

City of Bend
Neighborhood Leadership Alliance Special Meeting
December 5, 2022

The special meeting of the Neighborhood Leadership Alliance (NLA) was called to order at 5:01 p.m. on Monday, December 5, 2022, in Council Chambers at City Hall, 710 NW Wall Street, as well as online.

Roll Call: Lisa Mushel, John Bennett, Karen Bergsvik, Kody Campbell, Jim Christo, Chris Friess, Elizabeth Rhodes, Summer Sears, Ross Tinti

Absent: Gina Franzosa (excused), Shannon Mara (excused), Chris Pearson (excused), Morgan Schmidt (excused)

1. Public Comments

There were no public comments submitted.

2. Home Energy Score (HES) Program Discussion – Letter of Position

With only about two-thirds of members present, Vice Chair Mushel cautioned the group to consider whether a closely split vote on any communication at this meeting would represent NLA concerns as a whole.

Vice Chair Mushel reported receiving communication from the Southeast Bend Neighborhood Association (SEBNA), River West Neighborhood Association (RWNA), and Southern Crossing Neighborhood Association (SCNA); common concerns centered on the mandatory nature of the proposed HES program.

Members discussed the HES at length. Additional concerns included the following:

- Cost burden on lower income homeowners
- Homes that have come before the Landmarks Commission, which may not approve some of the needed upgrades
- The cost of updating older homes
- The perceived risk of assessors using the HES to upsell other services
- The possibility of enforcement against homeowners who request assessments but cannot have them completed before the deadline due to assessor availability or other reasons outside the homeowner's control
- The number of licensed assessors currently operating in Bend
- The complexity of requiring the HES as part of listing a home

Member suggestions for the HES program included the following:

- Make the HES mandatory only for older homes
- Make the HES a widely available, voluntary, educational and free tool
- Have the City set up a central scheduling portal for the HES program

Cassie Lacy, Senior Management Analyst, clarified the cost of the HES and the specifics of the proposed ordinance. Lacy explained the idea of the HES is to obtain the score pre-listing and added the proposed ordinance includes a timing clause. Lacy also reported the HES will begin in July 2023 at the soonest, which gives time to promote awareness as well as for assessors to become licensed, and pointed out a voluntary home energy assessment service is already available in Bend.

Following questions, Lacy shared the HES data collection form and explained how the HES works and what assessors are looking at when they perform an assessment.

Makayla Oliver, Community Relations Manager, noted the lack of consensus on a position and stated individual neighborhood associations could submit letters to Council in the absence of majority agreement on one NLA letter.

Members Bennett and Friess stated they were not ready to sign onto a letter with anyone else. Member Mushel proposed individual neighborhood association letters.

Member Sears moved to forego submitting a letter to Council from the NLA regarding the Home Energy Score program. Member Campbell seconded. The majority agreed and the motion carried.

8. Adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Mitsch
Senior Administrative Support Specialist