

# Cully Association of Neighbors General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 10th, 2022, 7:00-9:00pm

Online meeting via Zoom

## Welcome and translation announcement

- Land Acknowledgement
  - Read by Zach Powers
- Board Members in attendance
  - Board members in attendance: Chris Browne, Kara Chanasyk, Maria Grzanka, Vena Rainwater, Michael Morrissey, Tess Kelly, Gregory Sotir (CAAT), David Sweet (TLC)
- General Members in attendance:
  - Bruce Nelson, Carol Pinegar, Patsy Stephenson, Larry Afrank, Kathy Fuerstenau, Judy Heumann, Zach Powers, Yashar Vasaf (Friends of Trees), Sergio Lopez, Josh Heumann, Rachel Munzig (AlderCommons), David Paz-Mendoza (AlderCommons), Celesté Macias (AlderCommons), Simon, Andrea McDaniel, Cameron H (Living Cully)
- Welcoming new folks

## Approval of Agenda\*

- **Motion to approve meeting agenda:** Chris Browne motions to approve the agenda. Tess Kelly seconds.
- **Vote:** Majority present in favor. None opposed. None abstained. Motion passes.

## Approval of previous minutes\*

- **Motion to approve meeting minutes:** Vena Rainwater motions to approve meeting minutes. Chris Browne seconds.
- **Vote:** Majority present in favor. None opposed. None abstained. Motion passes.

## Grievance Committee Election

- We have another election- this time for the Grievance Committee which is made up of 2 board members (Tess Kelly and Vena Rainwater) and up to 3 general community members (Isha Leinow, Josh Heumann, and Josh Powers)
- Josh: Note- There has only been one grievance in 10 years.
- The link to vote was sent out via chat and was available for voting through the next agenda presentation.

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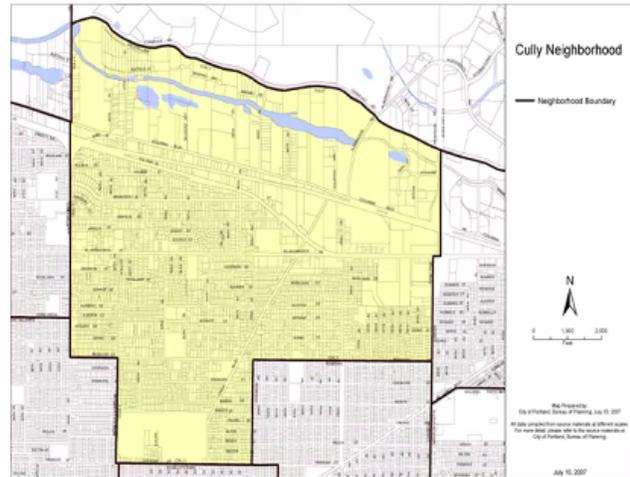
Online meeting via Zoom

## Presentation: Tree Canopy Project

- Introduction from Bruce Nelson, CAN Tree Team (5 min)
  - Project Background: Owens Brockway has added pollution to our community. They will pay a 530k fine and they are paying it to the Friends of Trees (FoT) for remediation in the area where damage has been done. FoT will be working w Verde, Cully residents, businesses, and the Oregon Dept of Environmental Quality. This is a pilot project for them- If it goes smoothly, and it is a good use of the funds, then there might be more of it. (Alternatively, Owen's Brockway could have paid a \$1M fine, but this approach has created a way to bring the money back to Cully.)
  - Urban forestry has done a variety of studies and the target tree canopy is 33%. Cully is 15-17% tree canopy. To determine this, take the square footage in the neighborhood and calculate what percentage is covered by trees. We have about 200 trees that are over 100ft tall. About 70% of Cully is residential.

## Cully Tree Situation Today

- **Cully tree canopy 15-17%**
- **City-wide goal 33%**
- **200 trees > 100' tall**
- **~70% residential property, 30% industrial or commercial property**
- **Many streets no sidewalk, no curbs, no street trees**
- **Challenging in past FoT plantings to exceed 60 trees per year**



- There are some challenges:
  - Unless we can get more trees in the commercial and industrial areas, there is no way we will reach 33%. The natural areas around the Slough,

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it is industrial and commercial. There are lower requirements for tree density.

