



CITY OF BEND

Minutes | Regular Meeting | Draft

City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee (COBAAC)

Thursday, June 23, 2022, 1:00 to 2:30 pm

Held virtually via Zoom | [COBAAC June 23, 2022, YouTube Live Stream](#)

1. Call to Order

Chair Nick Radon (He/Him)

The meeting was called the City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee to order on June 23, 2022, at 1:04 pm by Chairperson Radon.

Members Present: Chair Nick Radon (He/Him) | Vice-Chair John Heylin | Asley Schahfer (She/Her) | Kori Sparks (She/Her) | Whitney Bennett (She/Her) | Carl Burnett (He/Him) | Aaron Rivers (He/Him) | Jenni Peskin (She/Her)

Members Absent: Amanda Hamer

Public Attendees:

No public attendees.

City of Bend Staff:

Cherissa Alldredge (She/Her/Hers) | Accessibility and Equity Manager
Ian Leitheiser (He/Him) | Assistant City Attorney | City of Bend
Barbara Campbell (She/Her/Hers) | City of Bend Councilperson
Lisa Larsen (She/Her) | Administrative Support Specialist

2. Land Acknowledgement

Cherissa Alldredge (She/Her/Hers) | Accessibility and Equity Manager

City of Bend Land Acknowledgement:

We would like to acknowledge that the beautiful land, known as Bend, Oregon north of the Columbia River is the original homelands of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. The Confederated Tribes ceded this land in the Treaty of 1855 while retaining regular and customary hunting, fishing, and gathering rights. The Wana Łama ([Warm Springs](#)), Wasq'ú (Wasco), and Northern Paiute people inhabited this area in certain seasonal times that clearly established their presence. It is also important to note that the Klamath Trail ran north through this region to the great Celilo Falls trading grounds. This trade route expanded the impact of commerce between Tribal nations. We acknowledge and thank the original stewards of this land. It is our hope that guests continue to honor and care for this land.

3. Approval of Minutes from May 26, 2022, Regular Meeting

Vice-Chair Heylin moved to approve the May 26, 2022 meeting minutes as is. Member Bennett seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously with the members present.

4. Public Comment

No public attendees

5. COBAAC Business

Chair Nick Radon (He/Him) | and/or | Vice-Chair John Heylin

- COBAAC Interviews | New Member Appointments | Introductions:

Interviews were conducted and with City Manager Kings' approval, there are three new COBAAC members: Carl Burnett, Aaron Rivers, and Jenni Peskin.

Carl Burnett – He, Him Pronouns: Resident of Bend for six years has a disability and uses a manual wheelchair, is involved with Oregon Adaptive Sports as a volunteer and also as a participant in some of their programs, and is big into outdoor recreation. Professionally Carl works in the engineering field, has a degree in library and information science, and works remotely for Healthwise a company based in Idaho.

Aaron Rivers – He, Him Pronouns: He is an Investment Advisor for Living Earth Investments that focuses on sustainable and thoughtful investments. He and his family moved to Bend in 2001. His interest in COBAAC stems from his daughter who has Down-Syndrome and what a positive contribution to Bend for her future; an accessible and equitable community for people who might have similar situations.

Jenni Peskin – She, Her Pronouns: Resident of Bend since 2002 and began working with the Human Dignity Coalition, a non-profit working on social justice issues. Around 2004 part of that work involved helping a group of citizens who brought forth a lawsuit against the City of Bend and Deschutes County, eventually resulting in the DOJ settlement. Jenni was a member of the Central Oregon Coalition for Access (COCA) which was formed as part of that settlement agreement. Jenni is a yoga and mindfulness teacher, working with people in recovery, and sometimes with disabilities. Jenni is a singing teacher as well, helping people find their voice.

- Hybrid Meetings in August:

Starting in August the City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee (COBAAC) will conduct its meetings virtually through Zoom with an in-person option that will be held in Council Chambers at City Hall.

- Any other business from the COBAAC Memberships?

Member Burnett asked for the missing maps from the Pedestrian Master Plan Discussion from the May 25, 2022 meeting.

Member Sparks asked about a link to the map's demographic levels for the Pedestrian Master Plan.

Due to technical difficulties, after the meeting, we received the maps and the Equity Demographic & GO Bond Projects (Dashboard) link from Karen Swirsky, the presenter, and forwarded them to COBAAC members.

ACTION ITEM: Maps and the link were forwarded to committee members. (Done)

6. Open Meetings Training

Ian Leitheiser (He/Him) | Assistant City Attorney | City of Bend

Assistant Attorney Leitheiser is one of four City of Bend attorneys. Essentially the in-house the City of Bend law firm. In doing that we advise the city staff, city council, city councilors, and members of the city's advisory bodies, including COBAAC if necessary.

