

**City of Bend
Neighborhood Leadership Alliance Meeting
April 11, 2023**

The meeting of the Neighborhood Leadership Alliance (NLA) was called to order at 4:31 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 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), 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), Elizabeth Rhodes (Southwest Bend Neighborhood Association), Summer Sears (Orchard District Neighborhood Association, present virtually), Ross Tinti (Old Farm District Neighborhood Association, present virtually)

Absent: Lisa Mushel (excused), Chris Friess, Chris Pearson (excused), Elizabeth Rhodes (excused)

2. **Approve Minutes**

Member Franzosa moved to approve the March 14 meeting Minutes. Member Christo seconded the motion. The motion passed (7-0).

Agenda items were reordered to better align with Chief Operations Officer Russ Grayson's schedule, as he was slated to make a presentation to the NLA on the Transportation Utility Fee.

3. **NLA Representative Reports**

- **John Bennett, Mountain View Neighborhood Association (MVNA):**
 - Ashley Joyce of Bend Urban Gardens gave a presentation at the March 20 MVNA meeting; the NA gave away seed packets and planting pots.
 - On April 17, MVNA has a social event planned at River's Place with giveaways and discounted drink tickets for Mountain View Neighborhood residents who sign up for MVNA that night.
- **Jim Christo, Southeast Bend Neighborhood Association (SEBNA):**
 - After a redesign, the SEBNA newsletter has gone out to the neighborhood; email lists are being revised.
 - The SEBNA board is having discussions regarding the neighborhood survey, tentatively scheduled for summer.
 - SEBNA is losing its longtime land use chair, Ben Atwell, and will recruit for the position.
 - The NA is discussing the possibility of a September event at Alpenglow Park.

- The SEBNA annual business meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 2024.
- **Gina Franzosa, River West Neighborhood Association (RWNA):**
 - Member Franzosa is taking a Portland Avenue bike ride on April 13 with Bend Bikes representatives, Councilor Méndez, and Principal Engineer Garrett Sabourin to discuss the possibility of street projects on that road.
 - The RWNA board chair had to step down due to a childcare issue; this has complicated the scheduling of the NA's annual meeting.
- **Shannon Mara, Summit West Neighborhood Association (SWNA):**
 - SWNA has a membership meeting scheduled for May 2.
 - The SWNA board is planning a meeting to brainstorm priorities and will also survey members.
 - The new SWNA board member is overseeing the survey platform, website, and social media.
 - At a recent NA event held at the Unitarian Universalist church, Member Mara learned that facility does not allow disposable products; she commended them for that choice.
- **Summer Sears, Orchard District Neighborhood Association (ODNA):**
 - Engineering Associate Christian Williams will be on hand at the next ODNA meeting to provide an update on the Neighborhood Street Safety Program (NSSP) and answer NSSP-related questions.
- **Ross Tinti, Old Farm District Neighborhood Association (OFDNA):**
 - The March 23 OFDNA meeting was well attended.
 - OFDNA completed a budget review and still had around \$2,000 to use by the end of June. Member Tinti noticed other NAs had money left as well and encouraged NLA representatives to reach out to their boards to make sure those funds are used. Member Tinti reminded the group that Community Relations Manager Makayla Oliver needs to approve those requests by mid-June.
 - The tree code has been reviewed by Council and is now in committee; OFDNA would like to see a dedicated tree code committee.
 - Mayor Kebler explained the tree codes are going to the Council Stewardship Subcommittee on April 14, and the Subcommittee will set up a work group to start creating the code. Mayor Kebler noted anyone interested in following that process can watch the April 14 Stewardship Subcommittee meeting.
- **Morgan Schmidt, Larkspur Neighborhood Association (LNA):**
 - In spite of the road work on 15th Street, LNA is grateful for that project.
 - The next LNA meeting is scheduled for late April at Bevel Brewing with some fun activities.

Oliver reminded Members the NAs get one free map each year from the City and encouraged them to get those.

4. Outstanding Items

A. Climate Friendly Areas

Oliver provided background on the Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC) rules, which are still being changed at the state level. Oliver stated there was nothing to report at this time because cities have not been given guidelines. There will, however, be a large community engagement component. Oliver stated she would revisit the topic at a future NLA meeting when more is known.

Member Franzosa asked about CFEC rules' effect on a potential parking permit zone in the Galveston Avenue area. Mayor Kebler noted CFEC rules were still up in the air.

B. City Council Quarterly Check-in

Oliver noted the City Council Quarterly Check-in would be held on April 19 at 3:30 and explained NLA guidelines stipulate the Chair and Vice Chair attend. Oliver stated the check-in would focus on housing and homelessness updates, explained the meeting's format, and said it would be an opportunity for NLA Members to learn and to bring information back to their neighborhoods. Chair Schmidt stated she would not be able to attend and asked for other Members to be available. None were; Oliver agreed to follow up via email to ask for a representative.

5. **Important Upcoming Dates (tentative)**

- A. **April 14, 10 a.m. City Council Stewardship Subcommittee:** Neighborhood Assessment Recommendations, Tree Code Public Engagement Options
- B. **April 19, 3 p.m. City Council Work Session:** Council Goals Quarterly Check-in
- C. **April 19, 7 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting:** 2023 NSSP Construction, 2024 NSSP Design, Affordable Housing Strategy to sell City-owned Real Property for Affordable Housing
- D. **May 3, 5 p.m. City Council Work Session:** Proposed City Budget
- E. **May 3, 7 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting:** Consolidated Council Goals Plan and Annual Action Plan

Oliver explained the red text in the agenda she sends to NLA Members is a link to the full Council schedule and encouraged Members to explore it.

