



2021 BVNA Annual Report

1. Neighborhood Association

Barber Valley NA

2. Do you have a logo?

Yes – if we can submit files, we'll submit the .jpeg and other logo formats.

3. Did you submit the required Board Contact Form?

Yes

4. If any changes have been made since 2021, please attach a copy of the associations Articles of Association and Bylaws.

No Changes made this year.

5. What steps is your neighborhood association taking to ensure equitable representation and inclusion on the board, at events, and in general membership (geographic, renter/owner, demographic, business representation, etc)?

We continue to focus our outreach and 'recruiting' of engaged neighbors primarily through social media channels, an annual postal mailing announcing the annual meeting, and an average of 2-3 emails monthly to our distribution list of neighbors that signed up on our website (now totaling ~750 addresses). We did eliminate the use of sandwich boards for those that miss social media outreach this year due to the pandemic. We continue to informally 'recruit' neighbors from all communities, especially those areas with no current or former board representation (e.g., Brian subdivision, Golden Dawn mobile home development, the only apartment complex in the NA - The Arboretum, and the assisted living facilities in the neighborhood). Our outreach efforts to neighborhood businesses began in 2020 and unfortunately languished this year – also due to the pandemic. We plan to recruit a "pathfinder" initial 'business member' based on the expected growth of commercial interests in the Barber Valley. We finalized our board policy and will consider including it in a bylaws amendment this year (2022).

6. What methods of outreach does your Neighborhood Association use to communicate with the membership?

As noted above, we eliminated our efforts to reach those not "online" by ending our sandwich board advertising during the pandemic. Our outreach to our community is conducted through a coordinated social media effort that includes 2-3 monthly mailings from our organizational address (BVNABoise.org), followed by announcements of the postings on Nextdoor.com and an affiliated Facebook page not managed by BVNA (Barber Valley Living). We also take advantage of the City's annual postal mailing and announce our annual meeting with a postcard in early December. We also try to use the second postal mailing to announce a spring/summer social or road cleanup event.

7. Does your Neighborhood Association have an electronic or print newsletter?

We closely maintain our website which acts as an electronic newsletter – BVNABoise.org.

8. How frequently do you distribute your Neighborhood Association Newsletter?

As noted above, we provide 2-3 monthly communications updating the organizational website: 1 announcing the upcoming monthly meeting followed by a post-meeting announcement with the meeting minutes and other news.

9. How do individuals sign up to receive the Neighborhood Association Newsletter?

We have a contact form on our website and our newsletter is merely a frequent communication to our membership using our existing email contact list. We also encourage neighbors to sign up in our communications and social media posts.

10. How many people on your Neighborhood Association email list?

795

11. Please provide links to your Neighborhood Association sites, if applicable.

BVNABoise.org

12. How did you inform residents about the 2021 annual meeting?

Extensive online communication that began months before the annual meeting with newsletter reminders of the January annual meeting, followed by Nextdoor and Facebook announcements. We also took advantage of the City-funded postal mailing option to announce the annual meeting.

13. When and where was your annual 2021 meeting held?

14 January 14, 2021

14. Did the Neighborhood Association conduct Board/Officer Elections at your 2021 annual meeting?

We conducted board elections at our annual meeting and our officer selections were made by the newly elected board at our 11 February 2021 monthly membership meeting.

15. If not, when was your leadership elected?

11 February 11, 2021

16. How did you inform residents about the board elections?

Our board election was conducted at the annual meeting – members were informed as indicated in question #12.

17. What was the approximate attendance at your 2021 annual meeting?

Attendance at the virtual meeting on 11 February was 43. A total of 101 ballots were cast after the annual meeting for the new board.

18. What month is your neighborhood association planning on holding their 2022 annual meeting?

Our 2022 annual meeting was conducted on 13 January 2022.

19. Please highlight the association's accomplishments or small wins for 2021.

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We continued to conduct virtual monthly meetings in 2021 and met every month of the year except for July and December. Our efforts for the year included the following (chronological):

- a) January: BVNA was the only Boise NA to provide testimony on code amendment ZOA 20-00004 which proposed to change the public notification requirements for development applications. Specifically, the City proposed to:

(1) *“Reduce the size of posted signs to 11”x17” for larger subdivisions (over 5 acres) within Specific Plan Areas (Harris Ranch, Barber Valley, Syringa Valley). Applicants are currently required to post 4’x4’ signs for subdivisions over 5 acres within Specific Plan areas. These sites have been through months, if not years, of public outreach to gain approval, and the larger sign is superfluous.”*

- ii) BVNA disputed this staff position and provided written and verbal testimony. The Planning and Zoning Commission considered our position and recommended approval of the code amendment with our suggested change. As City Staff then stated in their project report to City Council on 9 March:

(1) *“At the (PZC) hearing, the Barber Valley Neighborhood Association testified in opposition to the change to eliminate noticing for large subdivisions within Specific Plan Areas. As evidenced by the record, the Commission’s discussion was brief and based on this item in the amendment. After deliberation, the amendment was approved unanimously with the modification to remove the changes to noticing for large subdivisions within Specific Plan Areas.”*

- iii) City Council approved the code amendment at their 9 March Regular Session and further thanked BVNA for our engagement on behalf of future residents in the Specific Plan 03 district (Syringa Valley).