Technically, they are full service for the entity of the City of Bend. This means they deal with people who work and volunteer for the city, giving advice and solving problems.

Attorney Leitheiser talked about public meetings under the Oregon law and the set of statutes known as public meeting law. Defining who is subject to the public meeting law, the requirements, the exceptions to the law, and how the law works.

The basis for the public meeting law in Oregon is that the public deserves to be informed and have insight and a window onto how public entities make their higher-level administrative, and policy decisions and have access and full transparency of the working groups.

7. COBAAC Strategic Plan Development Initial Discussion

COBAAC membership suggestions:

- COBAAC involvement in the overall budget development around transportation.
- Having someone involved in the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.
- Proactively letting the community know more about COBAAC and a resource for them.
- Print business cards with basic information/numbers to find accessible needs or report ADA parking issues, and barriers/ right-of-way sidewalk/bird bikes/ snow removal. Have a list of areas that COBAAC is involved/actively advocating. Leaving cards on windshields – COBAAC is here for the community. Set a COBAAC table out at events held around the City of Bend.
- Print a did you know card with information when people are parked illegally or give it out to the people within the disabled community to put on cars.
- Research/require access for on-demand transportation: Limited numbers of access to taxis, Uber, and Lyft vehicles for wheelchair users; they are likely not in violation of any laws.
- Work with the City Manager/ City Council to incentivize local transportation providers when they provide vehicles made accessible for people who are in wheelchairs or other adaptive mobility equipment.
- Advocate for the bridge across the Deschutes at Big Dog and other projects that increase accessibility without the need for a car. Having access to recreation is beneficial to everybody. Possibly review as a group and provide recommendations and feedback.
- Be a resource for people to learn more about how they can work with the existing infrastructure to be more accessible. Educate different users so we are not inhibiting transportation and access.

- Ask the city to provide training for our engineers, planners, and inspectors (checklists), and require developers to be educated around disability equity, ADA, and making things accessible and what they look like. Have project managers invite COBAAC to site visits or the planning stages of projects.
- Education and partnerships/ and the Chamber: Education for businesses on the right-of-way, parking stall requirements and path of travel to stores, the requirements for the setup for the inside of a store, bathroom storage/shelving. Having an education card to leave as a resource.
- Education towards Bird Bike compliance, leaving information on where to leave the bikes and they are now vulnerable transportation system users.
- Look into accessible bus stops and the path of travel and seating for people with mobility issues.
- Buildings are designed to be accessible but once the occupants start to occupy those spaces we have no jurisdiction. Not sure how a requirement for a post-occupancy accessible inspection for the path of travel and access issues would work or be enforced.
- Having a COBAAC booth at events to show who and what COBAAC is all about, that we are in the community, not Zoom calls once a month.
- Adaptive Recreation Opportunities: Look into collaborations with Bend Park & Recreation and Oregon Adaptive Sports to help expand a more robust inclusive, for different abilities, selection of fitness classes offerings.
- COBAA should be involved and ensure inclusivity of the outdoor competitions and events in town, making sure they are accessible. As well as the free concerts.

COBAAC will continue this discussion at the next COBAAC meeting, in August, as COBAAC works toward creating its Strategic Work Plan and then sharing it via City Manager King with City Council.

8. Public Comment

No public attendees

9. Accessibility and Equity Manager Update

Cherissa Alldredge (She/Her/Hers) | Accessibility and Equity Manager

Stipends for Committee and Commission members: There were changes made to the city code in support of stipends. The Equity and Inclusion Director Allen is currently on a policy and processes to roll out. This is no firm timeline on when those will be finalized. Within the next couple of months, we will report back and discuss this with the COBAAC membership about the documentation needed for the stipends.

10. COBAAC Councilmember Liaison Comments

Barbara Campbell (She/Her/Hers) | City of Bend Councilperson

Bird Bikes: Good news, people are getting out of their cars and riding bikes. The bad news, people are leaving them in places where they block sidewalks, limiting access for other people to get around. The intent is not to run and evaluate the pilot through the summer. The evaluations are done as the pilot is run, based almost moment by moment. The Bird Bike have technology limiting where they can go within the city, it is called geofencing. The city is collecting the current data to find out where the bikes are being used.

11. August COBAAC Meeting Planning

- Continue the COBAAC Strategic Plan Development Discussion on August 25, 2022.
- Add the Parking Services Division Manager Tobias Marx, who is working on this program, to discuss the Bird Bikes.

12. Adjourn

Chairperson Radon adjourned the City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee, June 23, 2022 meeting at 2:35 PM

The City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee will take a break in July and reconvene its regular meeting schedule on Thursday, August 25, 2022, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lisa Larsen She/Her
Administrative Support Specialist for the Accessibility and Equity Program



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc. To request accommodations for this meeting, please email accessibility@bendoregon.gov; call (541) 693-2198; Relay Users dial 7-1-1.