

The meeting of the Neighborhood Leadership Alliance (NLA) was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at the City Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street, as well as online and by phone.

Roll Call: John Bennett, Karen Bergsvik, Kody Campbell, Jim Christo, Gina Franzosa, Chris Friess, Shannon Mara, Lisa Mushel, Chris Pearson, Elizabeth Rhodes, Morgan Schmidt, Ross Tinti

Absent: Summer Sears (excused)

1. Approve Minutes

There were no minutes available to approve.

2. Public Comments

Tom Wellborn of the River West neighborhood asked if there was anything in the current law or the camping code proposal that addresses camping in areas that are zoned residential, and if so, what do the laws permit? Ian Leitheiser, Assistant City Attorney, explained the draft code in its current form and added City Council is continuing to provide input and direction and that the current proposal is subject to change.

Susan Wellborn of the River West neighborhood said her understanding of the proposed camping code was that camping would not be allowed unless shelter space was unavailable. She asked how often shelters are full, and who would enforce the code. Welbourn stated she would prefer that people not be allowed to camp and suggested engaging churches or community organizations to supplement when shelters are full.

Justin Gottlieb stated the houseless could use the NLA's help. Gottlieb suggested using the Oregon bottle bill as a way to provide rent and deposit relief to unhoused people.

3. Neighborhood Association Outreach and Engagement

Makayla Oliver, Community Relations Manager, gave an overview of Neighborhood Association recruitment and engagement. Oliver showed the following slides:

- What have we done in the past?
- Recruitment and engagement isn't a new topic...
- What's the formula for success?
- Top 5 "must-haves" for effective neighborhood recruitment and engagement
- Community Engagement Grant Funding / Community Relations Manager

- Neighborhood Leader Orientations & Trainings
- General Membership Meeting – Help me, help you!
- Event Supplies Available for Checkout
- Online Resources
- Coming Soon!
- Neighborhood Projects: Successes and Lessons Learned

Chair Schmidt asked members to share recruitment success stories and ideas. Members gave multiple examples of successful events and projects in their NAs and shared a variety of strategies for recruitment and retention.

4. Liaison Updates & Discussion

- a. Unsanctioned Camping Code Development—Chair Schmidt

Report:

Chair Schmidt represented the NLA at the City’s first roundtable regarding the camping code. The Chair received feedback that the code seemed like a balanced and workable first step, but residents had concerns and questions about shelter capacity and safe sheltering options. Chair Schmidt said some residents were reassured to learn camping would not be permitted in residential areas under the draft code.

Discussion at the roundtable included ideas for alternatives to compliance, including the possibility of a judicial process to connect the unhoused with resources and service providers.

Discussion:

Member Mara asked how soon a piece of land could be acquired to provide camping for the unhoused and pointed out a shelter is not always an option people want to use.

Ian Leitheiser, Assistant City Attorney, explained the obstacles to providing and running a large, managed campground, including available land, business and community member objections, and capacity. Leitheiser gave an overview of the code changes and investments the City has made to increase shelter capacity and pointed out the City’s responsibility is to manage the rights of way.

There was further discussion about houselessness and the complexities involved in addressing the issue. Leitheiser clarified the anticipated schedule for Council to vote on an ordinance to adopt a code and provided some expectations NLA members could communicate to their NAs.

City Councilor Megan Perkins added Council is working to make sure they are making a humane policy while acknowledging rights-of-way in the community need to be regulated. Councilor Perkins also provided insight into Council’s process around the camping code.

There was further discussion around camping in parks; removal and storage of individuals' possessions; ways the NLA can be involved in the camping code process moving forward; affordable housing and drug addiction treatment; and the Safe Parking Program. Oliver emphasized the importance of NLA members bringing information back to their neighborhoods.

5. Roadmap and Agenda Requests

Oliver listed the top feedback NLA members provided about topics on which to focus:

- Outreach and engagement
- Assessment follow-up
- NLA and Council goal setting

Members added they wanted to learn more about houselessness and affordable housing efforts at the November meeting. There was also interest in discussing the tree code.

6. Representative Reports

Member Bennett, Mountain View NA, reported on the following:

- Two police officers attended the last monthly meeting to address concerns around the Safeway shooting. Member Bennett stated the officers said it was the first NA in recent memory to ask them to attend and encouraged other NAs to reach out to Bend Police if they had concerns around specific issues. Member Franzosa added Police Chief Mike Krantz attended the River West annual meeting two years ago and was an excellent speaker.

7. Important Upcoming Dates (*tentative*)

- Oct. 19, 4 p.m.: City Council Work Session, Climate Friendly & Equitable Communities Work Plan, Midtown Crossings**

Member Rhodes volunteered to attend this session if Member Mushel was unable or unavailable.

- Oct. 24, 5 p.m.: Planning Commission Work Session**

Adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Mitsch
Senior Administrative Support Specialist