- b) January – June: BVNA led significant neighborhood coordination between the developer of the new Harris East subdivision (Boise Hunter Homes) and the nearby neighbors concerned about the development. Much of our interaction with our neighbors was educational – informing them of the details of the Harris Ranch Specific Plan and coordinating the appropriate feedback for the developer to consider. This was a huge effort from the BVNA Board during the first half of this year and was exceptionally successful, resulting in numerous voluntary concessions from Boise Hunter Homes and site-specific conditions recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission. We were successful in coordinating trailhead parking for Homestead trail, the inclusion of a public easement to connect Peace Valley Overlook Reserve with Homestead Trail, improved barrier features to protect four neighbors adjacent to the proposed extension of Council Springs Road, and the inclusion of a \$30,000 grant from the applicant/developer to the Harris Ranch Wildlife Mitigation Association (HRWMA) to assist in rehabilitating habitat, vegetation, and wildlife corridors in the vicinity of the new development. Finally, we are proud of the comments from Commissioner Gillespie during the deliberations praising BVNA and the verbal testimony provided by BVNA Secretary Gary Veasy:

*So, I'm talking now to all of the people who testified who are not from BV (the NA).....I'd just like to encourage all of you guys to get involved with BVNA as much as you can and get in the formal process with BVNA. **It's a great neighborhood association. It's a really insightful group of people. They always -- while I don't always agree with them -- they always provide really helpful testimony and it's a really important part of both where you live and the city.** So, to all you folks who gave great testimony tonight, please call Gary and make sure you go to the next BVNA meeting. Thank you very much to all of you.”*

- i) What is also significant in our work on this development application, the \$30,000 grant from the developer was not included as a recommendation from PZC to City Council. That site specific condition of approval grew out of our coordinated neighborhood testimony before City Council on 29 June. The City Council agreed with our concerns regarding rehabilitation of the hillside above neighbor homes and asked one of the neighbors that testified what resources would be needed to conduct a rehabilitation. The \$30,000 estimate from Lillian Tourney was then deemed reasonable by the applicant (Boise Hunter Homes) and the City Council then amended the conditions of approval to include the grant to the HRWMA. We now will be able to rehabilitate the steep hillsides below the new Harris East development under the expert guidance of the HRWMA. Finally, we were successful in gaining direction from Council to continue to pursue a turnaround at the base of the development, rather than the ACHD-preferred hammerhead. We will continue to work with City Staff, Boise Hunter Homes, and ACHD to resolve this issue before a final plat is submitted for approval.
- c) March: BVNA regularly participates in the City-wide Collaborative Visioning network of NA leadership on the second Thursday of each month. BVNA Director Larry Crowley is a frequent collaborator with this group and his engagement led to BVNA assistance to other NAs regarding our virtual voting procedures and our success with the NA signage program using NIP grant funding. BVNA Secretary Gary Veasy then worked with the City and other NAs to provide our successful virtual voting procedures for other NAs to use. BVNA Director Kay Nice also provided consultation to the other NAs that needed assistance with their neighborhood signage programs.
- d) March: BVNA met with and the developer of Hermosa Hills (aka Tesoro) and explained the background of the preliminary plat and the public access and parks easement on Lot 11. Excavations began in late spring 2021.
- e) May: BVNA Director Rob Stark worked extensively with Ada County Parks and Waterways (Scott Koberg), ACHD Staff, and City Councilmember Bageant to resolve significant parking issues in the Barber Junction neighborhood just across the Boise River from the Barber Park river float launch site. BVNA engagement led to the formation of a City of Boise Special Parking District intended to protect the Barber Junction neighbors from unruly floater behavior and parking congestion during the rapidly expanding summer river float season. BVNA work was captured in this [BoiseDev report](#) from 15 June.
- f) June: BVNA is responsible for Warm Springs Avenue in the Barber Valley and conducted an ACHD-approved road cleanup effort on 5 June. BVNA Treasurer Hank Vincent has provided logistics and leadership for the dozen neighbors that participated on a hot June morning.
- g) July: Final two standalone BVNA monument signs installed!
- h) August: The City of Boise Foothills and Open Space Superintendent (Sara Arkle) resumed coordination with BVNA on the interpretive signage for the Peace Valley Overlook Reserve (PVOR). BVNA finalized the final donor communications and coordinated the donor recognition sign for the PVOR entrance. BVNA also provided assistance with text of the interpretive signage regarding Native American history in the Peace Valley.
- i) August: The City included BVNA in the coordination between the Harris East developer (Boise Hunter Homes) regarding the public trail easement that will connect PVOR with the Homestead trail. We consider this lower foothill trail 'loop' a significant neighborhood "win". The Ridge to

