

City of Bend
Neighborhood Leadership Alliance Meeting
February 14, 2023

The meeting of the Neighborhood Leadership Alliance (NLA) was called to order at 4:02 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, in Council Chambers at City Hall, 710 NW Wall Street, as well as online.

1. **Roll Call:** John Bennett (present virtually), Kody Campbell, Jim Christo, Gina Franzosa, Shannon Mara, Lisa Mushel (present virtually), Chris Pearson, Elizabeth Rhodes, Summer Sears (present virtually), Ross Tinti (present virtually), Morgan Schmidt

Absent: None

2. **Approve Minutes**

Member Franzosa moved to approve the January 10 meeting Minutes. Member Christo seconded the motion. The motion passed (11-0).

3. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments submitted.

4. **NLA Representative Reports**

- **Lisa Mushel, Century West Neighborhood Association (CWNA)** shared that the
 - CWNA met in person in January and was hoping to have some new Board members after its next meeting.
 - The CWNA Board was hard at work planning the Association's annual meeting, but they were having difficulty getting Deschutes County to return their calls regarding Fire Free/Fire Wise speakers.
 - A couple of projects going through the appeals process were remanded back from the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA). Member Mushel stated neighbors were going to great expense to protect their properties from potentially being taken by a developer.
 - Member Mushel was pleased with the training session at the previous week's Land Use Chair Networking Group and thanked Community Relations Manager Makayla Oliver, Communications Coordinator Brenna Visser, and Planning Manager Renee Brooke for their presentation. The training was well attended and well received, with good information on the appeals process.
- **John Bennett, Mountain View Neighborhood Association (MVNA):**
 - MVNA had its monthly meeting in January with the full board present.

- A general concern within the MVNA was the upcoming work at the intersection of Neff and Purcell, which was anticipated to disrupt people's normal traffic routines for a few months.
- One of the MVNA Board members, a local real estate agent, suggested putting together information Realtors could give out to new residents to introduce them to the NAs. The Board member gave Member Bennett the contact information for the Central Oregon association of Realtors (COAR) Communications Director.
- **Jim Christo, Southeast Bend Neighborhood Association (SEBNA):**
 - SEBNA has been heavily involved in the appeal of the gas station at Murphy and Brosterhous. Although Council declined to hear the appeal at its February 1 meeting, Member Christo stated SEBNA came up with many other violations it did not put in the brief due to the cost involved.
 - Member Christo shared that SEBNA has concerns with the City's violation of its own engineering codes and stated SEBNA would like other NAs to let them know of other instances of the City violating a code or making an unusual discretionary decision that might not be supported by evidence. After some discussion about the role of the NLA, Chair Schmidt stated she did not think it was a project for the NLA.
 - Member Christo stated the SEBNA Board is concerned that the NAs and possibly the NLA should become involved with the process of selecting Climate Friendly Areas (CFAs) to ensure the selection process is equitable throughout the City. Member Christo stated he would like to add this to the agenda to determine whether the NLA can participate. Oliver explained the process through which the NLA could become involved and agreed to bring a memo back to the group. Mayor Kebler added the Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities rules require a robust public participation process in which the NLA and NAs would likely be involved.
 - SEBNA's land use chair is in the process of resigning; Member Christo noted it is a difficult position for NAs to fill.
- **Gina Franzosa, River West Neighborhood Association (RWNA):**
 - RWNA's Board was working on getting its annual meeting scheduled for March or April; the topic would likely be cycling and Bend Bikes.
 - Ryan Oster, Engineering and Infrastructure Planning Director, was scheduled to meet with RWNA to discuss the Galveston Corridor Capital Improvement Project (CIP).
- **Chris Friess, Old Bend Neighborhood Association (OBNA):**
 - Member Friess reported OBNA would like to see the Drake Park work extended south to connect to the River Trail.
 - OBNA suspects the work along Colorado and Arizona will send more traffic through their neighborhood.
 - OBNA is planning a neighborhood garage sale to get neighbors out to meet each other.

