

City of Bend
City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee
January 26, 2023
Meeting Minutes
YouTube Live Stream the COBAAC January 2023 Meeting

Chair Heylin called the January 26, meeting to order the City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee (COBAAC) hybrid meeting to order at 12:03 PM, in City Council Chambers, Bend City Hall 710 NW Wall, Bend, Oregon 97703

- 1. Members Attended:** John Heylin Chair - in person; Carl Burnett (He, Him) Vice-Chair – in-person; Ashley Schahfer (She, Her) - virtual; Kori Sparks (She, Her) - Virtual; Nick Radon (He, Him) – in-person; Amanda Hamer in person; Whitney Bennett (She, Her) - Virtual; Aaron Rivers (He, Him) – in-person.

City Staff:

- Stephanie Betteridge She, Her, Chief Innovation Officer
- Cassandra Kehoe She, Her, Accessibility & Equity Manager and COBAAC Staff Liaison
- Barbara Campbell She, Her; City Councilor, COBAAC Liaison
- Jacob Riggle He, him; City of Bend Web Coordinator
- Hether Hill She, Her, Project Manager
- Russ Grayson, Chief Operations Officer
- Lisa Larsen She, Her, Administrative Support Staff

Public Attendees: Sharlene Wills, and Liz Woodfin

- 2. Land Acknowledgement: **Timestamp 1:43****

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 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 November 17, 2023, Meeting Minutes: **Timestamp 2:42****

MOTION: Chair Heylin moved to approve November 17, 2022 alternate date meeting minutes as read. Member Radon seconded the motion to approve the minutes as read. The motion was approved unanimously by all that attended the January meeting.

- 4. Public Comment:** Sharlene Wills from COCA and Liz Woodfin, left no comment.

5. Introduce the Accessibility & Equity Manager: Timestamp 4:14

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

Chief Innovation Officer and Assisted City Manager Betteridge introduced herself and Cassandra Kehoe, the new Accessibility and Equity Manager. Cassandra Kehoe brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the accessibility role, as well as her passion for public service.

Accessibility and Equity Manager Kehoe is excited to be a part of COBAAC and looking forward to working with COBAAC on their Strategic Plan and making it a strategic action.

6. Website Improvement – Accessibility Update: Timestamp 6:26

Jacob Riggles He, him; City of Bend Web Coordinator and Hether Hill She, Her; Project Manager

Web Coordinator Riggles and Project Manager Hill presented the City of Bend Website Improvement Project – Research Finding.

There was a discussion and suggestions from COBAAC members to the presenters. An important question asked is if the City of Bend had hired a consultant to go through the website with a screen reader.

7. CREC Parking Discussion: Timestamp 29:42

John Heylin Chair and Carl Burnett Vice Chair: Background, overview, and discussion

Accessibility and Equity Manager/ COBAAC Liaison Kehoe sent an email to the committee members on January 26, 2023, the morning of the COBAAC meeting. The email informed COBAAC members about the revision of the 01/26/2023 agenda. Adding the addition of item seven addition: Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC) Parking Discussion. Letting them know that they would discuss the public comments section to eliminate parking minimums, which took place at the Bend City Council meeting on 01/18/2023.

COBAAC discussion and comments shared:

- COBAAC Chair Heylin shared that he virtually attended the CEFC public comment section of the CFEC parking rules, after talking with COBAAC Vice-Chair Burnett. And Chair Heylin added he remembers; at the November COBAAC meeting, there was a discussion about agreeing on the removal of the parking requirements in the City of Bend. And that COBAAC would like to mention that there would be ADA parking stalls potentially included in future developments.

A City Councilor emailed Chair Heylin, asking if COBAAC would come to the meeting offering its opinion. Chair Heylin met with Vice-Chair Burnett and talked about the parking requirements. Chair Heylin told Vice-Chair Burnett he would attend the meeting and tell City Council what he and Vice-Chair Burnett discussed regarding the parking requirements.

Chair Heylin attended the meeting and gave his interpretation of what was discussed during the November meeting. Which was the support for the removal of parking requirements. Later Chair Heylin found out that he was not to comment on the behalf of COBAAC because there was no vote taken at the November meeting.

Member Radon asked if there was a specific language the City Council adopted.

COBAAC Liaison Kehoe mentioned there was a link in the email she sent that morning, with information leading to where City Council addresses the presentation from City staff, the debate within City Council, and the public comment section.

- Additional comments questions and remarks from COBAAC members:
 - It goes without saying that COBAAC would say they want designated parking spots. And there should be thoughtful placement on busy streets.
 - ADA parking stalls should be close to the use that the parking spot is intended for, in front of the development, not pooled in one area.
 - Councilmember Campbell mentioned as of right now there are no requirements for ADA parking unless the developer chooses to put in parking and then they must put in at least one ADA parking space.
 - COBAAC member Schahfer: It is ableist to assume that the passenger is going to be getting out of the passenger side/ sidewalk side. I drive my car and use my wheelchair and must get out into the street if it is street parking.