- We have a lot of streets with no sidewalks and so there is no way to put trees in the “right of way strip” FoT has historically done tree planting and has found 40-60 residential planting spots per year. It can be challenging to find more spots in Cully.
- Trees provide amazing benefits. They help capture aerial pollutants that are floating. They fall on and hold on to the tree, and then when it rains, it flows down into the ground, vs to be inhaled into our lungs. They absorb pollutants - use some of them as nutrients, SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub>, and some carbon sequestration.
- More benefits from Evergreen than Deciduous, because they are working all year long. The bigger the tree, the more benefit. The tree should be in close proximity to the pollution is ideal and/or proximity to the people.
- TREES: Debate about the best trees for the job, but we don't want smooth glossy foliage, you want sticky and hairy. Any foliage is better than no foliage. Get them in the ground now, instead of waiting for extensive conversation.
- SITES: Looking for large sites where we can put groves of trees. Ideally, we can improve the habitat along the slough and plant large form trees. School grounds are a possibility and commercial industry sites that have a lot of concrete and asphalt that they aren't using could be an option Part of this money might include removing asphalt/concrete. Also, this includes residential sites that could use another tree.

# BEST LOCATIONS FOR TREES AS PART OF REMEDIATION EFFORT



- In the ground
- Large sites with few trees
- Columbia Slough area
- Schools
- Industrial & Commercial sites
- Removal of asphalt or concrete in under-utilized areas
- Residential sites

- TASK: The task at hand is how to engage the community in planting and caring for the trees over time. They are no good if they die in 2 years, we need them to live 40-50+ years. We need to find these locations and convince people it's time for a tree. We have to have stewardship for the tree beyond the planting. Hoping Friends of Trees can address how we develop skills that relate to trees to help them earn a "right livelihood".
- Introducing Yashar Vasaf- Executive Director at Friends of Trees who has received the funds from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and is the major contractor on this job.
- Canopy Project Update from Yashar Vasaf (15 min)
  - Our model is to plant trees together with community members
  - What we hope to establish is to create a dynamic of tree advocates in Cully.
  - DEQ framed this project for Cully and adjacent neighborhoods, but we're starting in Cully because Verde, Gregory, and other stakeholders have had a lot of previous groundwork.
  - Cully is an "equity geography" and low canopy neighborhood. We're excited to see when we can hyper-focus on one area like this.
  - The biggest challenge and why I'm coming to you for help in finding locations for trees - not every site will work out in public/private settings.
  - The more sites we can identify the better off we will be to deliver as many trees as possible in Cully.

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- We have started a spreadsheet that we are helping to populate with potential planting sites. Please contact [yasharv@friendsoftrees.org](mailto:yasharv@friendsoftrees.org) for anyone who is interested to access the spreadsheet.
- We are planning walking events, to show what we look for when we are looking for an ideal planting location.
- There is a lot less of a headache for private property plantings. Sidewalks are lacking but if we do find a “right of way” location for planting, we have to go through the city’s permitting process which can often lead to a No.
- What we are hoping to find are some landowners who are wanting to change the fabric of the canopy in Cully.
- I'm here to learn Verde, other organizations, and from the folks in the room how best to activate our neighbors.
- Timeline: Oct-Nov starts the planting season, and finishes by April. Hoping to complete this planting season. So we have now until Oct to identify sites and planting events.
- This is a very exciting new approach for FoT (now that the city-wide contract has ended), and we are looking forward to this new, hyper-local project approach. There is even potential for research grants in the future.
- This project will take a total community effort. We can try our best as a staff to find planting locations, but the more we prospect, the more sites we can identify, the better.
- Yes, we are also looking at parks for planting trees and shrubs - eg. you can plant shrubs in some places where you can't plant trees.
- The project is currently slated for 800 trees.
- Discussion facilitated by Gregory Sotir + Kara Chanasyk (15 min)
  - Gregory: This is a really great opportunity for Cully neighbors to connect
    - I'm counting on you all to help bring this along. I want to involve as many people as we can. Which other people in the community might be interested? Who has contacts in the schools? Who has contacts in the Asian American and African American communities?
  - Kara: What's important to you when it comes to planting trees in Cully? What concerns do you have?
    - Carol: Fan of natives. Has a ponderosa pine. Has only needed to water it once. She hopes we consider the advantages of natives.
      - Yashar: Appreciate that comment! There will be natural area enhancement plantings (native plants) through this project as well as tree planting. We aimed to be comprehensive in our approach.
    - Zach: Remote mapping analysis technology – he could contribute some resources. Yashar has used some GIS and would like to connect. Will is a Cully
    - Gregory: Workshops on Climate change to involve the broader community.

