

Meeting Summary for SCNA May Board Meeting

May 14, 2026 05:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The Southern Crossing Neighborhood Association (SCNA) board meeting focused on several key topics including neighborhood district budget reallocation, the potential for 501c3 nonprofit status, and transportation improvements. Todd reported reaching out to the city about restructuring neighborhood district budgets, noting that while the city was 82% through the budget year, only 41% of district funds had been spent. The board discussed whether to pursue 501c3 nonprofit status, with Lisa expressing concerns about the additional responsibilities and complexity, while others noted potential benefits like free park rentals. Kyle presented updates on the Blakely Road NSSP project for 2027, including planned delineators, speed bumps, and crosswalks, with particular discussion around pedestrian safety over the canal. The board also reviewed the Sunny Breeze subdivision hearing results and discussed plans for the upcoming summer picnic, including sponsorship outreach and potential venue visits.

Next steps

- Todd: Follow up with René Mitchell with the City of Bend to ask for any updates from the city finance people regarding the neighborhood district budget process
- Todd: Reach out to Laurie Craghead to discuss potential policy advocacy with the city regarding neighborhood association funding and budget reallocation
- Robbie: Contact Renee to suggest involving Bend Park and Rec in the upcoming roundtable, since some issues (e.g., dog parks, parking) span both city and parks/rec responsibilities
- Robbie: Share the Southeast neighborhood districts' survey/questions with the group as a reference for developing the Southwest roundtable survey
- Robbie: Add information about the 14-day and 7-day comment periods for the Sunny Breeze subdivision hearing to the website, and provide Lowell with the relevant document
- Lowell: Post the additional information about the Sunny Breeze comment periods and related documents on the website
- Robbie: Continue outreach to businesses for summer picnic sponsorships and tour the kiln workspace as a potential venue and to request sponsorship
- Robbie: Pick up the Old Mill gift cards donated for the summer picnic
- Robbie: Follow up with Timber Yards and other local developers to see if they are ready to present at the October general meeting
- Robbie: Check with the city to see if the neighborhood spotlight/neighbor recognition program is still active

- Robbie: Reach out to Jackstraw apartment management to explore partnership on a neighborhood meetup
- Todd: Reach out to The Current apartment management to explore partnership on a neighborhood meetup
- Robbie: Consider/postcard distribution at apartment buildings for summer picnic outreach if budget allows
- Lowell: Complete and post annual registration renewal with Oregon Secretary of State and update documentation in the shared Google Drive
- Todd: Work with Lowell to split out an NSSP page on the website and post Kyle's NSSP update/report
- Lowell: Send out newsletter by June 10th (implied by newsletter deadline)
- All: Begin developing topics and questions for the upcoming city roundtable survey, including review of Southeast survey for reference
- Todd: Continue outreach to city council liaison Gina to meet and discuss roundabout and roundtable issues
- Robbie: Remind Bronwen (Bend Park and Rec) at the summer party about presenting Coulter Grove Park design at the October general meeting
- Robbie: Discuss internally the idea of inviting local news/media to the summer picnic as a launch for roundtable/survey/roundabout advocacy (for future committee discussion)

Summary

Neighborhood Budget and Nonprofit Discussion

Todd updated the board on his outreach to the city regarding neighborhood district budgets, suggesting a restructured approach where unspent funds could be allocated through a grant-like process. He also discussed the potential benefits of becoming a federal nonprofit, including possible free rentals from Bend Park and Recreation District, though Lisa raised concerns about the complexity and liability involved in this process. Lisa offered to connect the board with former Deschutes County Legal Counsel Laurie Craghead, who offered to help with advocacy at the city and county level.

Neighborhood Association Status Discussion

The group discussed the potential of obtaining 501c3 status for the neighborhood association, but decided against pursuing it due to the additional workload for volunteers and minimal benefits. Lisa suggested exploring policy advocacy with the city to secure proper funding and support. Todd agreed to reach out to Laurie about realigning the budget and addressing the association's financial needs. The conversation then shifted to planning a future roundtable with the city, focusing on topics beyond transportation, including the roundabout and wildfire evacuation concerns.

