

City of Bend
City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee
March 23, 2023
Meeting Minutes

COBAAC March 23, 2023, YouTube Live Stream

COBAAC Chair Haylin called the March 23, 2023 City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee hybrid meeting to order at 1:02 PM, in Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street 97703.

1. Roll Call:

Members Attended:

- John Heylin (He/Him) Chair
- Carl Burnett (He, Him) Vice-Chair
- Aaron Rivers (He, Him)
- Amanda Hamer (She/Her)
- Ashley Schahfer (She/Her) Resigned March 23, 2023 – Last COBAAC Meeting
- Kori Sparks (She/Her)
- Nicholas Radon (He/Him)

Members Absent: Whitney Bennett (She/Her)

Public Attended: Stephanie Utzman, Assistive Technology Specialist, Abilitree

City of Bend Staff Attended:

- Cassandra Kehoe She, Her, Accessibility & Equity Manager and COBAAC Staff Liaison
- Stephanie Betteridge she, her, Chief Innovation Officer, Assistant City Manager
- Barbara Campbell She, Her, City Councilor and COBAAC Council Liaison
- Mellissa Kamanya She, Her, Hers, Affordable Housing Coordinator
- Lisa Larsen She, her, Administrative Support Specialist
- Robin Lewis, Transportation Engineer

City of Bend Staff Absent:

- Drew Wells Project Engineer, Engineer Infrastructure Planning Department (EIPD)

2. Land Acknowledgement:

Amanda Hamer, She, Her COBAAC Member

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 homeland 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 February 23, 2023, Meeting Minutes: **Timestamp 9:13**

Motion: Member Hamer motioned to approve February 23, 2023; draft minutes as read. Member Sparks seconded the motion. The motion unanimously approved by the seven members who attended the March meeting.

4. Public Comment: **Timestamp 9:48**

Robin Lewis, a Transportation Engineer from the City of Bend, shared that she and Central Oregon Coalition for Access (COCA) member Wills have taken walks together so that Transportation Engineer Lewis can gather accessibility information about traffic signals and roundabouts. Engineer Lewis wants to gather information to update the city standards and specs.

5. City of Bend Update: **Timestamp 11:57**

Stephanie Betteridge She, Her, Chief Innovation Officer, and Assistant City Manager

Chief Innovation Officer Betteridge is here to give an overview of the Council Goal setting process, principles, and the City Council goals framework that the Council adopted on March 15th. She wants to talk about opportunities where COCAAC could be involved. And update COBAAC on the city's Equity Director recruitment.

Slide 1: Council Goal Setting – March 22, 2023

Slide 2: Council Goal Setting Timeline

- Council Elected: November 2022
- Council Inputs: November 2022 to January 2023
- Councilors Sworn in: January 2023
- Council Sets two-year Goal: January to March 2023
- Council Adopts Two-Year Work Plan: May to June 2023
- Council Adopts Budget: June 2023
- Goals Tracked in Public Dashboard: Ongoing

Chief Innovation Officer Betteridge explained how the City Council collects information from the community for goal setting.

- Community Survey:
 - statistically valid.
 - free-form website based.
- Emails councilors receive from community members (monthly summary provided)
- Public comments from meetings
- Roundtables
- Listening Sessions
 - Community members
 - Organizations/groups
- Conducted a Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis.

The City Council will refine, not set a whole new goal setting process. Most current council goals, for the current 2021-2023 biennium, ending on June 30th, are still moving forward into the next biennium.

Slide 3: Guiding Principles

Shaping and setting the stage on how to approach the work on the Council goals and daily operations as a city.

