

Comments to RWNA Survey Questions – Feb 9, 2011

Sent — 672 surveys, Returned = 165

Survey Summary can be viewed at

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e3de733ggjw0enf1/results>

#2 Rank each neighborhood feature.

1. I believe that the city planning department has double standards for building improvement standards - in particular set back requirements from the street that vary along the same street because of grandfather exemptions. Improvement to older properties enhances the neighborhood. City regulations often conflict with this possibility.
2. Would not live anywhere else other than the west side. I am a Real Estate Agent and find that whenever buyers come to town, I tend to dwell on the west side and they all fall in love with Bend. When I take them to other areas, ie East Side, or South, the comments fall to "this could be anywhere USA" I am glad your organization wants to keep our area the way it is now, we all love it just the way it is
3. responsible for the upkeep of their rental properties i.e. landscaping, painting, etc. This would help with property values and neighborhood
4. ease of walking, biking, bus depends on specific situation.
5. This is what we wanted, but did not get. - a sense of community, friendly neighbors!
6. Small neighborhood roads that cater to walkers, bikers, young people, this includes effective speed bumps like on Columbia. Speed bumps on Olney are ineffective & expensive (too small)
7. I live in Hawaii and sorry, I lost the first page of the survey.
8. I used to live in Bend 30 yrs ago, but visit annually...and would like to retire in Bend. My feedback is very limited.
9. Mirror Pond is an important feature, not listed above
10. I would support a bus system only if it supported it's self. Need sidewalks completed on both sides of Newport Ave. House styles certainly are diverse. Seems anyone can build an apartment complex on top of their house or garage. What is the deal with that? They try to Pack!
11. I live across the street from commercial businesses and I love it - quiet, clean, plenty of parking on the week-ends. I'm grateful there are not restaurants which creates more traffic & liter and noise etc etc.

12. We love our neighborhood!! However, question #3 doesn't make much sense. If you mean that we like houses that are diverse and not all identical, yes, that is very important.
13. Some of the homes I see being built on my street alone are ridiculous: Don't blend with the other homes; too large; I wonder how some were even allowed permits
14. Moved here for lifestyle of walking and biking from home.
15. I have lived in Bend since 1980. The first 20 years out on Tumalo Reservoir Road. My house on Lexington was built in 2002. It was a rental for six years while I was in Colorado and Wyoming helping elderly family. I love the diversity in homes on my street- some old, some new. And the mature trees. 14th St. is noisy, but my home is well insulated. I love this location- near downtown, NAM, restaurants, and COCC nearby. I think it's great!
16. East - west traffic can be a problem - large concentration of people with COCC and churches but lack of access to these places. Placement of schools on major thorough roads is ridiculous.
17. I chose to live on the West Side because it suited me as a person whose transportation system usually is walking.
18. I also like the lot size that can't be subdivided
19. I live right downtown so not having to drive is high on my list.
20. We need to guard against older, REALLY mature trees falling.
21. I mistook this for our prior HOA in the Park. We love the area and want to keep receiving emails. Disregard my prior response.
22. The first and last options are the same "proximity to trails and parks"?
23. Less commercial please!
24. We chose to live in this neighborhood for 21 years for all the above reasons and for the affordability of our house when we bought it in 1990.
25. Maintain zoning and character of neighborhoods. Keep commercial and higher density out of single family neighborhoods.
26. All these features are important. That's why I live here.

#3 Rank each action as a positive influence on your life.

1. poorly maintained alleyways keep invasive and shortcut traffic at a minimum.

