

Nov 6, 2025

OBNA

Invited Travis Abele John Fischer Mark Weers r nunzie@pacifier.com
Nicholas Murray Ashley Albright Alex Mann Frances Mann Debbie Rowley
Vincent Rowley ICE-John Wyatt Roscoe Lynn Wren sbenrath@gmail.com
miamihudson@gmail.com Marx,Tobias oldbendneighborhooddistrict@gmail.com
Lauren Paz ~~mriley@bendoregon.gov~~

Attachments  OBNA

Meeting records  Transcript

Summary

John Fischer reported the annual neighborhood party was a success but faced criticism about the lack of available information regarding city-led parking discussions. John Fischer, Alex Mann, and VincenzoBincenzo reviewed the parking survey results, which received 68 responses and indicated that approximately 60% of respondents favored implementing a parking district, and the group discussed the high concern for ease of registration and the return of paper passes due to accessibility issues. The participants discussed the need to utilize the estimated \$80,000 in collected parking district funds for projects within the existing district, such as art installations or sidewalk improvements, and John Fischer expressed disappointment that the city had repeatedly postponed the promised public meeting and that city staff had been incommunicado.

Details

- **Annual Neighborhood Party Success and Future Improvements** John Fischer celebrated the success of the annual neighborhood party, noting positive feedback and hopes to continue the event annually ([00:00:00](#)). The primary criticism received was a lack of available information regarding critical items,

such as the next city-led parking discussion date, which John Fischer was unable to confirm at the time ([00:01:28](#)). Nick Murray suggested creating a "beefed up informational flyer" for the annual meeting, while Alex Mann supported the celebratory nature of the event and preferred to keep the informational content minimal, suggesting a separate time for addressing concerns ([00:02:44](#)).

- **Feedback on Party Location and Venue** John Fischer noted that the party went well, and they are considering Nick Boneyard as the location for the next season, appreciating it as an "original local Old Ben establishment". Nick Murray reported that Fat Tony's was "ecstatic" about the turnout, as it was their busiest night ever, indicating the event was also a success for the vendor ([00:04:00](#)). John Fischer confirmed the overall thought that the most recent party was the best one they had seen since they started ([00:04:51](#)).
- **Review of Parking Survey Results** John Fischer, Alex Mann, and VincenzoBincenzo reviewed the results of the parking survey, which received 68 responses, with 60% of respondents experiencing parking issues. VincenzoBincenzo noted that the data was skewed because some respondents already live in a parking district, but after pulling out the east side of Broadway, the results still showed that approximately 60% favored implementing a parking district ([00:07:40](#)). Nick Murray suggested adding questions to future surveys to ask if respondents are on the east or west side and if they are currently in a parking district to aid interpretation ([00:09:27](#)).
- **Concerns about Ease of Registration and Paper Passes** The survey results indicated high concern for the "ease of registration" for parking. Nick Murray critiqued the downtown parking system, which requires an app for payment, and argued for a more accessible method, such as a website ([00:10:54](#)). John Fischer shared that they have heard from many people who want the paper tag system brought back due to it being an accessibility issue for those who are not tech-savvy ([00:14:56](#)). Alex Mann, while understanding the convenience of a paper pass, mentioned that they have used "fake parking passes" in the past and suggested that the pushback from enforcement staff like Diamond Parking might be due to the need to manually verify paper passes versus automated license plate scanning ([00:16:14](#)).
- **City Pushback on Paper Passes** John Fischer stated that city staff, based on a general policy, have been pushing for a transition to paperless and digital systems ([00:16:14](#)). However, they heard that Eric King pushed back, arguing that the digital policy should not prevent the use of paper parking passes if it serves

the people better ([00:17:26](#)). VincenzoBincenzo guessed that the city and parking people would continue to push back on paper passes, citing higher costs for both printing and patrolling ([00:18:37](#)).

