

**City of Bend
Neighborhood Leadership Alliance Meeting
March 14, 2023**

The meeting of the Neighborhood Leadership Alliance (NLA) was called to order at 4:31 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, in Council Chambers at City Hall, 710 NW Wall Street, as well as online.

- 1. Roll Call:** Chair Morgan Schmidt (Larkspur Neighborhood Association), Vice Chair Lisa Mushel (Century West Neighborhood Association), Members John Bennett (Mountain View Neighborhood Association, present virtually), Jim Christo (Southeast Bend Neighborhood Association), Gina Franzosa (River West Neighborhood Association), Chris Friess (Old Bend Neighborhood Association), Shannon Mara (Summit West Neighborhood Association), Chris Pearson (Awbrey Butte Neighborhood Association, present virtually), Elizabeth Rhodes (Southwest Bend Neighborhood Association, present virtually), Summer Sears (Orchard District Neighborhood Association, present virtually), Ross Tinti (Old Farm District Neighborhood Association, present virtually)

Absent: Morgan Schmidt (excused)

- 2. Approve Minutes**

Member Christo moved to approve the February 14 meeting Minutes. Member Tinti seconded the motion. The motion passed (11-0).

- 3. Public Comments**

- David Green, Bend Bikes, advocated for walking, riding, and rolling in Bend, citing health reasons and the fact that not everyone owns a car. Green asked for a change to how transportation is managed in Bend; his reasons included costs, livability, and climate goals. Green stated Bend Bikes would like to engage with neighborhood associations and the NLA.

- 4. Updates**

- A. Meeting Time
Vice Chair Mushel and Community Relations Manager Makayla Oliver provided an overview of the new meeting time of 4:30.
- B. Committee Vacancies
Oliver provided an overview of the current openings, which include Boyd Acres Neighborhood Association (BANA) and Southern Crossing Neighborhood Association (SCNA) representatives, and encouraged representatives to spread the word if they knew members of those neighborhood associations who could apply.

5. Neighborhood Street Safety Program (NSSP) Update

Engineering Associate Christian Williams introduced himself, gave a brief overview of the NSSP, and presented the following slides:

- Neighborhood Street Safety Program
- Project Background
- What We Have Done
- 2019-2022
- Breakdown by Neighborhood Association (as of now)
- 2022-2024
- Breakdown by Neighborhood Association (EOY)
- What Will We Do
- Summer 2024
- 2025 and Beyond
- Any Questions?

Members asked Williams about various projects, the tree code, and the public engagement process around NSSP projects; Williams provided explanation and further information.

Mayor Kebler explained the Council Community Building Subcommittee's role and the GO Bond. Engineering and Infrastructure Planning Director Ryan Oster added additional clarification on the need for input from the Community Building Subcommittee as well as from the community and added that other interest groups will have a chance to provide input. Williams noted there will be communication with neighborhood associations (NAs) throughout the design process as well.

Following questions about the NSSP projects, Williams advised members of the NSSP page on the City of Bend website, which links to an interactive map. Oster explained how NSSP projects were chosen and prioritized.

Member Franzosa asked if the City has looked at the list of projects that weren't funded. Oster asked whether the NLA would prefer to work off that original list or take it back to their members for input. Vice Chair Mushel stated she would like to take it back to NA members again and noted there many members were not yet on the NLA when the list was first created. Member Mara agreed but asked the original list be cleaned up with explanations of what has been completed and which NSSP improvements are included in other projects before getting NA input.

Following members' requests for communication to the NAs, Williams explained he has reached out to every NA this year and last and will continue to reach out to all NAs where the City is doing work. Williams reminded members to check their emails; Member Franzosa advised members to make sure their email address are correct on the website.

