



## AGENDA 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
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (10 minutes)
- IV. Planning for 2022
  - A) Dispositions and Preferences
  - B) Review Big-picture Goals, and Current Projects
  - C) New Project Brainstorm
  - D) Organization and Prioritization
  - E) 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](mailto: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.

# ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:

Mike Gardiner  
Leslie Eldridge  
Rick Landt  
Jim Lewis  
Julian Bell



Michael A. Black, AICP  
Director

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**TO:** Bee City USA Ashland Subcommittee

**FROM:** Libby VanWyhe, Nature Center Manager

**DATE:** January 10, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Further explanation of agenda items for Subcommittee Meeting on 1/18/22

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On Tuesday, January 18, 2022, the Bee City USA Ashland Subcommittee will conduct their annual goal-setting discussion. At this meeting, the following items will be discussed.

## 1. 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?

- Direct, one-on-one outreach, such as tabling
- Consulting directly with interested property owners, HOAs and landscapers.
- Designing and drafting educational resources and materials
- Research and record keeping, such as compiling an informational database of plants
- Working with City and Parks officials, to enact policy and organizational change
- Planning, planting and adopting new pollinator gardens

## 2. Review Big-picture Goals and the Current List of Projects

We will go over our list of active or potential projects, and these will be pre-populated into our collaborative brainstorming space, in Jamboard.

- Approved Pollinator Garden Certification Program and site visits
- Pollinator Garden Tour – with a Firewise focus for 2022
- Spring Pollinator Garden Social, as a kickoff event to raise interest in the Tour
- Assist with the Pollinator garden near the Oak Knoll Club House
- Riverwalk (Clinton St.) Pollinator Garden, educate residents and encourage maintenance
- Finalize Noenicitinoid resolution, with research support from SOU, and submit for approval
- Provide consultation/recommendations to Parks, for design and maintenance for biodiversity.
- Develop partnerships with HOAs and assist them in developing Pollinator Landscaping plans

### **3. New Project Brainstorm**

Subcommittee members will add their project ideas to the shared brainstorming space. All new ideas, and creative new directions will be considered. Projects not selected for this year, will be retained in the “Parking Lot” for future. So far, these proposal ideas have been submitted:

- Work with APRC to design a pollinator friendly landscape for East Main Park
- Support the development of plant database that includes pollinator habitat value and fire-resistance
- Develop educational resources including best practices, landscape recommendations and plants lists

### **4. Organization and Prioritization**

We will use our shared brainstorming space to consider different ways to organize these projects, and decide which will be tabled in the “parking lot” for future years.

Through discussion, come to consensus about two large projects that the subcommittee will undertake in 2022. If consensus is not forthcoming, we will use a brief Survey Monkey questionnaire to conduct a vote.

### **5. Establish Working Groups**

If there is time, members will organize ourselves into workgroups around the established goals.



## 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-4:30pm