- Equity
- Inclusive Leadership
- Environment and Climate
- Fiscal Stewardship
- Governance
- Partnership

Slide 4: 2023 - 2025 Goal Area

- Accessible + Effective Government
 - Community Engagement
 - Facilities
 - Equity
 - Process Improvements
- Affordable Housing + Sustainable Development
 - Meeting housing needs of the community.
 - Plan for anticipated growth
 - Economic development
- Environment + Climate
 - Update & implement the Community Climate Action Plan
 - Water conservation
- Public Safety
 - Alternative response + partnerships
 - Technology + intelligence improvements
 - Continuity of operations planning
- Transportation + Infrastructure
 - Transportation priorities, safety, and funding
 - Transit

Chief Innovation Officer Betteridge defined the five areas on slide four, **2023 - 2025 Goal Areas & Answered Questions:**

- COBAAC Chair Heylin: Has the City considered budgeting/pursuing a third-party to review accessibility on the City of Bend website? This was a suggestion at the January 27th COBAAC meeting, during the Website Improvement – Accessibility Update presentation, with the Web Coordinator Riggles and Project Manager Hether Hill.
 - Chief Innovation Officer Betteridge said yes, and suggested this would be a great update on the city's improvement projects websites.

The city is starting to implement the recommendation from the consultant and prioritizing its website is accessible.

Slide 5: Council Goal Setting: Next Steps

- Council Goal Guiding Principles + Framework Adoption: March 15
- Work Plan Development: March 23 – June 21
- Budget Distribution: May 3
- Budget Deliberations: May 22 & 23r
- Budget & Council Goal Work Plan Adoption: June 21

COBAAC member Rivers asked Chief Innovation officer Betteridge to define what the Neighborhood Association Trailer Program, mentioned during slide four, under, Accessible + Effective Government – Community Engagement.

- Chief Innovation officer Betteridge mentioned the launching of a Neighborhood Association Trailer Program and does not know when sign-ups begin. This is where the neighborhood associations can sign-up to have the party trailer come to their neighborhood. There are games, tables, and tents.

The Communications team is working on a package and will email Accessibility and Equity Manager Kehoe the information to share with COBAAC on how and when signups are available for the Neighborhood Association Trailer.

ACTION ITEM: Chief Innovation officer Betteridge will email information on the Neighborhood Association Trailer Program to the Accessibility and Equity Manager/ COBAAC Staff Liaison Kehoe to share with COBAAC.

Slide 6: Equity Director Recruitment

- Partnering with Workplace Change
- Recruitment closed March 31
 - Forty applications to date
- Interview mid to late April.
 - Would like COBAAC representation.

Chief Innovation Officer shared: There has been a lot of interest in the Equity Director recruitment and went live about two weeks ago and partnering with **Workplace Change**. Workplace Change is a women and minority owned business that specializes in equity and the advancement of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility within organizations, through HR and recruitment.

6. Discuss Accessible Paths of Travel and Detours During Construction: **Timestamp 31:34**

Drew Wells Project Engineer, Engineer Infrastructure Planning Department (EIPD)

The Accessibility and Equity Manager, COBAAC Staff Liaison relayed a message from the Project Engineer Drew Wells, sending his apologies for not being able to attend today's meeting. If any of the COBAAC members has feedback in relation to the temporary pedestrian accessibility routes, please convey that to Project Engineer Wells or Accessibility and Equity Manager Kehoe and she will pass the information to Engineer Wells.

7. City of Bend Proclamation - Fair Housing: **Timestamp 32:28**

Mellissa Kamanya She, Her, Hers, Affordable Housing Coordinator

The Draft - Fair Housing Month Proclamation 2023, read aloud by Chair Heylin. The Affordable Housing Coordinator Kamanya received comments and feedback from the COBAAC members.

Comments and Feedback:

- COBAAC Vice-Chair Burnett: Under other protected classes it mentions everybody should have equal access. In the context of housing and disabilities it means something different because most housing is inherently not accessible and stacked against people with certain mobility disabilities. With accessible housing options limited.
- COBAAC member Sparks: Add language around types of housing that allow people to exist with dignity within their homes and accessible specific to their surrounding housing area, e.g., transportation hubs, stores, and other accessible equitable needs.
- Accessibility and Equity Manager, COBAAC Staff Liaison Kehoe: Vice-Chair Burnett point may fit in under the fifth paragraph in the non-measurable considerations when it comes to disability. "We recognize that many persons facing these discriminations do not feel safe to report." With Vice-Chair Burnett's language or thought to the difficulties individuals with disabilities face in the housing market.
- COBAAC Chair Heylin: Clarify the language in the last paragraph as having a more proactive involvement/approach and seeking ways to end discrimination and segregation.

