

LARKSPUR NA
GENERAL MEETING
10.16.08, 6:30 PM
Bend Senior Center Conference Room

Board/Committee Members present:

Misa Olsen, Tamara Houston, Larry Gillham, Kit Dickey, Diane Kulpinski, Holly Scott, Matthew Olsen

Number of people in attendance: 23 (13 members, 6 new members, 4 non-members)

6:30 pm:

Call to Order/Introductions:

- *Board members introduced*
- *Upcoming events were announced with request for volunteers*

6:45 pm:

Voting and Board member presentations:

- *Diane, Larry and Susanne Johannsen were unanimously voted in by members present.*
- *Larry gave brief update on Reed Market Rd: construction has been put off until 2010 due to budget constraints. The project is broken up into two parts, one of which is 95% complete in its design plan. The proposed roundabout for Reed Market and 15th is in direct competition with one proposed for 18th and Empire. Larry stressed the importance of contacting the City as individuals to let your thoughts be heard on the matter.*
- *Tamara discussed BAT updates. There will be expanded services to Deschutes River Woods area. Voting on BAT becoming a separate entity from the City is coming up. The bid for the new transit center came in under budget, so the extra was spent on improved landscaping.*

Presentations:

7:00 pm:

Jan Taylor: *Discussed off-leash dogs in Bend Parks. Due to a change in the City Ordinance, the law is now more amiable to off-leash dogs, within designated areas. The Parks Dept. sent representatives to Portland to learn about that city's dog park system. The main issues that were found were the need for good access, education and enforcement. The Parks Dept. would like to develop off-leash areas in all 4 quadrants of Bend, with the goal of providing off-leash opportunities to everyone and increasing active recreation between dog owners and their dogs. Some proposed areas will be fenced, some will not. These parks will be closely monitored and will be closed if not used properly or responsibly. The Parks Dept. is working closely with DogPAC, a local group that endorses responsible off-leash access. Jan stated that from their experience in Portland, they found that exclusion, rather than fines, works better at keeping people compliant. One of the sites that is definitely slated for off-leash use is the Pine Nursery site. The High Desert site will be off-leash trails. The Parks Dept. is encouraging feedback. Comment cards are available. In addition, a website specific to this issue will be up and ready for comments in the near future.*

7:45 pm:

Robert Currie: *Robert, the Family Access Network (FAN) Advocate at Bear Creek Elementary, spoke about FAN. The main goal is to help families meet basic needs, such as medical, dental, vision and mental health assistance. Funding is through Title 19 funds. In addition, Brooks Resources has chosen to provide funding for a 5-year period. This is the 3rd year of this funding. Homelessness at Bear Creek School has increased significantly this year due to the economy. Anyone interested in assisting families is encouraged to contact St. Vincent DePaul or Robert Currie directly.*

8:00 pm:

Scott Gahan: *Scott Gahan, from Cascade SunWorks, presented information on tax credits and incentives for utilizing solar energy. There are two different types: Solar thermal, which uses solar panels to heat water, and Solar photo-voltaic, which uses solar panels for electricity. Tax breaks for*

installing solar have been extended another 8 years and the cap has been removed on the tax credit, which is now based on energy off-set. The state has a \$1500. tax credit for both types. Central Electric Coop and Pacific Power & Light also have cash incentives. Federal incentives have increased from \$2000. up, depending on the system. The cost to install a thermal system is about \$7000-\$9000.(\$3000 savings). The cost for the photo-voltaic system runs about \$7-9 per watt, with the average usage being about 2000 watts.

8:20 pm:

Larkspur Community Garden: *Holly briefly discussed the community garden that has been approved for Larkspur Park. Planning has been done with a Master Gardener from the OSU extension program. At this time, not sure whether people will have to pay for plots or if there will be handicap accessible plots available. The project coordinators are currently looking for volunteers. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Holly at scottfam@bendbroadband.com.*

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned

Next Board Meeting is November 4th at the Bend Senior Center
*** Next Membership Meeting is April 2009 at the Bend Senior Center ***