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- Vena: Natives – what is the goal of the tree coverage? Increase resilience to climate change, water filtration, cooling, OR ecological habitat restoration. What are we recommending based on this mindset? If we are looking for native restoration, then insects are crucial for that. Think about goals based on location (eg. Slough vs neighborhood location)
- Judy: What about fruit trees? They provide food but they can be a mess. Maybe we can consider the work of the Portland Fruit Tree Project. Maybe they can provide input.
  - Yashar: Friends of Trees has planted fruit trees in the past and there is certainly an opportunity for that here. They don't fully provide some of the benefits that Bruce outlined earlier, but they obviously provide a food insecurity benefit. I regularly speak with Heather at Portland Fruit Tree Project and we'd be happy to pursue consultation from them!
- Michael: Cully TIF will impact the availability of empty lots in Cully – Portland Progress / TIF – if land becomes developed, we don't want these trees to get cut down. Can something be written into TIF?
- Kathy: Who will select the types of trees + when planting – it would be good to involve the residents in the choice/notification that it was going to happen. Ideally, we can involve residents in the choice and location of tree planting.
  - Yashar: We provide a small "portfolio" of trees to select from that are suited for each planting site for feedback from property owners and community members. FYI the planting at the school was not coordinated by Friends of Trees. We were told what to plant by the school coordinators.
- Kara: Idea for a special grove of trees to create a destination
- Josh: What are the best conditions for planting – personalized help for residents?
  - Yashar: Yes! We bring staff out to analyze potential sites for feedback and guidance.
- Maria: Educational piece that Gregory mentioned – how to select trees. Yashar mentioned walks – is there some way to gather people and walk around to do the on-the-ground mapping. How do I add that to the list for additional sites?
  - Yashar: Yes! We'd like to host a walk (or several) in the next month or two so that we can populate the list during summer.
- Vena: Loves this idea. Great combination w what Yashar mentioned. Places of interest – pull the data out of PortlanMaps to figure out who to talk to. I'd love to see specific plans – eg. Targeting specific groups. Eg. Mobile Home residents, and Latinx living in the

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developments/neighborhood. Making sure we are getting voices from the broader population.

- Yashar: Friends of Trees would use our Volunteer and Outreach Program team to support that outreach effort to populations often not represented in projects like these. We are also passing on funding to organizations like Verde and other stakeholders to support outreach.
- Sergio: Verde has a scope of work for outreach and there is good alignment here. Verde has ideas for community walks, NAYA, and mobile park residents. There is opp for alignment for a more robust approach.
- Maria: Sunday Parkways in Cully is on June 26, this might be a great place for some early outreach
  - Yashar: Thanks, Maria! Friends of Trees is hoping to table next to Verde at Sunday Parkways. It's definitely a great outreach opportunity.

