

City of Bend

City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee

February 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes

COBAAC February 23, 2023, YouTube Livestream

The Zoom Webinar for the City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee called to order at 1:04 PM, on February 23, 2023, in City Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street.

1. **Roll Call:** Chair Heylin conducted the February meeting.

Members Present: John Heylin Chair He, Him; Carl Burnett He, Him; Vice-Chair; Ashley Schahfer She, Her; Kori Sparks She, Her; Amanda Hamer She, Her; Whitney Bennett She, Her; Aaron Rivers He, Him.

Members Absent: Nick Radon He, Him

Public Attendees: No public attendees

City Staff:

- Cassandra Kehoe she, her; Accessibility & Equity Manager & COBAAC Staff Liaison
- Barb Campbell she, her; City of Bend Councilmember & COBAAC Council Liaison
- Lisa Larsen she, her; Administrative Support Staff

2. **Land Acknowledgement: Timestamp 1:45**

Carl Burnett He, Him, Vice Chair

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 January 26, 2023, Draft Minutes: **Timestamp 2:52**

Motion: Chair Heylin moved to approve January 23, draft meeting minutes as read, member Hamer seconded the motion. The motion unanimously approved by all who attended the February 23, 2023 meeting.

4. **Public Comment:** No public attendees for comment

5. **Discuss / Set Actionable Goals - COBAAC 2022-2023 Strategic Plan: Timestamp 3:36** City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee (COBAAC) Members

Presentation:

I. **Improving Transportation and Infrastructure**

COBAAC members will partner with the Bend Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to provide feedback about how the MPO should use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. To improve transportation accessibility, COBAAC members will advocate for the use of ARPA funds to incentivize local, on-demand transportation providers to include more accessible vehicles in their fleets.

Developing a partnership with the MPO will include having members of the MPO present to COBAAC so COBAAC members can learn more about the MPO's work, including current strategies and goals, and engage in a preliminary conversation with the MPO about the process to allocate available ARPA funds. Additional meetings with the MPO will be scheduled as needed for COBAAC to understand, advocate for, and provide feedback on plans to use ARPA funds. These meetings and discussions may culminate in a formal letter to the MPO and City Manager outlining COBAAC's recommendations. To support an ongoing partnership between COBAAC and the MPO, a member of the MPO will be invited to regularly attend COBAAC meetings.

To support their ARPA fund advocacy, COBAAC will invite representatives from local transportation providers to learn more about their efforts to provide accessible, ADA compliant transportation services and accessible connectivity within the city. This information will be used to create the specific recommendations that will be provided to the MPO. These discussions may also be used to encourage local transportation providers to expand fleet accessibility beyond any incentives or improvements which might be available if ARPA funding is provided to support the expansion of accessible transportation in Bend.

Possible Projects:

- Learn more about the requirements for accessible on-demand transportation.
- Work to incentivize local transportation providers to make more accessible vehicles available.
- Learn more about accessible bus stops, paths of travel, and seating for people with mobility-related disabilities.
- Advocate for a bridge across the Deschutes at Good Dog (and other projects) to be accessible. This could include providing recommendations and feedback.

Identified Projects and Working Groups: Chair Heylin, Vice Chair Burnett and Members Bennett and Sparks would like to sign up for the work groups mentioned during the meeting, as time allows.

II. Creating an Accessible Community

Ensuring the voices of people experiencing disabilities are represented in local government is among the reasons COBAAC was created by the City of Bend. To this end, COBAAC plans to identify opportunities to educate and inform the Bend community about the experiences of people with disabilities. Although COBAAC will develop specific, measurable goals for this priority area at a later date, some preliminary ideas include creating a “what to do” toolkit to help community members identify resources for resolving accessibility and ADA compliance concerns and creating a resources page on the City of Bend Accessibility Program website which could also provide “what to do” information along with links to external accessibility resources, as well as City of Bend resources such as COBAAC, the Human Rights and Equity Commission, and key City staff.

