

Bozeman Cohousing Meeting Records

04-18-2019 Mark and Erik meet

04-25-2019 Erik and Mathilde give a community presentation

05-08-2019 Core group begins forming with round table discussion Q&A

05-21-2019 Core group continues forming with small group discussion

Date: Thursday, April 18, 2019

Start Time: 12pm

Attendees: Erik Bonnett, Mark Owkes

Introductions, Erik shared his architecture background in cohousing and described the cohousing course he is teaching at MSU. Mark described the website and meeting scheduled for May 29.

Both agreed to combine forces going forward into one cohousing group.

Discussed personal values around cohousing. Both want a location close to MSU campus or downtown, both value access to open space, sustainability, community dinners.

Made a plan going forward. Mark agreed to help advertise Erik's April 25th presentation as well as help set up and clean up. Planned a potluck at Bogert Park for May 8, 2019 at 6pm.

Date: Thursday, April 25, 2019
Start Time: 6pm
Location: Lindley Center: 1102 E. Curtiss Ave

Advertisement for Presentation

Community presentation Creating Cohousing in Bozeman

COME LEARN ABOUT CREATING COMMUNITY-FOCUSED HOUSING IN BOZEMAN.

Cohousing is:

- Similar to an old-fashioned neighborhood where you KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS.
- Neighborhoods CREATED BY THE FUTURE RESIDENTS to support their own goals and aspirations.
- A type of neighborhood that provides access to both COMMUNITY AND PRIVACY.

Presenters:

- MATHILDE BERTHE has designed cohousing communities across the US and helped found an organization dedicated to advancing cohousing in France.
- ERIK BONNETT has designed cohousing communities across the US, including in Spokane. He has lived in several intentional communities and is teaching an architecture studio at MSU exploring cohousing in Bozeman, which will be on display.

Lessons Learned

The presentation was well attended. There was not a formal question and answer session; however attendees were able to question the presenters individually after the presentation. Attendees enjoyed mingling and exploring the student designs. Attendees were invited to the next potluck and encouraged to join the email list if they are interested in learning more.

Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Start Time: 6pm

Location: 318 S. 9th Ave (Mark and Kathleen's House)

Attendees: Mark Owkes, Kathleen Owkes, Erik Bonnett, Joi Gallant, Greg Young, Katherine Dayton, Garl Germann, Jen Grace, Joe Miles, Katherine McWalters

Erik and Mark led.

Greg asked for a general financial overview. Mark answered: There is an initial deposit of about \$500 to pay for the Getting it Built Workshop. Going forward, there are continued small contributions between \$500 - \$1000 over the next few months with the largest deposit a few thousand occurring to pay for the architecture plans. Over the course of 2 years each family unit would contribute approximately 20% of their total home cost, which would count towards their down payment. Each family would need to secure their own funding, most likely a personal home mortgage to fund the remaining 80%. Some of the initial contributions might be refundable.

Greg asked what the units might cost. Erik answered similar to new construction perhaps \$250-500k. Private units will be smaller than a standard house though because each family owns part of the common house and has access to extra facilities. Kathleen mentioned how our family would have a 3 bedroom home without a guest room and no full basement bonus room.

The timeline for the project is between 2-3 years from now until construction completion and move in.

Greg asked what the best and worst aspects of cohousing are. Erik replied that sometimes it takes 45 minutes to get your mail for the best and the worst. Discussed social norms, you can tell when someone wants to engage and talk. You need to respect privacy. Katherine McWalters told of her experience in an international intentional community that there was a period of adjustment when you learn to set your personal boundaries and learn to respect others' boundaries.

Mark and Kathleen asked for volunteers to help with hanging fliers for the Interest Meeting on May 29 and bringing snacks to share with the public at that event.

Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2019

Start Time: 7:00pm

Location: 318 S. 9th (Mark and Kathleen's House)

Attendees: Mark Owkes, Kathleen Owkes, Adrienne Bouchard, Chris, Katherine Dayton

Audreyann and Chris review questions from the previous meeting of which they were not in attendance.

Katherine initiates discussion of land acquisition. Prefers something between Peach and Kagy, acknowledges that this would be hard to achieve. Everyone agrees something on Church would be amazing though maybe not realistic. Katherine owns an old church at 203 N Church. Could this be used for an infill cohousing project? Katherine recommends her real estate agent: Jennifer ?. Katherine agrees to lead the land acquisition working group. Katherine to reach out to her real estate agent

Katherine offers her church property as a meeting location available after 5:30pm, not available June 8-20. Meeting scheduled for June 24, 6pm at this location.

Additional meeting scheduled at Kirk Park (weather pending) on June 12, 6pm for the core group.

Will begin taking registrations for the core group after the May 29th interest meeting. \$100 non-refundable deposit. Make checks payable to Bozeman Cohousing: need to establish Bank Account.