## Election Results: Grievance Committee

- Josh: I am happy to announce the new Grievance Committee Members:
  - Tess Kelly- Board Member
  - Vena Rainwater- Board Member
  - Isha Leinow- General Member
  - Josh Heumann- General Member
  - Zach Powers- General Member

## Presentation: Building Intentional Community

Rachel Munzig, David Paz-Mendoza, Celesté Macias of Alder Commons



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Rachel: Alder is a Pioneer Species. It fixes nitrogen from the atmosphere and creates fertile ground and all the other plants follow. We are trying to create a platform, space, and community for self-direction.

### ~ CORE VALUES ~

#### Self-Determination

Autonomy

Competence

Self-Knowledge



#### Collective Liberation

Equitable Access

Children's Rights

Intersectional Justice

#### Community Support

Co-Creation

Relatedness

Conflict Resolution

Compassionate Accountability

Read more at [aldercommons.org/philosophy/core-values](https://aldercommons.org/philosophy/core-values)

Everything we do (at Alder Commons) is based on our core values. We recently did a poster series on our core values as the filter and lens through which we design our programs. It's what our community has committed to - this is where it starts for us.

David: Spaces are where our community meets to connect. The lounge, the workshop, and the Play and Imagination Room, these spaces are constantly changing and influenced by our members. Our lounge is a social area where you can talk and hang out.

Celeste: pay what you can model. We use a membership model similar to the YMCA to access the spaces and workshops. We offer 3 types of memberships. There are all kinds of Amenities - community kitchen, co-working spaces, community events, popups, etc.

David: Workshop weeks, the community hosts free workshops. Eg. Doccos and Tacos- grab food and enjoy a documentary.

Membership based. Sociocratic process for decision making and a process for improvement. Not a majority or consensus-based, instead - Sociocracy asks us to try things out. This can be

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something small (eg. keeping a door locked) or bigger (eg. Microaggression). Instead of a top-down decision, it is a community-based discussion.

More BIPOC-centered events with 3 BIPOC vendors and building an intentional, inclusive community. The majority of our events are open to the public. We are very excited about all the popup events. It's not just individuals and families, but also organizations. Working with great organizations - and a great fit for groups who don't have access to a large space.

What is a Lose parts playground? If you make it very very safe, then kids are excited to go to the riskiest part of the playground. At the Lose Parts Playground, we have pallets, plastic, and rope that can be played with. Portland Freeplay has trained the staff in this technique.

Thank you all for having us! Please feel free to check out our website if you're interested in learning more: [www.aldercommons.org](http://www.aldercommons.org) or contact David@aldercommons.org; celeste@aldercommons.org; rachel@aldercommons.org

### Officer and Committee Liaison report out

- Vena Rainwater: Treasurer's report
  - Operating income April \$2478.12 (since July)
  - Operating expense, same period, \$2716.92
  - \$22,058.20 in the bank
  - **Motion to approve Treasurer's report:** Josh Heumann motions to approve the report. Gregory Sotir seconds.
  - **Vote:** majority present in favor. None opposed. None abstain. Motion passes.
- David Sweet: Transportation & Land Use Committee (TLC) report
  - The next Transportation & Land Use Committee (TLC) meeting is Tues June 7, 7 pm. There will be further announcements about this event. We will hear from Pacific Power and their progress on a new service center in Cully - behind Comcast in the 7600-7800 block of NE Killingsworth and Paul Delbecio (sp?) of Ethos Development - his housing development next to Sacajawea park, which should get started early next year. Email David: Cullyguy@gmail.com for more information
- Gregory: Cully Air Action Team CAAT
  - By the next meeting, He is hoping to have news from the date about when Owens Brockway will be closing or installing filters. Waiting to hear back from DEQ.
- Bruce - Tree Team
  - Portland Parks and Recreation have been sending out postcards to people with sidewalks - identify improved streets and have no trees - if they are acceptable, they will inform them that they will be planting unless they said no. If they hear

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nothing, then a tree will be planted next planting season. They will provide maintenance for 3 years. then it will be up to the property owner there. This is an "opt-out" policy. Not sure what kind of trees will be planted. If people want to know more, contact Urban Forestry at 503-823-TREE.