Supporting local business accessibility efforts is also related to community education and is important to supporting the City’s permitting, building, and general accessibility requirements for local businesses. COBAAC members are interested in partnering with the Bend Chamber of Commerce to create and share information with Bend businesses regarding accessibility on topics such as accessible rights-of-way, parking, and paths of travel, as well as interior accessibility opportunities. COBAAC members are interested in meeting with and learning from relevant stakeholders, including, but not limited to, the Bend Chamber of Commerce, representatives from the Downtown Business District, and staff from Visit Bend, to learn more about needs and opportunities before establishing specific, measurable goals for this priority area.

Possible Projects:

- Proactively letting the community know more about COBAAC and the resources available to them.
- Print business cards with basic information/numbers to find accessible needs or report ADA parking issues, and barriers/ right-of-way sidewalks/bird bikes/ snow removal. 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 disability community to put on cars.
- Be a resource for people to learn more about how they can make infrastructure more accessible. Consider providing education to different stakeholders.
- Create a partnership with the Chamber to provide education for businesses about accessibility in the right-of-way, parking, and path of travel, as well as the requirements for accessible setup inside a store, including in restrooms. This could include having an education card to leave as a resource.
- Have a COBAAC booth at events to show who and what COBAAC is all about.
- Look into collaborations with Bend Park & Recreation and Oregon Adaptive Sports to help expand a more robust inclusive selection of fitness class offerings.
- Be involved in and ensure inclusivity of the outdoor competitions and events in town, including concerts, making sure they are accessible.
- Network with other Central Oregon disability advocacy groups
- Identify opportunities to create more awareness about people experiencing disabilities, including events specifically about the disability community. Have a COBAAC booth at events to show who and what COBAAC is all about.

Identified Projects and Working Groups: Chair Heylin, and Members Hamer, Rivers, and Schahfer are interested in projects mentioned in the Creating an Accessible Community section of the COBAAC Strategic Plan.

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

COBAAC will work with the City of Bend to advocate for City to receive about disability, equity, accessibility, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The development of specific, measurable goals for this item will take place after COBAAC members learn more about the related trainings employees currently receive from the city or are required to complete based on their profession.

This information gathering could take the form of a discussion between COBAAC members and City staff from each department. After gathering information about current training, the COBAAC membership will consider what, if any, additional training is needed and how to proceed with developing and elevating recommendations to the City Manager, including key milestones, metrics of success, and anticipated timeline for the implementation of recommendations.

Possible Projects:

- COBAAC involvement in the overall budget development around transportation.
- Have someone involved in the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.
- Ask the City to provide training to engineers, planners, inspectors, and developers about disability equity, ADA, and making things accessible. This could include having project managers invite COBAAC members to site visits or the planning stages of projects.

Identified Projects and Working Groups: Chair Heylin would like to take part in the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee work group since he attends those meetings; Vice Chair Burnett, as time allows, and Members Hamer, Schahfer would like to take part in Creating a Culture of Accessibility Within the City of Bend Organization work group.

6. COBAAC Business and COBAAC Roundtable: **Timestamp 25:28**

a. Meetings: COBAAC Takes a Break in August Instead of December

Due to the COBAAC's end of the year Strategic Planning and City Council Goal Setting, COBAAC will only take a break from its meetings in August instead of December.

Motion: Chair Heylin moved to approve that COBAAC take a break in August instead of December moving forward. Vice Chair Burnett seconded the motion. The motion approved unanimously by all who attended the February 2023 meeting.

b. Winter Access Award (WAA) Reminder

The Vice Chair reminded the committee members to look for local businesses that are following good snow removal practices adjacent to their property. Send your nominations to the Accessibility and Equity support staff or to accessibility email address by April 15, 2023. (This is a COBAAC member driven award only; not for public)

c. Information Shared

Member Hamer's observation: There is a movement to add an "A," behind the DEI (Diversity Equity and Inclusion), meant for accessibility, making it DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility).

During the Chambers of Commerce meetings, DEI (Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion), which she is a member, its discussions/presentations. There is a large demographic of divers-abilities not discussed, e.g., race, gender, sexuality, and other diversities. But there is also no talk about one of the largest demographics of people, which is those who experience diverse abilities.