2. Generally improve the visibility of the neighborhood. Run down, trashy and property not maintained (alley facing the new Miller Park) should be redeveloped or rebuilt. No emphasis on home owner accountability!
3. Roads like 15th from Galveston to Kingston not paved and with potholes and dirt and gravel are unsafe and inconceivable in 2011!
4. If bike paths and sidewalks could be constructed further away from the curb, it would make walking more enjoyable (safer, less dirt thrown up, etc.) It's not much fun to walk 10 feet away from traffic that's zooming past.
5. I personally enjoy walking through the alley ways. I also enjoy every one's unique use of alley space. I could not think of anything worse then trying to, "clean up the alley ways." For some people it is their only drive way. Another words it's private roadspace. I would hate to walk down a perfect little alley way. How boring!!
6. I think Rental Properties should be more responsible for maintaining there entire properties year round. I also fear about up keep on abandoned For Sale properties that will not sell for a year or longer.
7. If you want people to keep garage frontages off the Street and enter from the alley, we need to make these alley's easy to access, some are pretty hairy to navigate with deep ruts and lots of brush in Summer (scratches up our cars) we might as well say, alley access but only if you have a big SUV
8. As stated above, increase accountability of rental property conditions.
9. Bikes should be lit or not ridden at night. Bike riders need reflexive stris on their clothing as do pedestrians! Parents or others dressed in dark clothing pushing strollers, standing in the shade of trees are very hard to see. Us a flag, use reflection.
10. increase commercial businesses AND school venue increase number and condition of sidewalks depends on situation
11. Important one is to increase number and condition of sidewalks, as long as roads are not widened to accommodate bikes and walkers. I like less focus on cars and MORE focus on people who get outside.
12. We were once renters and wish to be more inclusive and kind to the renters in our neighborhood, than how we were treated when we were. So, we struggle with how to deal with renter neighbors who aren't very good about keeping their yards clear of garbage containers, yard tools., toys, bikes and more. Several of our neighbors are concerned about property value and appearance upkeep especially in this economy but have no solutions.
13. Please work on dredging Mirror Pond - the heart of Bend for 100 years!
14. PAVE 18TH STREET NOW!!!

15. rental property is private property so no public control
2nd point above: To include sweeping up cinders from sidewalks and street with no sidewalks.
16. Finish paving roads. How come we still have gravel & dirt roads in a city that's over 100 yrs old. Pave 15th between Newport and Milwaukee and relieve the bottle neck at 14th & Milwaukee would be a start.
17. We've got some slum lords in the neighborhood!
18. More and more houses are being bought by people who don't live in them and rent them out. These people do not have the same regard for the property, neighborhood and neighbors that those of us who live here have.
19. Slow gentrification is better than the current slow decay
20. As much as I appreciate open space, I do not like higher housing density. The instances where giant monster houses are allowed are a detraction from the character of this neighborhood. That traffic is allowed unimpeded in north-south direction on all streets between Galveston and Newport is unconscionable. The streets are narrow and more people than not rely on curbside parking, there are no sidewalks and there are many homes with small children.
21. Slow down traffic on the west side.
22. I have planted trees as a barrier to 14th St. noise. The speed on my section of Galveston is posted as 25mph. I would like to see that enforced- for safety and noise. Anything that promotes biking, and makes it safer, is a priority to me. My alley is pretty nice- no complaints. The house next door-East- is a vacation rental. I do not like living next to it. People are in and out for a weekend. They cause me no trouble, but it is not the same as neighbors you know .
23. use of over-passes or under-pass
24. Commercial Business; I have reservations about more businesses on the westside, unless they are smaller and more in the vein of "neighborhood" businesses. I would be sad to see more fast food, or other chain stores. Locally owned and operated Mom and Pop businesses should be encouraged.
25. Some alleys are full of pot holes & garbage, old vehicles etc. Some rentals are in disrepair & tenants have old furniture sitting outside & trash etc. Landlords should be held responsible to make sure renters maintain at least a minimal level of clean.
26. If density is increased the value and desirability of neighborhood will diminish I remain concerned that the City made a zoning change to allow subdivision of lots that were sold as established neighborhoods and I wonder who was benefitting, certainly not those of us who bought because of the lot

- size in the neighborhood. Happily one effort to build on a lot one foot larger than the minimum appears to have been stopped. thank you
27. The speeding traffic and unpaved streets are our major concern. Second is the lack of car by tenants in rental properties
 28. Conserve open space, but do not increase housing density. Maintain population at current level.
 29. We desperately need some reasonably priced condos, not town houses, but "flats" where older people have a place to park their cars (underground) and have a reasonable sized apartment which can be purchased. They need to have the interior and exterior maintenance done. Why we have so many town houses I simply don't understand. Let's get greater density housing and create a place where older people can live !
 30. Traffic noise from the Parkway and Railroad noise are concerns to me, though neither of these are in the River West Neighborhood.
 31. I don't live on a street with alleys, so they don't concern me as much, although I do like walking through them.
 32. Rentals are a problem in upkeep and noise driving too fast.
 33. Love the Funky Alleys
 34. Would be good if the rentals could be accountable for property conditions, also owner occupied dwellings.