- **Parking Committee's Request for Paper Passes** John Fischer confirmed that the parking committee has repeatedly requested the return of paper passes, including in a recently issued letter ([00:18:37](#)). John Fischer stressed that bringing back the paper passes seems like a reasonable request for a residential parking district, especially since the district is still achieving its primary goals of enabling residents to park and helping manage campers ([00:19:47](#)). Alex Mann supported the city spending the extra effort to run a dual system of both analog and digital passes given the high level of community interest ([00:20:51](#)).
- **Follow-up on City Parking Meeting Timeline** John Fischer expressed disappointment that city staff were not present at the meeting and that the city had not yet hosted the promised public meeting, which was first scheduled for October 29th, then November 2nd, and has since been postponed ([00:22:11](#)). VincenzoBincenzo emphasized the need to "stay on top of these guys with commitments and deliverables" to ensure the project moves forward ([00:23:19](#)). John Fischer confirmed that after the planned meeting on the 2nd with the communications department, staff were supposed to announce the date of the public meeting, but no date has been scheduled, and no one has reached out to the neighborhood district ([00:24:32](#)).
- **Request for Update from City Staff** Alex Mann suggested drafting a quick email to city staff immediately to ask for an update and offer to share the parking survey results ([00:24:32](#)). John Fischer noted that Toby, who was designated as the new main point of contact by Russ Grayson, had accepted the meeting invitation but did not attend, and no one has heard from Toby since they were put in charge of the project ([00:25:26](#)).
- **Addressing Non-Parking Issues in the Survey** Alex Mann asked if additional comments in the survey, such as mentions of streets needing repair, should be passed on to city staff ([00:26:47](#)). John Fischer clarified that specific issues like pothole repairs are handled by Streets and Ops through a separate dedicated number, and the parking survey is not where that staff would look for such information ([00:27:48](#)). John Fischer advised that such requests need to be delivered in a more "pointed way" ([00:28:44](#)).

- **Utilizing Parking District Funds** John Fischer discussed the need to proactively identify and propose projects to utilize the parking district funds that have been collected over five years. These funds, estimated to be about \$80,000, must be spent within the existing parking district ([00:28:44](#)) ([00:35:40](#)). John Fischer stated that the Parking Committee, particularly Lauren and Travis, is discouraged and would appreciate help from the Old Bend Neighborhood Association (OBNA) in creating a simple project proposal to move the process forward ([00:28:44](#)) ([00:32:03](#)).
- **Challenges in Obtaining Project Guidelines** John Fischer reported that the neighborhood association has been asking for specific guidelines and rules for using the parking funds for a couple of years, but responses have been vague ([00:30:03](#)). Nick Murray agreed that they need to push for clear guardrails on spending, but since they lack this, John Fischer proposed that OBNA help the parking district formulate a project proposal anyway ([00:31:07](#)) ([00:36:48](#)). Alex Mann noted that a previous parking survey from 2025 indicated high community interest in "sidewalk improvements" and "neighborhood art," providing starting points for project ideas ([00:37:55](#)).
- **Proposal for Art Project and Donated Kettle** Nick Murray shared that Tony is willing to donate an old Japanese copper kettle, which was Burt Grant's original kettle from Yakima Brewing, for a potential art installation ([00:38:48](#)). John Fischer and Nick Murray suggested the ugly, cobble-filled triangular area in front of Active Culture, near the sewer lift station, as a potential location for an art installment, despite the effort required in securing the location and selecting an artist ([00:40:01](#)). Nick Murray proposed creating criteria and a form for members to present their own proposals for art to formalize ideas ([00:41:18](#)).
- **Using Existing City Protocol for Art Projects** John Fischer suggested that the neighborhood could follow the existing city protocol for the "roundabout art grant," which includes a process for public proposals and budgets ([00:42:31](#)). Nick Murray proposed focusing art ideas on the upcoming street project and bikeways, but John Fischer and VincenzoBincenzo noted that the funds must be spent inside the existing parking district, which is west of Broadway ([00:44:00](#)).
- **Update on Delaware Bike Way and Construction** Alex Mann noted a possible shift in the low-stress bike network to Delaware. John Fischer confirmed that both Delaware and Georgia are greenways, but the current phase of improvements will focus on Delaware, with the only treatment on Georgia being a cut-off at Lava ([00:44:48](#)). John Fischer mentioned that the underpass will be

closed for a period to install a storm water improvement, which will cause traffic issues but is necessary for the climbing bike lane project ([00:47:00](#)).