Accessibility and Equity Manager/COBAAC Staff Liaison Kehoe mentioned that it might be a wonderful opportunity for COBAAC to partner with the Chamber of Commerce to bring accessibility to the forefront, you could identify this as a work group.

Member Schahfer stated that it makes sense, in the fact that equity within disability is different than access within disability, the physical versus the social, both are important, and not leaving out the social aspects. Making sure that intersectionality and the conversation is broader.

Vice Chair Burnett talked about DEI adding the "A" for accessibility, making it DEIA. Accessibility is about inclusion, even if we do not add accessibility. If we want all people included, we need to make things accessible.

d. Meetings Attended

Member Schahfer thanked those who were able to show up to the Bend Parks and Rec Open House, for the **water access project**. There were conversations/ questions that Member Schahfer answered from COBAAC members.

7. Accessibility and Equity Manager Update: **Timestamp 43:04**

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

a. Recruitment Update

COBAAC recruitment is now **accepting applications** for three empty seats on the committee, until March 15th, 2023 at 5:00 PM. Details can be found on the **City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee (COBAAC) website**.

b. Parking Working Group Update

There are plans for this Parking Working Group meeting, including Chair Heylin, and Members Radon and Bennett. COBAAC members can have members/work group meetings, but the working group cannot provide any formal recommendation to the whole of COBAAC.

A city staff member offered to have private meetings with this working group to discuss feedback and other applicable upcoming ADA considerations for parking, ROW (Right-Of-Way), and accessibility issues the city has contacted.

Parking Working group meeting to be determined later.

c. Plans for the End of Year meetings in October, November, & December

As discussed, and voted on, COBAAC will move forward with the above agenda item **6. COBAAC Business, a. Meeting: COBAAC Takes a Break in August Instead of December and its motion to approve outcome.**

- **COBAAC 2022-2023 'Year in Review': Achievements and Future Goal Setting**

Having meetings in October, November, & December will allow COBAAC to take part in the first of the year city activities and goals, as well as review what COBAAC has achieved in 2023 and look at COBAAC's goals for 2024.

d. August Meeting Summer Break: Meet for Lunch/Picnic COBAAC Mixer

With COBAAC's approving vote today, taking a summer break in August, the Accessibility and Equity Manager/COBAAC Staff Liaison Kehoe mentioned the possibility of creating a mixer, meeting at a restaurant, or a picnic.

8. COBAAC Councilmember Liaison Update: Timestamp 49:03

Barb Campbell She, Her; City of Bend Councilperson

COBAAC Council Liaison mentioned:

- Accessibility and Equity Manager/COBAAC Staff Liaison did an excellent job updating City Council and the City, on COBAACs goals.

City Council is still working on its Goal Setting document for this year. This year it did not take as long to set its goals because they did not have to discuss the specifics of budget and capacity since Council does not know the number of staff they can afford to hire for certain departments.

This year City Council focused on Multimodal Transportation; transportation for folks who do not use cars themselves.

- COBAAC Councilmember Liaison Campbell wants to see what COBAAC thinks would be helpful for transformational accessibility in the City of Bend. With COBAAC 2022-2023 Strategic Plan, which includes, learning more about the requirements for accessible on-demand transportation. COBAAC Council Liaison is concerned about this portion of the COBAAC 2022-2023 Strategic Plan. We do not have any control over Uber or Lyft, and CET (Central East Transit) does its own on-demand transportation/Dial-a-Ride.

COBAAC Council Liaison Campbell invited COBAAC members to today's Bend MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) meeting. She will send the Accessibility and Equity Program the information to share with COBAAC members.

There are two new members to Bend MPO, Councilmember Riley, and Councilmember Broadman.

9. Please note the time change for the next City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting for Thursday, April 27, 2023 is from Noon to 1:30 PM.

10.Adjourned: Chair Heylin adjourned the City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Larsen
Administrative Support Specialist



Materials 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 Cassandra Kehoe at ckehoe@bendoregon.gov or call 541-693-2141. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.