#4 Rank each of the following difficulties

1. Increased development out on Skyliner Rd will put too much pressure on Galveston at Tumalo and Riverside intersection. So further development will need to address that.
2. There are sidewalks in most places that are needed. Where they are not there is not much traffic to walk in the road.
3. I wish property owners would clear their sidewalks of snow and gravel and keep them in good repair - no tripping obstacles. Also, they need to be responsible for condition of area between their fences and the curb - pick up trash, pull weeds, remove downed branches, etc.
4. Personally I like the dirt alleys and feel they reflect the older neighborhoods. The fact that we don't have that many sidewalks actually slows traffic, in that people are forced to use the streets. Maybe not the best traffic calming device....but it works !
5. I live on the lower part of Awbrey Rd where many people who work downtown park. When the weather gets a little warmer young people stay

- downtown late and walk back to their cars (or ride back to their cars in a friend's car. They can get VERY noisy. This happens frequently Friday and Saturday nights in warmer weather .
6. No snow removal or help on our street until we have had weeks of snow already. We only receive gravel on the bottom of the street and we only live on a short inclined street that dead ends into a cul-de-sac. We also have no sidewalks which would be nice, since everyone in this neighborhood
 7. If we want to encourage people to walk into town, Sidewalks should be a priority, we have to walk in the street when we walk from our house (Westhills) to downtown, no sidewalks until we get to Harmon Rd and Drake Park, that's
 8. Each occupant should keep their own alley portion free of weeds.
#1 is especially true on 14th.
#6 blocking alley with snow is a problem
#7 home owners can band together to put down gravel.
 9. Depends on the renters across the street. Some are quiet and most are not
 10. We bought in this neighborhood in 2007 (!) b/c we thought it would be filled with kids & a good place to raise our kids and be a part of a community. Instead we find we are surrounded by vacation rentals & 2nd homes. It sucks, we were misled by previous owners and we are stuck here b/c of price we paid for house. Not the community we thought we were buying into.
 11. Our side walk was covered with snow from the snowplow and we were unable to clear our own sidewalk.
 12. Keep narrow neighborhood roads with on street parking to keep volume, noise & speed in check.
 13. speed is a real problem.
 14. We live on Odgen and cars just speed through as a shortcut to get to either Newport or Portland. It would be nice to have a "slow sign". We have children. Newport should have sidewalks and bike lanes the whole way.
 15. Barking dogs is a problem!
 16. One issue that concerns us is (and we've kept dates, times and names of people we've spoken to) that while we know very well the money issues the city has we've been trying for over a year (we can prove it) to get a bad crack in our street fixed. It concerns us. Be remains as is. The city hasn't ever been out.
 17. Need sidewalks on Newport.
 18. my neighbor has 2 barking dogs. She rents - ugh! In summer there is more traffic volume, speed and noise.

19. I live on a dead end street.
20. Noise from businesses is a big problem to us.
21. We like the character of some alleys.
22. Keep the character of the neighborhood. It doesn't have sidewalks (I don't care) It is up to the owners/ city to keep alley ways in good condition.
23. Rentals = loud parties, dogs and smoking, too !
24. While no sidewalks is fine for me (now), it makes it virtually impossible for people with disabilities.
25. lack of sidewalks and funky alleys is a good news bad news thing. Sure it could use an upgrade but upgrade would take away some of the character. Too many people still ignore leash law.
26. Traffic should be funneled onto major north-south streets (Harmon, Union-10th, 14th) and discouraged from using the other streets in the area for general north-south travel. This could be easily and inexpensively by moving stop signs at every other intersection to face 90 degrees from the way they are now--to create a "basket-weave" pattern where there is a stop sign at every other intersection in all directions.
27. Lack of sidewalks is not a "major" problem for me, but adding them would have a tremendous positive impact on my neighborhood.
28. don't know about rentals
29. I wish the City would crack down on unregistered vacation rentals, and illegal commercial uses in residential zones. The City needs more code enforcement staff
30. disclosure: we own 2 vacation rentals
31. The RWNA had an opportunity to help create an effective drop off zone for a local school and a pedestrian zone to bridge commercial areas and failed to support this project. It is sad that the RWNA didn't listen to the businesses, business leaders or the neighbors that were directly effected by this project. Continued on next section.
32. Side streets 16th and 17th between Galveston and Harvard need to be paved
33. We need to get Juniper paved between Portland and Quincy.
34. I wanted to continue to live in my houses in the neighborhood but rented them out because of the problems noted, mainly traffic volume and speed and noise and degradation of living quality. Am hoping some day to move back.
35. no side walk between Federal St. and 12th on the south side of Galveston. Major problem !