- COBAAC member Schahfer: Agreeing with Chair Heylin, there should be language of the actions taken. Talking is old news. When not reflected across the city that it is important or a commitment.

Locals are seeing the addition of new wealthy residential purchases and rent increasing. Things are harder now and people are not making as much money as they used to and may have a disability or other status.

When she sees this kind of statement, it seems performative when we commit to talk about it, it is not enough. She wants to see what the city is doing, transparency, and accountability.

- Affordable Housing Coordinator Kamanya: Sees where the last paragraph fell flat. She is glad to hear feedback from COBAAC members that it is reading differently than meant.
- COBAAC member Hamer: During the housing annual proclamation revision process, add what the city has been doing.
- COBAAC Vice Chair Burnett: Housing is one of the goals in the context of affordable housing and homelessness and other issues. As a city if we are going to make a proclamation, it should come out along with an announcement about a program that is going to make housing fairer in our city.

- COBAAC member Radon: What is the stance behind this from a Department of Justice standpoint, if we find segregation or discrimination. Does the City have a process in place or what is the next step?
 - The City of Bend does have a Legal Department. This currently works well. The Housing Department is drafting its next four-year consolidated plan. Looking at equitable housing, fair access to housing, and collaborating with our partners to assure we understand where disparities are.

8. Discuss and Set Actionable Goals for the COBAAC 2022 -2023 Strategic Plan: Timestamp 54:05
City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee (COBAAC) Members

- **Three Subcommittees: Potential Projects and Working Groups Review:**

- I) **Improving Transportation and Infrastructure.**

Members Attended: Chair Heylin, Vice Chair Burnett, and Radon.

Members Absent: Bennett, Sparks.

The group talked about:

- a. Accessible on demand transportation, Taxi’s, Uber, and Lyft: A committee member will reach out to **Order a ride through PDX WAV | Portland.gov** and see how they started and funded their accessible Order a Ride Through PDX WAV program.
- b. Requirements for post-occupancy accessibility inspections/reporting/enforcement for paths of travel and access issues: Chair Heylin talked with someone from the Planning Department about people that submit a Barrier Removal Request (BRR) for businesses that have accessibility code violations. They said they will follow up with any submissions they receive.

- II) **Creating an Accessible Community.** Members: Chair Heylin, Hamer, Rivers.

Did not Meet: Issues with member capacity.

- III) **Creating a Culture of Accessibility Within the City of Bend Organization.**

Members: Chair Heylin, Vice Chair Burnett, Hamer.

Did not Meet: Issues with member capacity.

Accessibility and Equity Manager / COBAAC Liaison Kehoe talked about and shared a slide about the 2022 - 2023 COBAAC Strategic Plan and mentioned members capacity to meet, as a subcommittee, for an hour. And consider three to six projects that could turn into actions plans to accomplish for the rest of 2023.

- **Improving Transportation and Infrastructure - Potential Projects:**

- A City of Roundabouts: Highlighting fear, apprehension and danger for low-vision and blind community members crossing roundabout streets in Bend – partnering with City Staff and Community members to problem solve.
- Look into incentives for on-demand transportation providers research current litigation/how to provide greater transportation options.

