

Meeting Minutes

Bend City Council Stewardship Subcommittee

June 23, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

WebEx



3:00 p.m. Bend City Council Stewardship Subcommittee Meeting

1. Convene Subcommittee Meeting

Councilors Barb Campbell, Bruce Abernethy, Chris Piper

Also Attended: Eric King, Shelly Smith, Mary Winters, Ben Hemson, Erik Kancler, Keith Dodge. Kayla Duddy, Deputy City Recorder and Will Shelton, IT Applications Analyst.

2. Approval of minutes from the May 28, 2020 meeting

Councilor Piper moved to approve the May 28, 2020 meeting minutes. Councilor Campbell seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

3. Council Goal Reprioritization Presentation

Eric King, City Manager, Ben Hemson, Business Advocate, Shelly Smith, Senior Management Analyst, and Keith Dodge, Bend Economic Development Advisory Board (BEDAB) member, presented slides on the Council Goal Reprioritization:

- Council Goals: Proposed Revisions
- Council Goals: Next Steps
- Considerations
- Council Goals Proposed Revisions

Councilor Piper asked if there will be a City Council Representative at the June 24, 2020 Shared Governance Meeting. Mr. King explained Councilor Abernethy would be representing the City Council at this first meeting. He said the future Council liaison will be discussed with the Stewardship Council Subcommittee.

Mr. Dodge stated that BEDAB's role is to listen to the Bend businesses and try to figure out what their needs are and how to grant the money down to their partners.

Councilor Piper stated the Visit Bend's Boost Up Bend Fund is a unique program where they partner with small business development centers, having a mentor program, and trying to figure out where to prioritize support.

Councilor Abernethy asked how many strings are attached to the COVID Relief Funds (CRF). Mr. Hemson explained some funds have guardrails and the City is waiting to hear from the state for guidance around how they want the money to be split between local municipalities.

Mr. Dodge explained BEDAB will be looking at their three-year strategic plan and will focus on the availability of land. He shared that the next BEDAB meeting will focus on business needs and where changes need to happen.

4. Legislative Brief with Erik Kancler

Eric Kancler, Kancler Consulting, presented highlights on the state COVID Relief Funds:

- Oregon was allocated \$1.6 billion in coronavirus relief funds from the Federal CARES Act. \$250 million was in the form of direct allocations to local governments that were 500 people or greater.
- Federal guidance does not require the state to give local governments money but strongly suggests doing so.
- If the state follows the federal guidance, \$640 million would go to local governments.
- In terms of cities, counties or special districts budgets, funds cannot be used for backfilling revenue loss due to COVID-19 related impacts.
- Local governments can grant specific portions of that money out to address a wide array of impacts including public health and economic support if needed for the community.
- So far, Oregon has only awarded \$200 million.
- Governor Brown mentioned that her office is prioritizing public health and deprioritizing economic support.
- The City of Bend has not been given direct allocations.
- The City of Bend projected increase in COVID related expenses for the period of March to December is \$1 million or less.
- Oregon agreed to put out \$38 million for childcare and \$75 million for rental assistance.
- Legislature deliberation on some additional funding focusing on individual families and public health.
- Legislature has not delegated how it intends to offer economic support at the state level.
- Oregon is going to ask for another \$200 million, which would possibly mean another \$2.6 million for the City of Bend.
- Joint letter consisting of the City of Bend, Deschutes County, NeighborImpact and United Way of Deschutes County. The letter turned into a statewide letter that stated local governments know what to do with CRF dollars.
- 46 sources of funding in the CARES Act include CRF.

Councilor Piper asked when the joint letter was delivered and what will be the follow-up process? Mr. Kancler explained Katy Brooks with the Bend Chamber delivered the letter to the Economic Development & Regional Director about a month ago. He shared, with the help of the City Manager and City staff, letting the governor's office know how innovated, inclusive and collaborative city governments are and how they are not just local bureaucracies, but essential community partners.

Councilor Abernethy commented that NeighborImpact has already received \$2.5 million to \$3.5 million for rental assistance. Mr. Kancler explained the City will need to know from NeighborImpact and other community based interests partnering with the City, on how much money they have received in terms of the CARES funding that is not through

the CRF but through other funding streams, so that the City can complement and augment that.