- **Communication Strategy and Survey Sharing** John Fischer confirmed the goal to send out a newsletter update every one or two months, especially to announce the public meeting date for the parking district and updates on the construction timeline. Alex Mann emphasized the importance of a clear communication loop with residents to show that their input is valued and makes a difference ([00:50:10](#)). John Fischer and Alex Mann discussed how to share the survey results with the city, agreeing that a summary of the key findings should be created to avoid sharing the raw data, which contains personal information ([00:53:45](#)) ([00:56:07](#)). John Fischer also confirmed that they have grown the Mailchimp database to about 370 recipients and responded to every email received ([00:52:32](#)).
- **Sharing Survey Results and Feedback Strategy** John Fischer proposed generating a summary of survey responses and sharing it with the community to make them feel good about their input ([00:57:06](#)). They set a goal to complete this summary before the next meeting ([00:57:58](#)). Nick Murray suggested creating their own summary from the form responses ([00:57:06](#)), and Alex Mann suggested including survey results in a Mailchimp section at the bottom of an email about the public input ([00:57:58](#)).
- **Survey Distribution and Public Meetings** The current survey link is not on the website's main banner because the banner is dedicated to the public meeting link ([00:59:06](#)). Alex Mann confirmed the survey has been emailed out and was on the flyer ([01:00:10](#)). John Fischer confirmed that they will use the announcement of a public meeting on November 13th as an opportunity to distribute the survey link again, and a third opportunity will be at that city information meeting ([00:59:06](#)).
- **Status of City Planning and Communication** John Fischer reported that a staff meeting for the city's communications department was held earlier in the week, but there has been no follow-up information since. VincenzoBincenzo recalled that on September 15th, they were told they had 90 days to present a plan ([01:01:12](#)). Alex Mann clarified that the original 90-day timeline included time for public input and implementation, and they wondered if the delay means shortening the public input period or delaying the entire project ([01:02:07](#)).

- **Parking Plan Formulation and Public Engagement** John Fischer speculated that the city staff are trying to formulate their next steps and may be slowing down the parking plan to ensure they "get it right," partly due to negative feedback about prior enforcement changes and public comment urging them to channel feedback through the neighborhood district ([01:03:08](#)). Alex Mann noted the difficulty in analyzing the sparse survey responses, with only 29 respondents east of Broadway ([01:05:17](#)). John Fischer emphasized that their immediate next step is to figure out the city staff's plan and directive after meeting with the communications department to ensure they are in sync ([01:09:47](#)).
- **Visualizing Survey Data and Mapping** Alex Mann suggested layering survey results onto an ArcGIS parking map to see if certain areas have no issues versus heavy demand for parking ([01:04:17](#)). John Fischer agreed that creating a map is what they need to do ([01:05:17](#)). Nick Murray suggested using Google My Maps, which allows uploading large data sets like CSV files and offers features for filtering and color-coding pins ([01:06:24](#)). Nick Murray stressed the importance of truncating the data by block to protect privacy concerns regarding specific neighbor responses ([01:07:32](#)).
- **Varied Parking Needs and New Developments** John Fischer argued that different locations have very different parking needs, suggesting that a block-by-block enforcement plan makes sense based on the spread of survey results ([01:08:33](#)). VincenzoBincenzo shared that the exterior parking at the Jack Straw open house is all paid parking, which was a surprise ([01:09:47](#)). John Fischer confirmed that the Jack Straw development's parking count is around 450, based on a controversial 1.3 spaces per unit ratio decided by the developer after the City Council approved lowering minimums ([01:10:49](#)).

Suggested next steps

- The group will plan a beefed up informational flyer for next year's annual meeting.
- John Fischer will work with the parking committee to identify and put together a project proposal to staff for utilizing parking district funds.
- Nick Murray will create criteria and a form for members to present their own project proposals for parking district funds.
- John Fischer will send a follow-up email to staff to get an update on the timing of the greenway project construction process.

- Alex Mann and John Fischer will draft and send a quick email to city staff asking for an update on the public meeting and offering to share information from the survey.
- The group will summarize the parking survey results, share the summary with the city, and send the summary to the people who participated in the survey.
- Alex Mann will put a section in Mailchimp with information about the public input, including results from the recent survey at the bottom of the email.
- John Fischer will follow up with an email containing a quick recap of the meeting.
- Alex Mann will use the old Ben Gmail account for collaborative map creation.
- The group will generate a summary of the survey responses with charts and email it to the respondents before the next meeting.

You should review Gemini's notes to make sure they're accurate. [Get tips and learn how Gemini takes notes](#)

Please provide feedback about using Gemini to take notes in a [short survey](#).