- **Shannon Mara, Summit West Neighborhood Association (SWNA):**
 - The SWNA Board was down to three members; they were trying to recruit more.
 - SWNA was planning its annual meeting for April; the main topic would be that they can do more, but they need help.
 - Member Mara reported a couple of people were spearheading an effort to close the gate at the entrance to Phil's Trail due to trash and other issues from long-term camping in that area. Member Mara pointed out much of the camping is legal. Member Mara noted the Forest Service had closed the gate opposite Widgi Creek to traffic, which had had the effect of cleaning up a large camping area there. Member Mara offered to send a link to information to any neighborhoods wanting to back that effort.
- **Chris Pearson, Awbrey Butte Neighborhood Association (ABNA):**
 - The ABNA was down to four board members.
 - ABNA had its first in-person meeting in late January and had another meeting scheduled the day after this NLA meeting. Member Pearson reported six or seven people were interested in joining the ABNA Board.
 - ABNA was interested in working with the CWNA on the fire safety event in April.
 - ABNA is looking at a quarterly social event that would include information of interest to NA members; board members acknowledged the need to make the NA more social.
- **Elizabeth Rhodes, Southwest Bend Neighborhood Association (SWBNA):**
 - The SWBNA had its monthly Board meeting on the morning of this NLA meeting and was also down to three Board members.
 - SWBNA's spring meeting was tentatively planned for the third week in April, pending confirmation that it would not conflict with other NA meetings.
 - The appeal process for land use decisions was a big topic of discussion at the SWBNA meeting; members had realized appealing land use decisions was cost prohibitive for NAs. In addition, Member Rhodes stated the short window of time to appeal a decision meant there was effectively no opportunity to appeal. Member Rhodes said SWBNA wanted to figure out what the process would be to address these issues and learn, for example, whether something could be done to make the appeal process doable when NAs are concerned about a decision and have legitimate reasons for wanting to appeal that decision.
- **Summer Sears, Orchard District Neighborhood Association (ODNA):**
 - Member Sears asked to put the following topics on the table for a future agenda: DEI training the City could coordinate for multiple NAs; and a Good Samaritan program coordination that would match neighbors who have a need with neighbors who are able to help meet that need, for example, with snow shoveling.

- Member Mushel explained some neighborhoods were doing the Good Samaritan program and some weren't, and there was no good way to coordinate it centrally. Instead, said Member Mushel, all coordination of the Good Samaritan program happens within the individual NAs. Member Mushel explained it was not an overwhelming task for one person in an NA to manage.
 - Member Sears thanked the City for stepping up to help the NAs with a variety of resources as well as for the outreach about the Purcell/Neff closure and other closures.
 - **Ross Tinti, Old Farm District Neighborhood Association (OFDNA):**
 - The OFDNA had met the day before this NLA meeting, and Councilor Riley had joined them. It was a hybrid meeting at the Larkspur Community Center; Member Tinti explained that meeting location and format were a dry run for the OFDNA's general meeting on March 23. Member Tinti offered to talk to other NAs who were interested in trying the hybrid option.
 - Guest speakers slated for the OFDNA's March 23 meeting included the new Deschutes County Solid Waste director; police liaison Eric Hagen; and representatives of the Reed South development, where Cascade Lakes Brewing is going in.
 - Mailchimp costs will increase by about \$30/month. Member Tinti said OFDNA is planning to pay right now because there is no free alternative, but up until now MailChimp has been free.
 - Residents have brought the issue of concert noise to the OFDNA. Member Tinti expressed concern with the noise levels at Hayden Homes Amphitheater and said people are looking for the City to step up and address that and be transparent about what the plan is.
 - The Neighborhood Street Safety Program (NSSP) was looking for input from NAs regarding the location of street signs by sometime in mid-April.
 - OFDNA also expressed concerns about development, including the approval of the gas station at Murphy and Brosterhous when 80-90% of OFDNA and 98% of SEBNA opposed it. Tinti said residents want to know how to reach out to City and have an impact on things that are being proposed by developers. OFDNA wants to make sure they have input on other projects proposed around OFDNA; Tinti expressed concerns about the traffic that will be generated by the Ferguson area annexation.
 - Mayor Kebler pointed out the amphitheater was working on rules and regulations for the upcoming season. The Mayor met with them in December, where they informed her amphitheater and Old Mill leadership are working on mitigation efforts for this year. Mayor Kebler noted Old Mill leadership is happy to talk to anyone about what they're doing in this area. The Mayor added that if nothing changes, more steps will be taken.