6. NLA Representative Reports

- **Gina Franzosa, River West Neighborhood Association (RWNA):**
 - Met with Oster regarding the Galveston project. Franzosa said the RWNA supports the City in having some flexibility in pushing the project out a little and using the extra time to engage with residents around bike/ped safety.
 - RWNA continues to look for board members.
 - Member Franzosa has been participating with Bend Bikes. She was hoping to schedule a ride on Portland Avenue with Bend Bikes and Councilor Méndez to get the Councilor's feedback on the GO Bond project for Portland Avenue.
- **Shannon Mara, Summit West Neighborhood Association (SWNA):**
 - Annual meeting is scheduled and moving forward.
 - SWNA has a new board member.
 - People are concerned about clear cutting; Member Mara noted a need for education about what the tree code says. Vice Chair Mushel said people seem to be upset the tree code appears to be unenforceable. Mayor Kebler stated it needs to be updated to make it clear and objective according to state standards, which Council would discuss at its March 15, 2023 work session.

Member Franzosa left the meeting at 5:24 p.m.

- **Chris Friess, Old Bend Neighborhood Association (OBNA):**
 - OBNA is generally very happy with what they see in the Timber Yards development. The NA does have concerns about cut-through traffic from the Timber Yards area to Franklin.
 - The Deschutes River Trail is getting much better through Drake Park but is still not there on Riverfront Avenue.
 - OBNA has a strong and involved board. Things are going well.
- **Jim Christo, Southeast Bend Neighborhood Association (SEBNA):**
 - Planning is underway for the next annual meeting. SEBNA is considering having an event in the fall and a business meeting in the spring.
 - SEBNA is working on the gas station appeal and trying to raise funding for a Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) review.
 - Member Christo is in the process of collecting information in cases where NAs believe the City may have erred in applying the code.
- **John Bennett, Mountain View Neighborhood Association (MVNA):**
 - MVNA's last board meeting was February 27; Whitney Bennett of Commute Options gave an Oregon Friendly Driver Program presentation. Member Bennett recommended other NAs look into that presentation.
 - For April's board meeting, a guest speaker from Bend Urban Gardens is scheduled to talk about getting gardens ready for the spring season. MVNA will have a raffle to encourage people to show up for the meeting.
 - Some board members plan to step down this fall. MVNA is actively recruiting.
- **Elizabeth Rhodes, Southwest Bend Neighborhood Association (SBNA):**

- SBNA's monthly board meeting was held on the day of this meeting. A community member attended and is eager to join the board.
- SBNA's in-person spring general meeting is slated for May 25.
- Green Team begins in April; SBNA is working on that street cleanup project.
- The proposed managed camp next to Les Schwab had been a hot topic in the neighborhood. Member Rhodes stated she appreciated the communication from Communications Director Anne Aurand regarding that project. SBNA land use chair Judy Clinton had reached out for information before the County stepped away from the project; Member Rhodes reported SBNA has decided to wait and see. If that site is reconsidered, SBNA would like to be kept in the loop so they can communicate to their residents where possible.
- **Ross Tinti, Old Farm District Neighborhood Association (OFDNA):**
 - The OFDNA general meeting was scheduled for March 23, 2023 at Larkspur Community Center. Several speakers were lined up. OFDNA was planning to give away magnets and pamphlets about pollinators and native plants.
 - OFDNA is submitting speed radar sign requests on April 15. They are targeting Brosterhous, 15th, and Parrell.
 - Member Tinti encouraged other members to visit the GO Bond dashboard at <https://bendoregon.gov/gobond> to see all GO Bond programs and how they're progressing.
- **Chris Pearson, Awbrey Butte Neighborhood Association (ABNA):**
 - ABNA had met in person the previous week at The Edge restaurant. They have a new board member.
 - Member Pearson would like to get info on when other NAs are meeting, whether they're meeting in person, and what general issues they'll be addressing at their general meetings.
 - Oliver committed to providing that information via email where possible.
 - The fire department levy was the main topic of discussion at the ABNA meeting. Member Pearson reported a few ABNA members had concerns around the steep increase in the levy, why it is being voted on in May instead of in November, and whether the City will have access to those funds.
 - Mayor Kebler explained the levy was introduced in 2014 at \$0.20 and hasn't increased since then, but there has been a 60% increase in calls for service since 2014. The existing levy has not kept up with demand. It expires in 2024 and Mayor Kebler explained the City wants to get ahead of it. If the levy fails in May, that provides time to regroup and come back to voters in November. The Mayor clarified fire levy funds cannot be used for anything other than the fire department, as it is their budget. She added the fire department is happy to come talk to any NAs because they want to get questions answered for folks.
 - Member Pearson asked about Survey Planet.
 - Oliver explained all NAs interested in having a Survey Planet account can fill out a form; the information is in her newsletter. Oliver said about six NAs have signed up, and she is trying to get the word out to others. She