- **Creating an Accessible Community - Potential Projects:**
 - Example: COBAAC member Hamer joining the moral courage group of Bend to discuss accessibility and her work (April 2023)
 - Possible: Partnering with the Bend chamber to create an Accessibility Panel conversation during Disability Pride Month (July 2023)
 - Partner with Lay It Out Events to have a COBAAC Booth/ support them in planning accessible events in Bend. (Possibly using the Neighborhood Association Trailer)
 - HREC/ COBAAC Collaboration on DEIA Evening in Community

- **Creating a Culture of Accessibility Within the City of Bend Organization – Potential Projects:**
 - Create a Universal Design webinar/ event for City of Bend staff in the Engineering and Infrastructure Department (EIPD). Have taped and available for other employees.
 - Identify and compile A comprehensive list of Accessible/ Universal Design Continued Education Opportunities for City Staff.
 - Quarterly conversations around accessibility and design; hosted by COBAAC.

COBAAC member Hamer suggested combining to of the Potential Project to save on time a capacity of the members.

COBAAC member Schahfer handed in her resignation this morning and let the committee know; due to her capacity and moving to out of the City of Bend she needed to resign. COBAAC member Schahfer, thank you for your time, important input/ InSite, and service to the City of Bend. We will miss you.

9. COBAAC Business: Timestamp 1:07:33

John Heylin He, Him, Vice Chair

- **Final Reminder:** Winter Access Award (WAA) nominations are due April 15, 2023. There may be measurable snowfall, look for businesses adhering **City of Bend Snow and Ice Ordinance NS-2141 Section 5.35.020** as a guide. (This is a COBAAC member driven nomination and not open to the public)

COBAAC Councilmember Liaison Campbell gave her update early. Last week Bend MPO voted the disbursement of COVID Recovery Funds. These purchases are important for accessibility.

- They are funding fifteen new bus shelters throughout the city.
- They are funding a small plow/ sweep attachments for bike lanes and sidewalks.

At Bend MPO’s next meeting they will discuss what they should purchase with the funds still available in the COVID Recovery Funds.

10. COBAAC Round Table: Timestamp 1:14:49

City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee (COBAAC) Members

- **Meetings(s) Members Attended:** No additions mentioned.

- **Information Members Shared:** Chair Heylin is holding a fund raiser for **Oregon Adaptive Sports | Outdoor Recreation for People with Disabilities** from 4: PM to close at the Unofficial Logging CO. 100% of the throwing ax proceeds go to Oregon Adaptive Sports.

COBAAC member Hamer: The **SPROUT Film Festival (towertheatre.org)** is coming to Tower Theater on May fourth. Member Hamer has free tickets to share so there are no barriers for people wanting to attend. The films are about people or created by people in the diversity community.

- **Future Agenda Setting:** No additions mentioned.

11. Accessibility and Equity Manager update: Timestamp 1:16:54

Cassandra Kehoe She, Her, Accessibility & Equity and COBAAC Staff Liaison

- **Recruitment Update:** COBAAC extended the closing date for to April 1, 2023.
- **Celebrating Judy Heuman:** Judy, considered the mother of disability rights; passed away March 4, 2023 and took a moment to reflect on the loss, and immense work and contributions to the field. We are all impacted by Judy’s activism, dedication, and service. Accessibility and Equity Manager and COBAAC Liaison Kehoe shared **Judy Heumann Reads an Excerpt from Her Memoir "Being Heumann" - YouTube** Video to honor Judy’s life and the contribution she made to this community.

12. COBAAC Councilmember Liaison Update:

Barbara Campbell She, Her, City Councilor and COBAAC Council Liaison

Due to Councilmember Campbell having to leave today’s meeting early, she shared her update earlier in the meeting under agenda item 9. COBAAC Business (**Timestamp 1:08:16**).

13. The Next City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting is Thursday, April 27, 2023, from 12:00 to 1:30 PM. (Please note the time change)

14. Adjourn: Chair Haylin adjourned the City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee, March 23, 2023 meeting at 2:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lisa Larsen
Administrative Supports Specialist



Material in Alternate Format Request

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, or any other accommodations. Please contact the Accessibility and Equity Manager and HREC Staff Liaison Cassandra Kehoe at **ckehoe@bendoregon.gov** or call 541-693-2141. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.