTION ITEMS

- Please email Libby or Tara, if anyone has comments on East Main Park, that we didn't have time to articulate.
- Leslie will let Kate know when there's an opportunity to present Capstone project ideas to SOU students.
- Kate and Carolyn will focus on developing the Capstone project description for the Firewise plant database
- Kate will ask Charise and Brian Hendrix how they want to be involved in the pollinator tour. Also ask them if we have any approved pollinator gardens that also meet the Firewise criteria.
- Kristina will contact Sheri Morgan, of Jackson County Master Gardeners. Find out if Jackson County Master Gardeners are going to have a tour in 2023, and make sure that we are collaborating rather than competing.
- Kristina will share the planning lists for launching the pollinator tour.
- Libby will share details about the tour, including the number of gardens usually featured, the planning timeline, Pollinator Garden Social, and target dates for marketing in APRC PlayGuide.
- Libby will meet with Kristina to go over the Approved Pollinator Garden spreadsheet, and ask some remaining questions.
- Albert will follow up with Kate about Rogue Valley Farmers Market tabling.
- Libby will Doodle Poll for the second or third week in January. Propose times from 3-4:30.