- **Morgan Schmidt, Larkspur Neighborhood Association (LNA):**
 - LNA land use chair Sue Sullivan stepped down; the Board was able to thank her.
 - They are talking a lot in Larkspur about the Wildflower development. Schmidt said there would be updates about that at the LNA meeting following this NLA meeting.
 - Chair Schmidt joined Member Sears in feedback to the City: LNA is grateful for the communication around street closures as they're happening, particularly the 15th and Wilson closure and other changes along the Wilson corridor.

Member Friess left the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

5. Council Goal Setting Update

Mayor Kebler presented the following slides:

- Council Goal Setting Update
- Council Goal Setting Timeline
- Community Listening Sessions: Themes
- Current Council Goals Continuing Into the 2023-5 Biennium
- 2023 – 2025 Draft Goal Areas
- Bend Guiding Principles
- Bend Guiding Principles: Governance
- Discussion + Questions?
- Council Goal Setting: Next Steps
- Bend Guiding Principles
- Bend Guiding Principles: Governance
- Discussion + Questions?
- Council Goal Setting: Next Steps

Member Tinti asked why the tree code was not in the list of draft goal areas; Mayor Kebler explained Council was going to work on that in the next couple of months, which is the current biennium.

Members provided input and asked for clarification around concerns regarding accessible and effective government, equity around charges, revenue sources, System Development Charges (SDCs), water conservation, and protected bike and pedestrian pathways. Mayor Kebler provided insight into state rules and the availability of revenue sources.

Mayor Kebler noted there was still time to send Council any thoughts NAs had.

Member Pearson asked for more information about the process of arriving at Council goals. Mayor Kebler explained how items make it into the goals and how Council follows up and advocates on many items that don't make it into goals. Members had additional questions about

the goal setting retreat; Mayor Kebler provided insight and stated the sessions were all recorded and are available online.

Member Mushel asked a question about the transportation bond and taxes; Mayor Kebler explained the bond is the first in a series of solutions identified in the Transportation System Plan (TSP). Mayor Kebler noted there was a much bigger funding gap for the transportation system than just the GO bond, which Council would be discussing the following night.

Member Rhodes asked the Mayor to repeat what she said about the tree code; Mayor Kebler said it would be part of the March 15 Council work session. Oliver provided additional clarification on the tree code process and encouraged NAs to tune into that meeting. Mayor Kebler shared how NAs can provide input to Council.

Member Tinti left at 5:01 p.m.

Oliver informed members that Mayor Kebler is the new Council liaison for the NLA.

6. Outstanding Items

A. Meeting Times and Dates

Oliver gave members the opportunity to weigh in on the meeting day and time (currently the second Tuesday at 4 p.m.). Members generally were in favor of a later meeting time. Oliver agreed to send out a poll to determine the new meeting time.

B. Roadmap/Agenda Topics

Oliver said Christian Williams, NSSP program manager, was scheduled to speak about the NSSP at the March NLA meeting; Oliver encouraged members to let their neighborhoods know to watch that meeting. Member Sears added Williams spoke at the ODNA meeting and told other NAs to reach out to him if they were interested in doing the same. Oliver said Williams had reached out to NAs with upcoming projects and had not heard back from all of them.

Member Franzosa asked about prioritization of NSSP projects; Mayor Kebler and Oliver provided insight on that process.

Member Rhodes asked who would be the best contact if an NA wanted to check on an NSSP project; Oliver said Williams would be the best contact and agreed to send Member Rhodes his email.

Oliver said another strategic goal retreat was on the radar for April/May/June to get an idea of what the NLA will work on for the next couple of years. A consultant will be involved funding is available.

Oliver asked members to send her any requests or ideas for agenda topics or bring them up at an NLA meeting.

7. Liaison Updates

A. Neighborhood Association Roundtable (NART)

Member Mushel reported that NART had a good meeting at the end of January; there was a letter submitted by some of the NART reps. Member Mushel said NART was focused on operational efficiencies and determining what information they could share to make the NAs stronger. She added that NART was necessarily looking to get involved in policy directives.

8. Important Upcoming Dates (*tentative*)

- a. February 15, 5 p.m. City Council Work Session, Transportation Fee
- b. February 15, 7 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting, Fire Levy Resolution
- c. March 1, 5 p.m. City Council Work Session, Council Goal Framework, budget preview
- d. March 15, 5 p.m. City Council Work Session, Tree Code
- e. March 15, 7 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting, Adoption of Council Goal Framework

9. Adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Mitsch
Senior Administrative Support Specialist