<https://www.portland.gov/trees/tree-planting/free-street-trees#toc-i-received-a-postcard-about-a-street-tree-planting-survey>

## Announcements:

- Cameron (Living Cully Coalition)
  - We are launching a project to support residents in the 6 mobile home parks - working with them since 2016. Over that time, we have found that the residents face 2 main threats to their housing:
    1. They could be displaced from their housing from rent increases or if the mobile home park is shut down. This has been addressed (in part) through our work with the City of Portland.
    2. Condition of their homes. Many have problems. There are home repair programs eg Multnomah Co Weatherization programs. Another category - smaller projects - basic safety, accessibility, eg. broken windows, rotted out stairs, leak in the roof. This type of repair is especially needed for people living in RVs and non-traditional structures - they are not eligible for these programs.
  - This is a neighbor helping neighbor program- this is not a program where people receive a service from Living Cully. This is a program to build ties between people in Cully with people in the mobile home parks = 1/10th of the population of Cully - some of the most affordable housing in the city.
  - What we are looking for: We are building out a team with people with handy (wo)man skills, and in-home repair, to help residents do some repairs, and help lead a project alongside a homeowner of a mobile home. We have funds for time and expertise to teach others to do repair work. That funding comes from Habit for Humanity. When we do these projects, we accompany these with community events, bring food, etc.
  - Learn more here and please pass this along to others:  
<https://www.livingcully.org/2022/05/cully-mobile-home-program-seeks-people-with-home-repair-skills/>
  - Tess: Consider connecting with the NE Tool Library. There are some new people there and lots of fix-it people too.
- Chris: No TIF Meeting tomorrow
- Next Month: Dan Ryan will be a speaker at our next CAN General Meeting
- Maria: Shared a collection of events in chat:
  - City of Portland Charter Commission

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- i. Hearing #2: Thursday, May 12th from 6-9 pm (Hybrid, online & in-person)
- ii. Hearing #3: Tuesday, May 17th from 6-9 pm (Hybrid, online & in-person)
- iii. Hearing #4: Sunday, May 22nd from 12-3 pm (in-person)
- JUNE 7 - CAN TLC Meeting: Pacific Power Customer Service Facility + more developments
- June 11 - Disaster Relief Trials, more info at <https://disasterrelieftrials.com/2021/11/09/10th-anniversary-drt-portland-2022-june-11/>
- JUNE 14 - CAN GENERAL MEETING: Dan Ryan + Annual Report (what we did, what do you want next year)
- June 26 - Sunday Parkways - NE Cully, more info at <https://www.portland.gov/sunday-parkways/2022>
- June 26 - Afro-Made Pop-up @ Alder Commons

## Delta Plus

- DELTA
  - Maybe meet in person again someday. . .
  - More discussion like today!
  - More discussion time
  - Yes, meet in person!
- PLUS
  - Learning about volunteer opportunities was great!
  - Excited to learn about Alder Commons and Living Cully initiatives
  - Cully Focus
  - Maria, you rocked it! Hard to believe this was our first meeting as chair. . .
  - Great facilitation! And we ended on time!
  - Loved both the tree conversation and the Alder Common info!
  - good presentations

## Adjournment\*

- **Motion to adjourn the meeting:** Carol motions to adjourn the meeting. Chris Browne seconds.
- **Vote:** majority present in favor. None opposed. None abstain. Motion passes.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm

*Meeting Minutes recorded by Kara Chanasyk, CAN Secretary. All CAN Board Meetings and General Meetings are open to the public to attend. Please reach out to a board member for more detailed information about discussion points.*

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### **Active Committees & Other CAN Roles**

- CNN Representative: Michael Morrissey
- Grievance Committee: Tess Kelly, Vena Rainwater, Isha Leinow, Josh Heumann, Zach Powers
- CAN website: Chris Browne
- CAN email list-serv: Gregory Sotir
- Cully Air Action Team: Gregory Sotir
- Transportation and Land Use: David Sweet
- Tree Team: Bruce Nelson
- Parks & Rec Liaison: Michael Morrissey