

## Neighborhood Association Roundtable

January 11, 2020 Minutes

Attendees: Jen Sawyer, Old Farm, Beth Hoover and Carolyn Clontz, Mountain View, Judy Clinton, Southwest Bend, Stephanie Higgins, River West, Lynn Nebus, Larkspur, Joette Storm, Boyd Acres, Deby DeWeese, Southern Crossing, Hans Jorgensen, Awbry Butte

**Habitat for Humanity** representative Robin Cooper Engle explained the criteria and need for the program of building affordable homes. The privately owned homes are subsidized by Habitat and owners supply sweat equity as part of their contribution to the cost. Habitat has multiple projects in Central Oregon. Income from Restores in Bend and Redmond cover 100% of operating expenses. Homeowners can work at the Restores as well as on the construction. Among Bend projects will be nine cottage homes on west side near ACE Hardware. Eight Townhomes on NE Watercress. Site off 27<sup>th</sup> has been purchased. The land for the Northwest cottages has been donated by a developer.

Prices between \$150,000 - \$180,000 are what families can afford. Actual cost to build is \$300,000. The land is leased from Habitat which has the first right of refusal if an owner decides to move. Some new projects will be Net zero construction.

Homeless Leadership Coalition bringing Ryan Dowd from Chicago on how to live with homeless neighbors.

**NLA** Hans Jorgensen

A Land Use working group is developing ideas for improving the notification to residents of proposed developments and for educating residents about the development process and how to participate. City Council agreed to consider code changes on the procedure for notifying residents i.e. plain language.

The NLA is experiencing turn over on its members for a variety of reasons. NAs should groom a backup person so that there will not be a prolonged period where there is no representation; terms will run out for the 2 yr. term holders. Other NA members may attend and observe the Alliance meetings. The best way to give input at NLA is at the end of the meeting. There is a procedure to adopt topics that don't come from council.

In an effort to strengthen NAs the NLA encourages creating good job descriptions in the bylaws so duties are clear and readily understood. Also they suggest NAs adopt emails that are title oriented, such as chair@scbna or [landuse@bana.com](mailto:landuse@bana.com) That should ensure continuity in communications when a new person assumes the role.

Many NAs use a Google voice mail number.

City Council is impressed with safe streets effort and 360 projects submitted. Final 8 projects for the \$800k will be named next week.

**Training**

River West is negotiating with local trainer, Jen Rusk for Board Basics training. They wish to open it to other NAs and this group. Her proposal would cost for 20-30 \$200. per 2 hr. session. Stephanie Higgins asked if other boards would participate. Most representatives said their boards are feeling overwhelmed and do not wish to schedule additional meetings. For those who do wish to participate, the NAs would split cost. NART could participate also. Topics include: Best Practices; Meeting Management

Southern Crossing has contracted for several courses for its new board, also with Ms. Rusk.

**Social Media** Joette Storm solicited social media training on the Internet. There are two responses, one from a local vendor, Shannon Hinderberger. And one from a California consultant. Shannon has consulted with Prineville and the Bend School District. She would do a 1 hour session at our regular meeting for \$200.00 explaining the various platforms, their user groups and how to choose what is appropriate for the NAs.

Deby would like to solicit more proposals from NA members. Consider next time. **The roundtable approved a motion for Joette to consider at least three proposals, circulate them electronically and select a vendor for the March 12 meeting.**

**bendareaneighborhoods@gmail account** - it was set up along with bendnaforums.org as part of a google suite. Not everyone is using it. The two are linked. Jen Sawyer took charge of web site and updated it. She will add to it. The purpose of bendnaforums.org is to educate public re NAs and the various resources available to residents. It includes a calendar of meetings and events.

**Communications** Are we managing email traffic appropriately? To do so we should keep emails up to date. Use bcc function. Decide whether to keep bendareaneighborhoods@gmail. While some think is better to use title emails instead of personal emails, others wish to minimize the number of email accounts they have to track.

Correspondence re Neighborhood Leadership Alliance could be subject to public info laws. That is one reason not to use personal accounts. What if we set up a nart convention [BANA@NART.com](mailto:BANA@NART.com)???? City staff is thinking about this convention.

**Land Use variances** Are NAs taking a stand on variances? River West has issues with this. Southern Crossing has recent example where the NA did obtain mitigation measures on a variance. However, there were many comments. Numbers count when seeking City Council action.

Awbrey Butte has guiding principles on web site that states whether will take a position on an issue.

Old Farm notification was not adequate re Ward property 700 homes. Old Farm was able to have the comment period extended which happened to be over the holiday season. NA felt blindsided. Concern impact on pedestrian to schools etc.

The concern is how do NAs stay ahead of the various proposals for development so we have time to prepare comments. SC uses Boom program to keep abreast of proposed developments. Not adequate. Do we have to survey our own neighborhoods for empty lots?

**Social Media Public Education** Jen has examples on how to use Instagram on her jenfrombend page to reach to younger generation. She is learning about TikTok. Try simple messages to inform others of what is happening in Bend development. Nextdoor is used by several NAS.

**Motion** Joette is authorized to solicit at least three proposals for social media training to be presented at the March meeting. NART will review and vote electronically on proposals.

**Next meeting:**

**March 12, 4:30pm location: library (tentative)**

**chair: Jen & Joette**

**topic: how to use social media and link all posts. & home fire safety inspections.**