

Agenda for May 10, 2022 General Meeting - Larkspur Neighborhood

(Virtual Meeting via Zoom)

Attendees: Sue Sullivan, Molly McDowell, Katherine Rola, Marty Decker, Kristin Willis, Diane Berry, Kelsie Greer

6:30: Welcome and introduce the Board - Sue Sullivan- Chair, has been on the board for roughly nine years, main contact for the neighborhood

- Molly McDowell - Vice Chair - 1 year on board, mostly manages the website and social media
- Kelsie Greer - Secretary/Treasurer - 1 year on board
- Katherine Rola - Land Use - part of the role is to attend meetings related to developments happening in the Larkspur neighborhood, brings this information to the board and Larkspur neighborhood
- Marty Decker - Membership - takes care of the enewsletter
- Kristin Willis - Communication - help with social media and emails, has been in Larkspur for 10 years
- Diane Berry - Transportation - lived in Larkspur for 2 years, focus on issues that relate to safety, walkability and bikeability of our neighborhood
- Morgan Schmidt - Neighborhood Leadership Alliance rep (not present) - serves as an advisory to the City Council

6:38: Announcements, updates, and upcoming events - Sue Sullivan

- Advocacy for Pettigrew safety improvements; speed sign requests: Diane - This was identified as one of our goals for this year, and there are no current plans or funding for making any major improvements, but are exploring other options for improving the safety of Pettigrew. The city is going to do a traffic count and take speed data for the road and get back to use on their findings. Has been added to the double yellow striping program so you cannot pass on that road, there is a pedestrian crossing in the works for 2022 as well. The city thinks that they could consider making it a one way road as a pilot project and then make the other lane a ped/bike lane. We will put these options into a survey and will send that out to the neighborhood so neighbors can give input on the ideas that are floating out there. Please watch for that and give us your feedback, the options in the survey are the ones that the city gave to us as the most cost effective as there is not currently funding for any major projects. We have submitted a speed sign request and are waiting to hear back on that. If you have any other streets or intersections that you would like to see a speed sign, please email Diane and she can submit a request on your behalf. * This is a temporary digital speed sign.
- Neighborhood cleanup efforts and upcoming Bend Beautification project - Kelsie- Bend Beautification project

Sue- City wide effort called "Let's Pull Together" on May 21st. If you are

interested in that we would be happy to help you connect to that. We are talking about organizing another neighborhood cleanup at the Water Church on Bear Creek road. We are working on getting permission from the land owners and will get a date for that cleanup. If you are interested in joining, stay tuned.

- Bend Food Project - LeAnne Roberts - LeAnne is a volunteer for the Bend Food Project. As a neighborhood coordinator, she passes out green bags to anyone who would like to be a donor and every other month, you fill up the bag with non-perishable food items and on the designation date. LeAnne would then pick up the bag from your porch and would leave a new bag for the next time. If anyone is interested in being a donor or coordinator you can reach LeAnne at wedesign@bendnet.com. There are other volunteers in the neighborhood as well that are coordinating.

6:51: Own Your Zone: Fire resilience topics: Trish Connolly, Deputy Chief, Bend Fire and Rescue- May is wildfire awareness month. Own Your Zone- a wildfire awareness campaign, to give people simple things that they can do to help. The goal is that it can be accomplished in one weekend. Embers can travel up to one mile, and ignitions of homes often come from these embers. Thus, it is important to clean up around your house so falling embers are not able to ignite in your house/yard. So what you do around your own home can help save your house, your neighbors house and the neighborhood. Think of the yard in zones 1, 2, and 3. Zone 1 is 0-5ft around your house. This is the most important zone being that it is right up against your house. Think if the fire department couldn't be here and there are embers falling, think about what might get the embers going. 1) clean roofs and gutters, 2) trim branches that touch your roof, 3) remove flammable vegetation, 4) replace bark mulch if it comes right up to the base of your house, 5) move firewood away from the house. Zone 2- 5ft- 30ft. If you live in the neighborhood this is pretty much the extent of your zone. It is important to prune limbs and trees, and remove vegetation under trees. Zone 3- 30-100ft. This is breaking up the continuous fuels so fire doesn't have fuel to travel. Other things you can do: sign up for Deschutes alerting system: <https://www.deschutes.org/911/page/sign-deschutes-alerts>. Evacuation levels: 1) Ready- pack valuables, including important documents, know what you want to grab and where that is 2) Set- something is happening and time to be more serious about it. Monitor news reports, have a car ready. 3) Go- leave. The City of Bend has started a podcast, the latest is about wildfire safety. Go on apple podcast and search "Inside Bend ", or you can find it on the city of Bend website. <https://insidebend>. Other resources: www.ownyourzonebend.org. Now until May 15th it is free to dump yard waste and Knott landfill. For a more in depth wildfire protection plan: projectwildfire.org/cwpps/ to read the plan. Text COFIRE to 888-777 to receive wildfire and prescribed fire alerts.

Q how far up should trees be trimmed: **A:** 5-6ft.

Q: How much of an issue are the large pine trees in our yards. **A:** Can't completely say that embers can propagate, if they are trimmed and the trees are thinned doing a great job.