Mr. Kancler presented highlights on the state legislative special session:

- Special session starts Wednesday, June 6, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.
- Police accountability, Coronavirus response, individual and family assistance to be priority topics. Possible other topics will be forestry and wildfire season.
- Session lasting two to three days.
- Possible second session happening in July 2020.
- City staff to review all legislative concepts.
- Legislative will be looking at to determine to have a second special session:
 - Waiting to see for the September 2020 revenue forecast. May hold funds until there is a clearer picture.
 - Finding out if congress will approve another round of Coronavirus CARES package.
- Senator Merkley's office shared the following:
 - Expects legislation is on the verge of passing, in both the house and senate, infrastructure funding. Will likely to undergo reconciliation effort where the senate and house work out a massive infrastructure plan together, which would focus on surface transportation.
 - Additional conversations underway for additional congressional relief beyond what has been received from the CARES Act, a particular focus on local government's revenue backfill.
- 2021 legislative session will be about budget reallocations, how budgets will be pared down and emergence of creative partnerships.

Councilor Abernethy asked when the next special session will be and if they will be discussing K-12 schools. Mr. Kancler explained there would be this first session then a follow up session in July where additional funding allocations are made. He said there would be a possible third session after the September revenue forecast is received mid-September.

Mr. King shared after speaking with Lara Norquist with the Bend-La Pine School District, and Don Horton with Bend Parks & Recreation District, middle school and high school students will have both online and in-person learning. He said elementary school is more challenging.

Mr. King explained childcare is going to continue to be a pressing need, especially this fall because the City's economic recovery is going to be dependent on our workforce. He shared the City's services sector does not have the option to work from home.

Councilor Campbell asked if the establishment of an emergency permanent homeless camp would be discussed in the July special legislative session. Mr. Kancler explained he expects, at tomorrow's meeting, legislation will pass the 90-day window for House Bill (HB) 4212-27 (formerly HB 4001) and the City of Bend will need to be ready. He said he is working on a technical fix to try to ensure the City can still utilize the full 90-day window and hoping to get the full \$2.5 million in July.

Mr. King asked Mr. Kancler if the City of Bend is in position, based on all the information provided by the state, so that we can optimize the opportunity for additional funding. Mr. Kancler explained the framework is all there, but the challenge is executing and knowing what the timeline needs to be. He said the City is getting very little information on when to do what, so the City needs to go with what they know and see how legislation goes.

5. Community Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Planning

Mr. King presented an update on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) planning:

- City staff and City Council met with The Father's Group, which has focused on how to improve the education system through expanding Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color (BIPOC) curriculum and better accountability to diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the city.
- Contracted with Allyship in Actions who has facilitated the DEI Short Term Task Force to provide recommendations to the City Council on developing a permanent DEI body. Bend-La Pine School District and Bend Parks and Recreation District are supportive of the shared governance model.
- The first local (Bend) Shared Governance/Collective Impact meeting was held on June 24, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. Further discussion with The Father's Group will follow the next Shared Governance meeting.

Councilor Piper asked if the Stewardship Council Subcommittee would review information from the local Shared Governance meeting and The Father's Group meeting, before the review and recommendations. Mr. King said he would like the Stewardship Council Subcommittee participate and fine tune information before reporting to the full Council.

Councilor Abernethy asked if the committee had any concerns or comments they would like for him to pass along at the Shared Governance meeting.

Mr. King shared that after brainstorming with the school district and parks district, maybe this vision could be a separate nonprofit that would help develop systems of accountability for the school district and the rest of the rest of the participating agencies.

Councilor Piper shared concerns about determining if the future permanent DEI body should be referred to a committee or a commission. Mary Winters, City Attorney, explained Allyship in Action would like to continue the discussion of the functions of the DEI body, whatever it is ultimately called, to a future time. She said if an outside nonprofit is also formed, the City needs to keep exploring what that group would be empowered to do.

6. Adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deputy City Recorder,
Kayla M. Duddy