36. To clarify on 1 & 2: Motor vehicles failing to stop at crosswalks (marked and unmarked) is my greatest concern. The condition and lack of accountability (landlords maintaining public nuisance, esp. Ogden area between Newport and Portland) of some but not all rentals is a public safety concern.
37. I don't have a problem with traffic noise, although I am about 2 blocks off Newport. The number of cars is what I think is a problem, but only at certain times of day.
38. Newport Avenue needs sidewalks between College Way and 12 Street on the south side. The condition of the sidewalk on the north side is pretty bad.
39. Condition of sidewalks
40. More rentals create more traffic, noise from parties. Keep short term vacation rentals where zoned for.
41. Traffic speed is a major problem. I have almost been hit a number of times crossing Newport (especially at night).

#5 How effective is the RWNA Board in fulfilling our mission?

1. I have not been involved recently
2. Is the mission to organize exclusively for educational, social, civic and charitable purposes? Please email me the RWNA mission Statement.
3. It's hard for me to comment because I have only attended 2 meetings and have not participated in events. But --- I have good feelings about and for RWNA
4. I can not adequately respond to some of these questions as my properties are rentals as well as an vacation apartment for my family. I have not had the time/ opportunity to be an active neighborhood association participant. However, with that said, i do believe the association does serve a good function.
5. Not sure what the last one is saying????
6. Thank you for the work that you do.
7. Frankly I have only lived here full time for a year. It seems through your emails you are very involved but what specific accomplishments with the city I don't know what you have achieved. I'm sure it's been a lot.
8. Lovely way to live in Bend: Yeah River West Neighborhood Association!
9. I've been to all 3 meetings. I was not allowed to speak. So I don't come anymore.
10. We have no way of knowing????
11. Tough to be a neighborhood advocate when funding is from the city, seems like a puppet "for show" city projects. Hope I'm wrong on this.

12. don't know how to answer this part.
13. I have heard you are doing a good job. I want to thank you for your time and effort.
14. Don't understand statement #2 and #4???
15. not familiar enough with accomplishments within scope of question.
16. my husband already gets communications and shares them with me.
17. I don't know enough about the board to have an opinion.
18. We weren't sure who to contact in the city about concerns we had last summer about bank owned properties, yards, upkeep and you folks were very helpful. Thank you!
19. Really have not followed the activity of RWNA
20. Don't know if RWNA has done anything? Need a "state of the neighborhood" report. What have you accomplished
21. I don't have any major or minor problems living here (I'm a condo owner). I don't really know much about the RWNA Board. Thanks for the opportunity to comment!
22. Not sure what the last comment meant.
23. It sounds like you want a gated community. Then go. I don't want sidewalks, bike paths or parking. I bought my house because of the old style and simple. So leave it SIMPLE.
24. RWNA does an excellent job overall. It is impressive how dedicated active members of RWNA are and how hard you work. Thank you. One suggestion: if a concern arises re a specific area i.e. the bridge from Davis Park across the river, survey those living in the immediate area, who daily observe the impacts, before RWNA initiates or responds to any communication with the city, Parks and Recs etc. Also, email copies of all communications to those in the immediate area. Thank you.
25. Thank you for all you do for the neighborhood.
26. I have not been involved in RWNA, but appreciate all the communication it provides, keeping us up on issues in our wonderful neighborhood. Thanks for all your work. I will get involved when my life settles down a little.
27. I'm not involved with the RWNA so I don't know the extent of their impact. I do know they encourage communication and open to suggestions.
28. I don't really know what RWNA does

29. Keep up the good work.....could we get access parking at the West Hills Park, so people won't park along the side streets on Iowa? A designated parking area would be nice.
30. I don't understand the last item. It's badly written. I gave it a three as a "confusion" vote.
31. more social events might be nice
32. sadly we can't get to meetings but appreciate what the association is doing
33. One would think that this would be the most important responsibility of the organization. In the future it would be nice to see the RWNA look to understand and help promote business in the area. The businesses in the area were unanimous in their support for the defeated project. I am still confused as to the reason for not supporting neighbors and businesses in the RWNA. The City of Bend will continue to study the innovative defeated proposal. Too bad the RWNA didn't take the lead on this one .
34. Since most residents are renters homeowners expect things that are not done. Nor do all the owners attend meetings .
35. I don't know
36. I have yet to attend a RWNA meeting, but I hope to this year.
37. New to River West. I would like to see RWNA be effective.
38. Not able to reply to the above as the last 2 years not paid much attention to neighborhood groups. Am sure your board is working hard for the best in RWNA.
39. I have not idea as to how effective the RWNA is.