

BNA Team Reports May 6, 2025

Team leads met April 7th to discuss communication, shared challenges, resources and goals. A decision was made to reboot the Baysider as an online publication, facilitated by the tech team.

Bayside Business Breakfast Club — Tom Blackburn, lead — Betsy Boyd, board liaison

Gathered on April 30 at Coffee Me Up, hosted by Alba Zakja. Topics included creating a Bayside business map, intra-team communication via whatsapp, mentorship program with ProsperityME, updating the business contact list, outreach to corporate entities, improvement district funding, ads for Baysider, lobbying city hall, promoting good news stories to the media, and delegating action items. Tom Blackburn has stepped up to lead the team. Next meeting will be at Jay York Photography, 58 Wilmot Street on Wednesday, May 28th, 8:30am

Development Developments Team — Amelia LaBreck, lead — Alex Landry, board liaison

The Franklin Street Redesign Project is in early planning stages at the city. Several Development Team members attended an open house to reboot the project at the Rines Auditorium on April 17th. The Live Nation Music Venue has had the question of traffic and parking feasibility is to be examined by the transportation committee. 89 Elm construction is underway, though currently is more of a void in the ground than a structure. 60 Elm has had an enlargement and redesign, being workshopped May 6th. The whole Reveler MDP is undergoing some changes to be announced. 72 Parris held a public meeting at the McGoldrick Center on April 14th which was attended by many BNA members and neighborhood voices.

BNA Citizens' Trash Brigade — Megan Holt, lead — Rob Sylvain, board liaison

Thanks to all who turned out for another successful spring cleanup on Saturday April 17th. Special thanks to city arborist Mark Reiland for providing compost and mulch for the BNA Tree Team to spread on our new neighborhood trees. Many thanks to the generous Bayside Businesses that donated gift certificates: Leavitt & Sons Deli – Isa Bistro – Wilson County BBQ – Bayside Bowl – Two Fat Cats Bakery – Tally's Kitchen – Maine Oyster Company

Tuesday April 22 Preble Street hosted another cleanup and BBQ which was attended by BNA board and team members. Just three days after the BNA cleanup, it was noted that trash had already accumulated again.

Saturday May 3rd Portland Parks Conservancy hosted a city-wide cleanup with Megan Holt acting as a hub captain at the Bayside Community Garden. The tree team continued mulching and the garden team met to clean up and prepare the garden for spring. Holly noted that Public works did not pick up the garbage bags the following day, causing a mess on Hall Ct. Jennifer Rogers had noted the same problem after the April 17th cleanup.

Caroline Fernandez from Preble Street has indicated interest in collaborating on monthly cleanups Friday afternoons. Next cleanup is scheduled for Friday

Tech Team — Joey Brunelle, lead — Jim Hall, board liaison

The Baysider newspaper is getting an online reboot. Submissions of news and photos from team leads are needed. Also looking for content from the community including editorials, reviews, events, photos, art, poetry, and prose of all sorts. Thanks to Special Collections Librarian & Archivist Abraham Schechter, the Portland Public Library's has been digitizing their collection of *The Baysider*

which lives in the Portland Room archive. The public can now access searchable pdf copies of many issues of The Baysider at the Portland Public Library Digital Commons website, and the BNA website.

Garden Team — Holly Picotte, lead — Susan McClosky, board liaison

We held the 2025 garden orientation on Saturday, May 3rd with a great turnout. We met several new plot holders and gardeners were exchanging ideas about what they were going to plant in their plots! The water access was discovered to be broken (pex coming from the shelter was snapped), but Stephen, one of our gardeners, volunteered to fix it which he did that day which is fantastic. Water was set to be turned on Monday, 5/5 by Port Property.

Tree Team — Avery Kamilla, lead — Susan McClosky, board liaison

The BNA Tree Team has been active this spring working to grow our tree canopy and tend our existing trees. During the annual Spring Cleanup, neighbors mulched all the newly planted trees on Chestnut Street and many of the newly planted trees on the Bayside Trail.

The Tree Team is also working with the Portland Park Rangers to host the annual Tree Hugging event at the Bayside Trail. **UPDATE:** This event has been postponed until September.

Members of the Tree Team attended the recent Tree Talk given by Portland's arborist Mark Reiland and hosted by the West End Neighborhood Association. Reiland discussed the new planting requirements that he has initiated for new trees that mandate much larger planting wells and a compost-rich soil. The disappointing news he delivered during the talk was that he does not expect to plant any trees in Bayside or East Bayside this year. Reiland said the reason why is because the city used all the viable planting locations during last year's tree surge.

