

May 15th, 2023

Board Meeting Minutes

Larkspur Community Center

Meeting Began- 6:02pm

Board introductions

Board Candidate Solicitations/Q&A

- **Open positions:**
 - Communication
 - Transportation
 - At Large

Goals for 2023

- Hold a meet-up at Bevel Brewing
- Increase engagement & “membership”
- Promote water-wise use and defensible space
- Host a block party

Land Use: Several big development projects underway

- Wildflower (15th and Wilson): Evergreen Housing is holding a public meeting for site plan review on June 6th at 6pm via Zoom
- Parkside Place (approx 500' west of Ward...

Todd Dunkelberg/Director/Deschutes Public Library

- Have been working over the past two years to set a vision and mission, talking with the staff, board, and public: That people learn, thrive, and connect to one another and the world
- Mission: Enriches the community through...
- ***See slides for stats on library use***
- 103 year history in Deschutes County
- Go to where the kids are, ex. daycare centers, pre-schools headstarts
- Some programs the library offers:
 - Story times and literacy outreach
 - HomeWord Bound & Senior outreach
 - Checking out things and games (ex. Sewing machine, air fryer)
 - One of the first to offer social service support with Thrive Central Oregon
 - Library on the Go
 - Vaccine clinics

- Future plans:
 - Ability to house more books
 - Going to be remodeling all current facilities and adding two new facilities
 - Sisters and LaPine are currently under renovation
 - Entirely new building in Redmond- Underway, began in March 2023
 - Remodeling Sunriver, Downtown Bend and East Bend
 - Stevens Ranch Library will be the central library for the county- halfway between Reed Market and the Knott Landfill
 - Will have large community rooms
 - Smaller spaces for one on one meetings and co-working spaces
 - Children's areas- everything they do it designed to help pre-reading skills (a component of all libraries across the county)
 - Creative/ DIY zone
 - Once this building is completed will start work on the downtown branch
 - Q&A:
 - **Q:** What is the time frame on the start of Stevens Ranch? **A:** February 2024
 - **Q:** Will the East Bend Branch going to be maintained? **A:** That is a leased building that is on lease through 2026. Renovations are strictly internal as do not have control over the exterior of the building. The lease has been renewed three times in the last fifteen years (this is the only property that is leased).
 - All the buildings will remain open
 - Stevens Ranch building will be 100,000sf
 - **Q:** What is the general cost of these renovations? **A:** the general bond was for 195 million dollars, and are within the budget so far

Board Elections

- **Q:** At large member, is that someone with a specific area of strength or talent? **A:** Could just be someone who helps in whatever way they like.
- **Q:** More information about the transportation role? **A:** You are following transportation in our neighborhood and relaying the information to the neighborhood/ board.
- **Luke Kenneson-** elected to the transportation role

Ariel Mendez/City Councilor

- Assigned liaison on the Bend City Council
- The roundabout at Wilson is roundabout #48 in the city with more to come

- Have a legacy of some difficult infrastructure in Bend. A lot of these projects are multiple projects in one (utilities, sewer, transportation, etc).
- The election coming up tomorrow
 - Fire levy-
 - why is it so much? Seemed like a big increase because just looking at the part of the funding that comes from temporary levies. The city is committed to funding the fire department at the same level (\$1.18).
 - Do not believe that anyone would want to see a cut to services to turn the money over to the general fund
- Got a phone call about the low-level disturbances in Bend (graffiti, dogs off-leash, etc). The good news is that the per capita crime rate for serious crimes is not going up. The low-level ones are growing, however.
 - The City of Bend runs a lean ship, the city of Bend has .9 sworn officers per 1000 residents.
 - Part of the reason we get good results is we differentiate the responses. Community service officers, etc.
 - Looking at ways of addressing them
- Party trailer- a lot of support going into building community through neighborhood associations.
- When you look at your tax bill the city of Bend receives about 22% of your tax bill. A portion of that goes directly to the fire and another portion to the police. As a consequence of measures 5 and 50, the assessed value increase is capped at 3% a year. The taxable assessed value is different from the market-assessed value.
- **Q:** Is there anything that the city council is or can do to preserve tree canopy in Bend? **A:** Yes, in fact, the mayor has just finished collecting applications for a tree canopy committee to assess ways to do that. The goal is to help prevent some of the worst cases of clear cutting.
- **Q:** Why does so much of the property tax money go to Parks and Rec? **A:** They have their own taxing authority that was locked in with measure 50. None of that money can be used for things like filling potholes, etc. That doesn't mean that the two entities cannot work together.
- **Comment:** Come from another city that passed the bonds for libraries, fire levies, etc. Don't believe that taxing is the way. As for the tree canopy, have heard that some of the developers have an attitude of cutting and ask for forgiveness later. Think that we need a building moratorium.
- **Ariel response:** There is a direct relation to increased cost of housing when the housing stock is low, as seen in Boulder Co. Also not allowed by the state. On this issue and all others, the best thing to do is stay involved.