Southwest Bend Roundtable Planning

The group discussed planning for an upcoming roundtable meeting in Southwest Bend, which will be the next area to host this event. They decided to review the survey used by Southeast Bend districts to inform their own survey questions and topics. The group identified potential topics for discussion, including parking issues, an off-leash dog park proposal for Southern Crossing, and public engagement in the city's new comprehensive plan process. They agreed to suggest to René Mitchell that Bend Park and Rec be included in the roundtable discussions, as parking issues involve both entities.

Blakely Road Transportation Project Update

Kyle presented an update on the Blakely Road transportation project for 2027, sharing insights from a recent site visit. Key proposals include new delineators to separate pedestrian and vehicular traffic, six speed bumps (five on Blakely Road and one on Silver Lake), and a new striped crosswalk on Powers with an ADA-compliant corner. A notable discussion point was the potential for a footbridge over the canal near the road bridge, which was proposed by resident George Fox and received positive feedback from city engineer Christian Williams. Kyle presented updates on sidewalk infills, ADA ramps, and pavement preservation projects planned for 2027, noting that some proposed changes were blocked due to Pacific Power's rights and budget limitations. The group discussed coordinating pavement work with preservation projects to minimize construction disruption. Todd and Lowell agreed to work on adding the information to the transportation web page and discussed splitting out an NSSP page. Kyle mentioned ongoing community engagement efforts and plans to involve residents like George and Doug Reagan in future discussions.

2027 Transportation Projects Update

On the Bond-Reed Market roundabout, Todd noted that working with the City's Engineering Department may not be effective and that the issue will likely require a political solution, with potential progress on the roundabout design pending cost estimates for a two-lane option. Also discussed was using the responses to the Bend Transportation Safety Action Plans comments to inform a future survey. It was noted that at the time of the meeting, most feedback opposed the proposed four-lane expansion of Reed Market.

Land Use Updates

Robbie reported on the Sunny Breeze subdivision hearing, which remains open for public comment until May 20th, with additional periods for responses and final submissions before a hearing officer makes a decision. The main concern centered around fire safety requirements, particularly regarding

the need for a second exit from the development, with the city requiring sprinklers in approximately 80 homes if no second exit is approved.

Budget and Insurance Updates

Lowell reported the current budget status, including \$512 remaining for the fiscal year end and \$1,540 in the bank, which includes a \$1,000 city sponsorship. The group discussed event insurance for the summer party, with Lowell confirming a \$216 cost. Todd inquired about documentation for state nonprofit status, and Lowell confirmed relevant documents are stored in the Google Drive Legal folder. The discussion concluded with updates on potential city funding for MailChimp licenses, which was determined to be unsuitable due to restrictions on the organization's autonomy over their mailing list.

Community Outreach and Promotional Planning

The meeting covered policy direction for promotional requests and newsletter content, with Lowell requesting guidance on how to handle requests from various third parties regarding their announcements, events, and promotions. The group approved meeting minutes with the suggested changes. Robbie reported on community outreach efforts, including seeking business sponsorships for the summer picnic (with a goal of \$2,000) and planning to tour the kiln workspace as a potential venue. The discussion concluded with planning for the October general meeting theme, with Robbie suggesting they could invite developers to speak, particularly those involved in recent projects like Timber Yards.

Community Events Planning Meeting

The group discussed plans for upcoming community events and outreach initiatives. They agreed to explore potential speakers for their October meeting, including possible design updates from Reed Market and Coulter Grove Park. Robbie committed to checking with the city about opportunities to spotlight community members or businesses. The committee also discussed using their summer picnic as a platform to advocate for the roundabout project and potentially engage local media. Regarding meetups, Robbie and Todd agreed to tag-team outreach to apartment buildings, with Robbie contacting Jackstraw and Todd reaching out to The Current. The next board meeting was confirmed for June 18th, with a newsletter deadline set for June 10th.

AI can make mistakes. Review for accuracy.