



CITY OF BEND

Minutes

Bend Economic Development Advisory Board (BEDAB)

Monday, April 17, 2023

Hybrid Meeting: Council Chambers or via Zoom

Noon **BEDAB Meeting**

Roll Call: Travis Davis- Chair, Keith Dodge-Vice Chair, Briana Manfrass, Gary North, Kevin Cole, Tierney Booker

Jim Sansburn

1. **Public Input**

No comment.

2. **Review April 3 Meeting Minutes**

Kevin Cole made motion to approve April 3,2023 minutes; Travis Davis seconded.
Unanimously approved.

3. **New Chair Election | Group**

There is no official nomination. Currently, recruitment is open for the following three open seats; Kevin Cole, Travis Davis and Keith Dodge who are terming out.

Brianna Manfrass has expressed an interest in becoming Chair.

Motion- I, Travis Davis nominate Brianna Manfrass as BEDAB-Chair. Brianna Manfrass accepted the role, based on her prior discussion with Travis Davis. Kevin Cole seconded.

Unanimously approved.

4. **Continue Permitting Fees Discussion | Group**

Potential conflict of interest:

Kevin Cole, potential conflict of interest. Kevin's employer has a large project pending application subject to those fees in the next 30 days.

Gary North, potential conflict of interest due to involvement in the development community as well as Gary's role in COBA.

Brianna Manfrass, potential conflict of interest. Brianna's employer is in architecture, which Brianna is also an owner of. This conflict would be with future markets being affected, or the potential decline in activity, but nothing in the near short term.

Tierney Booker, no potential conflict of interest, by way of head nod.

Keith Dodge, no potential conflict of interest, by way of head nod.

This goes to the Budget committee on April 22, 2023, and the fees and the budget will be adopted Mid-June,2023.

Committee discussion ensued:

Question posed to Russ Grayson and Colin Stephens; Why so short in the various departments overseen by CEDD?

- There were no increases in years when we should have taken them and rather working off reserves.
- Revenue forecast is flat.
- Not fully staffed, when you look back you are looking at actual cost.
- Rising increase of personnel

BEDAB members expressed concern about the kind of impact of this on the business community, will those impacts be averse to Councils other goals particularly around housing development consistent with the Governors order and suggest a way to address the structural issue with general dollar funds?

Ben Hemson to write a letter for BEDAB Chair to review and submit regarding the following bullet points from BEDAB's discussion:

- BEDAB understands a need for fee increase in year one. Council should understand that has an impact on housing and development goals in Bend.
- Guardrails discussion, BEDAB would like to provide some oversight as a board.
- Alternative revenue sources, what those look like, and how they may be rolled out.
- Acknowledgement for Council, there are structural issues in our tax rate, we understand they are balancing different community needs, but addressing community needs by unfunded means is a concern for the business community. How to increase efficiency of government?
- Worth noting the improvements that have occurred in the staffing levels and the turnaround times, and this is part of the reason for increased costs.

Motion- I, Kevin Cole made the motion as Ben Hemson described with the addition of the final bullet point above. Travis Davis seconded, to draft a letter to incorporate Kevin Cole and Ben Hemson comments.

Unanimously approved.

5. Business Advocacy Budget | Ben Hemson

Ben is looking for a couple of volunteers to run through Business Advocacy budget in the next week or two. This meeting will be held via Zoom with an in-person option in one of the conference rooms that is open to the public. A key topic will be proposed increases in the Business Registration.

6. Roundtable | Group

Tabled

7. Adjourn 1:00pm

For a recording of this meeting click on the link below:

[April 17, 2023](#)

Upcoming Meetings:

April 19: City Council | Council Chambers, 3:30 p.m. | Council Quarterly Update with Boards & Commissions