6. **Public Comment**

Jeremy Evans, Bend resident and founding member of Public Land Stewards (PLS) Bend, told NLA Members his organization had taken about 200,000 pounds of trash out of China Hat the previous weekend. Evans explained PLS Bend is a group of offroad enthusiasts doing clean-ups with the goal of preventing federal lands from being shut down and noted Discover Your Forest is the organization's fiscal sponsor. Evans stated that last year, PLS Bend took a total of 311,000 pounds of trash out from around Bend and noted that in recent years, about 90% of the trash the group removes is from abandoned homeless camps, including 37 abandoned vehicles the previous weekend.

7. Liaison Updates

- A. Neighborhood Association Roundtable – Lisa Mushel
Member Mushel was out sick; no other NLA Member attended. Oliver noted the next meeting topic for this group is to discuss what has worked well for general meetings.

- B. Chair Schmidt informed Members there was a new Boyd Acres representative and NLA Member, David Johnson, who was out sick for this meeting. Oliver explained he had been appointed the week before and would be doing orientation the following week. Oliver also noted SCNA needs an NLA representative.

8. Transportation Utility Fee

Chair Schmidt gave an overview of the Transportation Utility Fee process to date and reminded the NLA what their job was in regard to this presentation.

Chief Operations Officer Russ Grayson introduced the Transportation Utility Fee, explained the process of discussing it with advisory boards, and presented the following slides:

- Transportation Fee & Funding Discussion
- Goals of Today's Presentation
- Council Goals
- Citywide Transportation Funding Landscape
 - Where does your property tax dollar go?
 - General Fund Revenue
 - Market Value vs. Assessed Value
 - City of Bend Property Tax Base
 - Transportation System Plan (TSP)
 - TSP Public Engagement
 - New Transportation Programs Lack Funding
 - Current Revenue Sources
 - Transportation Funding Needs Through 2040
 - Recommended Funding Tools
- Importance of Street Operations & Maintenance
 - City Operations & Maintenance Programs
 - Preventative Maintenance Saves Money
 - Ongoing Funding Needed to Maintain PCI
 - 5-Year PCI Funding Scenarios

Member Christo asked for clarification of the cost over a five-year period. Grayson explained the funding targeted for operations and maintenance (O&M) needs.

Member Franzosa asked if the fire levy were to pass, would that reduce the portion of the general fund that goes to police and fire? Grayson said it would not and clarified that everything

displayed in the slides was based on the assumption the fire levy will pass. If it doesn't, funding for roads will be more impacted.

Hutson presented the following slides:

- Transportation Fee Overview
 - What is a Transportation Fee?
 - Common Funding Tool in Oregon
 - Why now?
- Direction from Council & Next Steps
 - Transportation Fee Scope
 - Communication Strategy Options
 - Transportation Fee Timeline

Member Christo recommended developing support in the community so people begin to understand this isn't a tax and what the ramifications will be if the Transportation Utility Fee does not happen and the fire levy does not pass. Chair Schmidt pointed out the NLA's job is to go back to their NAs as representatives and start to fill that gap.

Grayson explained staff is working to get a consultant on board to be able to help frame the conversation when the City starts to engage with stakeholder groups. As recommendations start to form, staff will come back to advisory boards for feedback. Grayson explained the communication plan in detail.

In order to help facilitate providing an NLA representative, Chair Schmidt asked whether the roundtables were already scheduled; Hutson said they were not. Member Franzosa volunteered to attend whenever it happens. Members Christo and Mara also showed interest.

Member Franzosa brought up the Transportation System Plan (TSP) and noted the cost to the community associated with how roads are being widened. Mayor Kebler stated the TSP would be looked at fairly soon due to CFEC rules and that it is not set in stone. Grayson added road standards would also be looked at and provided further information on some of the GO Bond projects.

Following further questioning from Member Franzosa, Mayor Kebler explained Council will be looking at what can be covered by a transportation fee in addition to operations and maintenance (O&M) needs and would be seeking community input.

Member Christo asked for early communication around the transportation fee. Grayson offered to come back to a later meeting with updates Members could take back to their NAs.

Member Mara asked how the City would make the fee equitable. Grayson said the City would look at rate tolerance, the utility assistance program, and commercial use of the transportation system.

Members and staff further discussed equity options and what other Oregon cities are charging for transportation fees.

Chair Schmidt asked Members to take the transportation fee information back to their NAs.

9. NLA Retreat and Work Plan

Chair Schmidt explained the NLA has not been able to complete its strategic plan due to persistent turnover and announced a retreat to begin discussing the strategic plan in light of the new biennium and new Council goals. Oliver added the NLA would revisit its mission, vision, and values and put together a workplan at the retreat with the help of a consultant.

Oliver explained the retreat would be scheduled after a Council work session and some specific code changes were finalized, likely in June or July. Oliver added she would follow up with the group via email to request input on items in the current work plan that are still relevant.

Member Christo noted there were no due dates or metrics in the current work plan and recommended going through each of its items to determine their status. Member Christo further recommended including work plan metrics at the retreat.

Member Mara said there is a tracking tool for NLA goals; Oliver explained it is cumbersome but agreed to send it out to the membership.

Member Mara asked for a livability metric with a point system that takes things like roads and affordability into account.

Member Bennett stated the NLA mission statement was still relevant; Member Franzosa asked to spend time working on the mission and vision.

Member Sears stated she would like to keep Goal 1, Objective C, without the word "boundaries."

10. Adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Mitsch
Senior Administrative Support Specialist