Anywhere there is human use in design we need to be included and inhibit all those spaces. It is frustrating to hear that was the view that it was too random to include people with disabilities. It needs to be included everywhere. Being an independent wheelchair user with a lot of mobility, it is hard to make the transfer when there is a curb. The downtown area has diagonal parking and technically street parking. We need a plan for walkability, not everyone can use a bike, car, etc.

All-around walkable accessibility needs to be addressed because you are excluding the marginalized.

There are a lot of assumptions without talking to people that it is going to affect and not equitable.

- It is an enormous concern that the councilors would accept no parking minimums. What was the vote on the parking requirements?
 - Council Liaison: The vote was 5 approved to 2 against.

There was a discussion about the ADA parking stall compliance/ requirements. Conclusion for developers: If there is required parking, then ADA parking guidelines/ compliance is followed. If there are no parking requirements, then there is no state law that requires them to add an ADA parking spot.

Council Liaison Campbell stated that this discussion started with the fact that Chair Heylin attended a City Council meeting on January 18, 2023, with a recommendation from COBAAC, when COBAAC had not discussed a recommendation.

Council Liaison Campbell posed the question regarding if Chair Heylin should write a letter to the City Council about his recommendation at the City Council meeting on January 18, 2023, to clarify that he was not representing COBAAC at that meeting.

Chair Heylin said that he could write a letter to City Council and apologize and say that he was not representing COBAAC. He would eventually like to have a recommendation from COBAAC regarding the parking minimums.

Motion: Member Radon made a motion to create a work session/ group for COBAAC to discuss accessible parking and the nuances of different types of development and how to provide accessible parking minimums in the community. Vice Chair Burnett seconded the motion and was approved unanimously by all members that attended this meeting.

Russ Grayson, Chief Operations Officer, was asked to join this discussion while in progress, to answer questions since there was a lot of confusion on this subject, and COBAAC members wanted clarification on this subject.

8. Discuss and Set Goals for the COBAAC 2022 -2023 Strategic Plan: Timestamp 1:12:28
City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee (COBAAC) Members

Due to the last-minute revision of the January agenda and Chief Operations Officer Grayson joining the CFEC discussion, this item will be added to the February COBAAC meeting (while the City Council record is closed on the parking minimums, but from what Russ Grayson explained, this will be an ongoing issue to be addressed and the City would appreciate COBAAC's input).

9. COBAAC Business: Timestamp 1:12:39
John Heylin Chair and/ or Carl Burnett He, Him; Vice Chair

- **Vice Chair Burnett - Winter Access Award Nominations**
 - Back Porch Coffee
 - Blue Eyes Burger and Fries
 - Emerald City Smoothie
- **Stipend Update**
 - You will no longer sign a stipend sheet when you attend in-person committee meetings. I will send in your virtual and in-person attendance and your card will be mailed to you.

10. COBAAC Round Table: Timestamp 1:16:43
City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee (COBAAC) Members

- **Meetings Attended.**
 - Chair Heylin has attended the Bend MPO two times, Human Rights and Equity, and a couple of other committees to see how they are run and meet people that are involved.
 - Vice Chair Burnett attended the Central Oregon Discussion Group – Winter Maintenance meeting on January 19, 2023. COCA was represented and people from different agencies, ODOT, and Bend Parks & Recreation. Vice-Chair learned about the work it takes to clear the streets and sidewalks clear of snow. It is hard to keep up with who is responsible for what. They talked about snow removal to adjacent properties and no man's land which are roundabouts and crossings/ corners which may technically belong to a business.
 - Chair Haylin attended City Council 2-year planning/ Goal setting. He highlighted that COBAAC has access to the city council and people do listen to us when something comes up, but we need the people that we represent to know COBAAC exists.

11. Accessibility and Equity Manager update:
Cassandra Kehoe She, Her, Accessibility & Equity Staff Liaison

Due to time constraints, Accessibility Manager Kehoe will save her update for the February meeting.

12. COBAAC Councilmember Liaison Update: Timestamp 1:22:14

Barbara Campbell She, Her; City Councilor, COBAAC Liaison

City Council worked on the elimination of parking minimums and goal setting.

13. Adjourn: Chair Heylin adjourned the meeting at 1:31 PM

The Next City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting is Thursday, February 23, 2023, from 1:00 to 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Larsen

Administrative Support Staff – Accessibility and Equity

Accessible Meeting Information



This meeting/event location is accessible. Sign language interpreter service, assistive listening devices, materials in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, or any other accommodations are available upon advance request. Please contact Cassandra Kehoe at ckehoe@bendoregon.gov or call 541-693-2141 no later than two days before the event. Providing, at least, three days' notice before the event will help ensure availability. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.