noted Survey Planet costs are covered through NLA funds to help the NLA get pulse checks on certain topics, but there is no restriction regarding how the NAs can use the tool.

- **Summer Sears, Orchard District Neighborhood Association (ODNA):**
 - ODNA has been looking at traffic resulting from construction. Last week they attempted to do an informal vote of the board to request the City work with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to look at the timing of the light at Greenwood and 8th, where there are some considerable backlogs; however, they did not have enough participation to get a vote on that.
- **Lisa Mushel, Century West Neighborhood Association (CWNA):**
 - CWNA has been busy on land use topics. There are several projects off of Bachelor View Road. Four different developments are nearby and causing concern for neighbors. CWNA is going through LUBA appeals and hearings.
 - CWNA has had a couple of neighborhood meetings, one in concert with SCNA regarding apartment buildings being developed in the vicinity.
 - CWNA is planning an event at OSU Cascades on April 22nd. Fire experts will educate people on defensible space and appropriate plantings; Vice Chair Mushel was hoping to have them talk about the fire levy. Vice Chair Mushel noted that when people look at library bond, the GO Bond, and the fire levy, they are becoming concerned with the appearance of large property tax increases.

Member Bennett asked whether there was a gas station going in at the commercial development on Reed Market and 27th Street. Mayor Kebler said she would check on this answer.

7. Questions

Member Pearson asked for update on the managed camping near Les Schwab. There was no update available.

Member Christo asked about the land use education project. Vice Chair Mushel reported the Land Use Networking Group had met with Communications Coordinator Brenna Visser; Oliver added Visser has taken on the land use education project and is working on giving NAs more of a heads up on projects. Oliver explained Visser is looking at trainings and is managing the Land Use page on the City website.

Oliver stated she is putting together a request for proposals for facilitating an NLA retreat, using funds set aside in the NLA budget. Oliver explained the Mayor and the NLA chairs have discussed going back to the mission, vision, and values of the NLA by getting together, reevaluating who the NLA is as a committee, and making sure it is in line with what Council wants this body to be doing. Oliver reported she is looking at May and June for those meetings.

8. Requested Agenda Items for April

- A. Member Rhodes requested the NLA stays on top of the tree ordinance and looks at the appeals process for land use decisions. Member Rhodes noted Planning Manager Renee Brooke had given a good presentation that might be useful for the NLA. Member Mushel noted that presentation was recorded and is available.
- B. Member Mushel stated she would like neighborhood safety reports from police to use as part of the NA's report to the neighborhood.

9. Liaison Updates

- A. Neighborhood Association Roundtable (NART): NART did not meet in February.

10. Important Upcoming Dates (*tentative*)

- a. March 15, 5 p.m. City Council Work Session: Tree Code, Transportation Fee Update
- b. March 15, 7 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting: Adoption of Council Goal Framework
- c. April 5, 5 p.m. City Council Work Session: 2023 Bend Police Department Biannual Survey Results
- d. April 19, 7 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting: 2023 NSSP Construction, 2024 NSSP Design

There were additional questions about the fire levy; Councilor Kebler explained current funding and discussed how and when the levy funding would come into play.

11. Adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Mitsch
Senior Administrative Support Specialist