Members of the Tree Team also attended the recent Reimagining Franklin Street event hosted by the Planning Department at the Portland Public Library. The event was a chance for the public to offer feedback about what they like and don't like about the current street. Tree Team members advocated for the need for more trees and parkland.

Tree Team member and Portland Protectors co-founder Avery Yale Kamila talked with city officials about the need to restore Lincoln Park to its original size and further expand it. Of particular concern is preserving the heritage oaks growing in the median between Congress and Middle streets.

The Bayside neighborhood's only playground, the Stone Street Playground, is slated for a \$400,000 upgrade this budget year. However, Reiland is concerned that a major revamp of the playground will kill the park's trees. The BNA and the Tree Team are awaiting more information about the project. Any day now the cherry trees in the Stone Street Playground will unfurl their pink blooms.

Welcome Team — Belinda Vemba, lead — Deb VanHoewyk, board liaison

The Welcome Committee has co-hosted its first event – the Samosa Social! On Thursday, April 3rd, the BNA and the Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center held an afternoon get-together at the IWC at 24 Preble Street in Bayside. The idea was to bring together various organizations, including the BNA, who serve our newly arrived neighbors who come to the IWC to learn English, access workforce and entrepreneurial programs, and navigate their way to citizenship.

Bayside neighbors and immigrants from all over the world made short work of the over 200 samosas donated by Whole Foods and Trader Joe's, along with other halal treats from Portland's immigrant groceries and restaurants. Music and conversation were the order of the day, along with presentations by representatives from immigrant-serving organizations. Grace Mo-Phillips from Coastal Enterprises, Micky Bondo from In Her Presence, Bright Musuamba and Amen Mibaraka from Prosperity Maine, and Belinda Vemba from the Immigrant Welcome Center, all spoke about how their

organizations help the community. City Councillor and Bayside resident Sarah Michniewicz was on hand not only to meet and listen to new neighbors, but also to help serve up samosas to the crowd.

The BNA formed the Welcome Committee to better connect with the various communities who comprise the very diverse population of Bayside – home to immigrants and faith groups, homeowners and renters, social service and education organizations. The Welcome Committee works to unite neighbors in making Bayside a more “welcoming” place. We’re hoping this event is the beginning of many enduring collaborations.

BAYsideBEEs — Deirdre Paul, lead — Rob Sylvain, board liaison

Working on an event calendar for the BNA website, highlighting performing arts and First Friday openings in Bayside. 82 Parris Gallery and Maine Clay Collaborative both had open houses on First Friday in May.

Student Liaison — Michael Marston, lead — Rob Sylvain, board liaison

Michael is working on a 3D model of Bayside, which should be complete by the end of the term. The mural project has been put on hold. John Wensman from Baxter Academy hopes to design a full-year project with a new student next fall.

Art Team — Carolyn Megan, lead — Betsy Boyd, board liaison

Still working on idea of painting of utility boxes. Looking for funding sources. Carolyn needs to be away most of May into mid-June and possibly into July. As such, the Art Team needs any new interested members/lead. Email Carolyn with questions and/or if you want more information.

Safe Streets Team — Bowman Brown, lead — Deb VanHoewyk, board liaison

The next meeting is scheduled for May 20 at 6 pm in the Steve Hirshon Community Room at Unity Village 24 Stone Street. Items to be addressed at the next meeting include better lighting; the group will work out how to create a list of all non-operating street lights, as well as key places where lighting could be improved, such as Portland Street – Bowman’s building is 34 Portland Street, and there are definite dark spots there. The Preble Street 295 underpass is another.

In February, the group discussed a “text buddy” system so people could text to get a buddy for walking together in unsafe situations. There were concerns about having personal numbers out there, but it seems as if WhatsApp could take care of the privacy issues. A number of people have already volunteered to participate via WhatsApp.

Pedestrian safety – hotspots are Portland Street, especially at the intersections with Parris and Hanover Streets. This is related to the lack of parking enforcement, which results in people parking every which way, making pedestrian pathways unpredictable.

Bowman distributed for discussion the New York Times article highlighting the increasing problem of Meth as opposed to fentanyl use in our neighborhood.

March 2025 Portland Police Dept. (PPD) Citywide & Bayside Calls For Service (CFS) report:

- a) April 2025- Citywide- 6,403; Bayside- 1,205 ; 18.82%
- b) April 2024- Citywide- 5,616; Bayside- 1,099; 19.56%
- c) 2025 Bayside Monthly Average- 20.50% (2024 avg.-18.52%)
- d) 2017-2025 Bayside Monthly Average- 18.03%