- **Note:** Every project going on in the city has a project page on the city website.
- **Q:** Affordable housing, the city does not seem to be increasing the availability of trailer parks. The city does not seem to be very friendly to them and this is an affordable option. **A:** That is a good observation. Have not thought about that but a good point.

Nicky Merrit/Central Oregon Villages

- In March, we got our permits released from the city. The cedar fence has gone up. Have 3 8x8 units and then 13x7. The shower trailer has been delivered. Will have a service come in once a week to pump out the black and grey water. The office trailer is on site.
- Started interviews this week and last week. Have selected the first 5 people. Two of the women are 69 and 70 years old with disabilities and will have ADA-accessible spaces. Other folks also have disabilities that keep them from working full-time. All of them have the hopes and desire to transition to permanent housing. Hoping that this can help them stabilize in order to do so.
- We are only on a three-year lease at the current location.
- Working on community.
 - Caseworker and myself onsite during the day.
 - Have hired a village host that will be staying on-site at night. The caseworker has 20 years of experience working with folks struggling with drugs, alcohol, and other challenges.
- Three-year lease officially started Oct 5th, 2022, but did not get our permits until last March so asking if this might become the start date for the lease.
- **Q:** how many of these types of locations do we have around the city? **A:** The vets and St.Vincents. Our shelters are lower level, entry-grade, no plumbing in them. **Q:** What is the success rate? **A:** The model we are working from is low barrier and there is about a 40% success rate but we are serving high-barrier folks/ vetting those coming in.
- Have a heater and an air conditioner. No refrigerator. Considered just a sleeping shelter. Located behind the church on the Desert Streams property.
- **Q:** How do people cook and make a meal? **A:** There is a private school called Forge School, they have offered to build a kitchen trailer that will have a sink, cooking appliances, and storage for food. A community area for them to cook. Will have a BBQ.
- **Q:** What is the cost per unit to maintain? **A:** Pretty minimal, the utilities are about \$80/ month in the middle of winter. Built the same as an RV.
- **Q:** Will they be paying rent? **A:** They will be paying a program fee but there is no tenant/ landlord relationship.

- **Q:** What is the cost difference in this model vs the city responding to them in their current situation? **A:** Not sure, but we believe that the units will come in at \$100 per day per unit.
- **Q:** What are you going to do to fix the pond that has been flooding? **A:** The irrigation district has cut it back to stop the flooding.
- **Comment:** The folks that are living along that line are having trouble with the water access.

Public Comments

- Maybe it is a good idea to have a tutorial on how to access the development/project pages on the city website.
- **Q:** Wildflower, was going to be at 6 acres of commercial and now it has been cut down to around 1 acre. **A:** yes, it has been cut down in favor of more housing. That plan was put in and approved in 2015 by a Chinese company. The developer that bought the land bought into that masterplan. And then there was a reason that plan had not been built because it wasn't a great plan for the site.
- **Comment:** Seems like the ratio of businesses to housing is out of balance.
- We will send out a notice for the Wildflower meeting via our newsletter.

Meeting adjourn- 6:10pm

***** Make sure to get the Wildflower meeting on the website.**