7:06: WaterWise and water conservation topics: Daniel Denning, Utilities program Manager, and Rod Mingus, Water Operations Manager- We do all things water conservation, indoors with a focus on outdoors. www.Waterwisetips.org. Just finished our integrated water master plan, looking at future demands in the city and integrating conservation benchmarks into

that. Look at population increases, and our water sources. Looking at the next 20 years. Based on modeling our current supply can meet the project demands. Required by the state to practice conservation and offsetting demands. Engaged with our ECC Environmental Climate Committee looking for policy level suggestions for the program. Continue to be a partner working with irrigation districts and other groups. Our baseline water use, 2 sources, surface water from Bridge creek watershed (up towards broken top). Treated in our filtration plant and gravity fed down into the city. Handles the baseline usage. In the summer months, we supplement with 20 underground wells, strictly serving residential or commercial landscape irrigation (park and golf courses typically have river water rights). This is the second year that we have been in an extreme drought. We are paying close attention to our sources and continuing to work on conservation. We did get a significant amount of snow precipitation in the last few weeks that did help. In the city of Bend utility department, conservation is required. All the things that make us produce and deliver water more efficiently (detecting leaks, monitoring meters, etc.). Have good data, meters that take hourly reads and report to use so we can let you know if you have leaks, etc. 60% of our total water produced in the city goes to outdoor use (irrigation). **Conservation program:** Sprinkler inspection (targeted to single family residential), large landscape program (working with parks department and school district, large commercial customers) partnering to monitor water use, water waste prevention program (water waste enforcement- making sure people adhere to water use code, aka water runoff in streets, water days and hours, plumbing fixed within 10 days, etc). Indoor conservation, shift to that in the winter (indoor kits, winter months set your sewer bill for the year). Educational outreach: hold winter workshops to folks in the green industry, public workshops in the spring and summer for homeowners, home water use reports is a use synopsis that is emailed out to customers every month, as well as guides to help people with their projects. With all the data we can really analyze the effectiveness of our programs. We are almost booked out on our sprinkler inspection (200+ inspections). We use water budgets- we generate a budget based on plant material, the size of a lot, the composition of a landscape and some environmental factors to give us a baseline water need for a variety of properties. We are talking to people that are 400 times over their budget so we can help them reduce their usage. This program has saved nearly 14 million gallons. Use graphs to measure the budget. If someone is under budget typically you have been under watering and then you will often see a large spike because you are then overwatering to catch up. Home water reports- get a comparison of your water usage over previous years. Can also set leak alerts, you can be notified if you were on vacation and wanted to monitor your usage to make sure everything is working properly, aka no breaks in your lines. Use peak day demands over the years to monitor our water use. Based on this, we are actually holding steady despite the growth that we have had over the years. New things coming out of the water master plan: If we invested 20 million in conservation over the next 20 years, we would save 11 million in infrastructure (new wells, etc.). Picked top 11 measures that had the greatest cost benefit for the customer and the utility. One is an ordinance for private development. Looking at rebates on equipment and partnering with the Pollinator Pathways groups to remove turf in right ways and installing native pollinator plants to see what we can learn in terms of water savings.

Q: Precipitation numbers don't take into account snow to water equivalent. **A:** depends on how fast that snow melts. We are at 97% of median but because we have been in drought the past several years, we will still see low stream flow.

Q: A lot of people in our neighborhood water in the afternoon, you mentioned enforcement **A:** We have a reporting feature if you go to our website. Most of the time it is pretty easy to remedy, typically a call to the customer will take care of it. If it comes to a fine, it is \$450 per day. Right now we are trying to do community engagement and take a look at why they are having trouble making the repair if it does go on before going to the fine.

Molly: Unfortunately not everyone is a city of Bend water customer, so it gets a little confusing.
A: A lot of times we know the landscaper and can reach out to them directly. Daniel- The city of Bend only serves 75% of the population and not all suppliers have these rules.

Daniel: Can save 5000 gallons of water per year on changing your strip to natives. We have data.

Q: Are there plans to reduce water usage? **A:** yes- that is a goal. This can be influenced by the landscape ordinance in new construction, helping folks make conversation and equipment upgrades.

Q: Even though municipal use is in the single percent in the city, would savings here help our river flow and ecosystem? **A:** Yes, if we are able to take less service water, yes, it would help, but the next water rights holder has the right to all that water, so it does not necessarily equate to more water in the stream.

Q: Do you have any suggestions on how we can approach Avion to get them onboard? **A:** So we are having talks with them about conservation and the difficulties as we grow and the ability to serve in the future.

Q: Is there any incentive for Avion to encourage conservation because they make more money when they sell more water? **A:** In the short term no, in the long term, in my mind, yes, as the ability to serve more customers. Sue: There is nothing on their webpage about conservation and it is interesting given all the issues that we have with water in this region. **A:** One thing that we can do, in terms of enforcement, if you see runoff the city can enforce that regardless of the supplier. City ordinances can also help.

Q: Follow up on the overall snow pack, water received. If the winter snowpack is already melted and down stream, how does that count towards our summer water source? **A:** Some of that water does go downstream, but some of it recharges into the groundwater/ aquifer as it slowly melts, and that is what we are hoping for. We measure as we divert the water and as we measure the levels in our groundwater system. Every bit of that snowpack counts.

Neighbor: We are still in deficit water spending so we should still really be careful.

Molly: Water conservation takes all of us. Appreciate your time. Some of these fire and water resources are on the Larkspur Neighborhood webpage.

Kristin **Q:** Is where our water comes from a graphic on the city website? **A:** under the educational resources tab- your water journey through Bend.

Meeting Adjourn: 8:02pm