River trail system in the Barber Valley is entirely on the Boise River Wildlife Management Area (BRWMA) and is therefore subject to seasonal closure when wintering ungulates may be stressed due to the upper elevation snowpack. Our efforts to fundraise and purchase PVOR in 2017 and this resulting connection from PVOR through Harris East to Homestead will provide a lower foothills recreational trail open to the neighborhood when the surrounding BRWMA is closed to the public. We are immensely proud of this NA-initiated and led effort that has resulted in a permanent new fixture in the R2R trail network that will benefit the neighborhood for generations.

- j) August: BVNA attempted to organize participation in the annual Goathead Festival. The turnout was disappointing as only BVNA Board VP Steve Moore and two other neighbors participated. We will reconsider this effort for 2022, or work to improve community response.
- k) Ongoing: BVNA was invited to be member of the stakeholder group led by the Boise School District for the construction of the Dallas Harris Elementary School in the Town Center of Harris Ranch. BVNA Director Katie Swain represented BVNA in design meetings and extensive communications with the BSD Area Director, Mr. Brian Walker. Katie's engagement ensured community considerations regarding school site security, public access, and safe routes to school were included in the school design which we expect will be submitted to the City Planning department for review in the spring of 2022.
- l) Ongoing: BVNA continued to coordinate with the firm selected by the Harris Family to develop the Village Green and Town Center of Harris Ranch. Three BVNA Directors were involved in early design charettes and offering commentary from the community perspective on the proposals from three competing firms that are seeking to design the new Town Center. BVNA hosted the developer (High Rhodes) at our November monthly meeting and conducted our first in-person meeting since the pandemic began. We hosted 16 neighbors at the Mill District clubhouse and another 67 neighbors joined us online in a hybrid meeting format. At this meeting the developer presented various high-level concepts for the proposed Town Center and neighbors were able to question and comment on the various proposals.
- m) Ongoing: BVNA Director Rob Stark serves as the BVNA Liaison to the Barber Pool Advisory Committee and Rob and other BVNA Directors participated in a series of meetings with respondents to the BPAC request for proposal (RFP) for a contract to develop a Master Plan and rehabilitation of the Barber Pool Conservation area. Through this forum, BVNA acted as a neighborhood stakeholder, along with the City Parks department, Ada County Parks and Waterways, Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands (IFPL), Idaho Shakespeare Festival, and Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation (on behalf of IDFG). In addition, Rob was involved in numerous IFPL cleanup efforts for the large "Gregerson property" on the Boise River adjacent to the Idaho Shakespeare Festival.

20. Please share any projects, programs, and efforts planned for 2022.

Nothing other than outlined in question 19.

21. The Energize Program facilitates workshops throughout the year, please let us know what topics are of interest to you.

Recruiting and marketing of the NA process. We find it difficult to educate the community about the difference between an HOA and NA. The City of Boise NA process is not "common" and many new

neighbors from other locales have no idea the opportunity and impact an NA can exert on the public processes of City government. We think a concerted public outreach by the City encouraging new and old residents to 'get engaged' with the process. We will do our part in our corner of the City, but a grander effort would be helpful as we try to reach neighbors.

22. What are some topic areas that you wish you better understood?

We believe we are relatively well informed.

23. If Energize held a multi-day conference in Spring 2022, would you attend?

Dependent on the agenda items for the conference. Multi-day seems awfully ambitious, and our NA would be interested in recruiting strategies – how to conduct outreach and find neighbors that wish to engage in the public process.

24. How confident do you feel with the current Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP) application process?

Last year seemed very unusual with very few projects awarded across all the NAs. It would be helpful if the reasons for declining an application were communicated to the NA.

25. What are some areas, if any, that you wish you had more clarity on?

We believe we are well informed.

26. What feedback would you like to give on the current Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP)?

We appreciate the quick responses from Tiffany and the ongoing communication with the NAs.

27. How can Energize better support your Neighborhood Associations initiatives and needs?

As above – question #21 – how to recruit community energy.

28. What feedback would you like to give on the current mini-grant program?

Seems to be working well. We greatly appreciate the resources to help us operate our NA without spending private money to conduct volunteer neighborhood business.

29. Is there any additional information that you would like to receive on behalf of Energize?

Nothing comes to mind.

30. Please provide input on the level of communication you would like to see moving forward from the city.

We appreciate 1-2 communications a month. We've tried to keep our BVNA communications to our address list to 2-3 maximum each month to keep the "open rate" higher. We find if we communicate too much, the recipient is much less likely to open and read the communication.

31. Please provide any additional input or suggestions you may have here.

Thanks for your service to the City!
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