

City of Bend
City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee
February 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Chair Burnett conducted and called the City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee, February 22, 2024, regular hybrid meeting to order at 1:02 PM, at City Hall in Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street, 97703. Watch the **COBAAC February 22, 2024, livestream recording**.

1. Roll Call: Committee Members.

Members Present Virtually (6):

- Aaron Rivers, He/Him
- Kori Sparks, She/Her
- Liz Diether-Martin, She/Her
- Liz Woodfin, She/Her
- Nicholas Radon, He/Him/His
- Stephanie Utzman, She/Her

Members Present In-Person (4):

- Chair, Burnett, He/Him
- Vice-Chair, John Heylin, He/Him
- Amanda Hamer, She/Her
- Derek Hofbauer, He/Him

Members Absence Excused (1):

- Whitney Bennett, She/Her

City Staff in Attendance:

- Cassandra Kehoe, She/Her/Ella, Accessibility & Equity Manager / COBAAC Staff Liaison (In-Person)
- Andrés Portela, He/Him, Equity, and Inclusion Director (In-Person)
- Barb Campbell, She/Her/Hers, Councilor, COBAAC Council Liaison (Absent)
- Stephanie Betteridge, She/Her, Assistant City Manager (In Person)
- Katherina Barguil, She/They, Community Relations Manager (Virtual)

Leadership Bend 2024:

- Ben Berry, He/Him, Morrison-Maierle, Project Leader (Virtual)

Public:

- Michael B. (In Person)
- Sharlene Wills (Virtual)
- Johnny Archer (Virtual)
- Written comment submitted by Jordan M. Ohlde; read by Chair Burnett.

2. Land Acknowledgment: **Timestamp 4:12**

Vice Chair Heylin read the Land Acknowledgement in English.

3. Minutes Approval: Approve January 25, 2024, Draft Meeting Minutes. **Timestamp 5:12**

Motion: Member Vice Chair Heylin motioned to approve the COBAAC January 25, 2024, Draft Minutes as read, with no corrections. Vice Chair Heylin seconded the motion. The motion to approve the January 25, 2024, unanimously passed by all voting members who attended today's meeting, in person (4) and virtually (6).

4. Public Comment: **Timestamp 6:17**

- Member Woodfin, who attended virtually, introduced, and welcomed her friend, Michael B., who is in Council Chambers, and involved with the IDD (Intellectual / Developmental Disability) community.
- Sharlene Wills, who attended virtually to listen to the meeting and is a member of COCA (Central Oregon Coalition for Access).
- Johnny Archer, attended virtually, is a senior operations engineer specializing in accessibility for Paramount and wanted to join and listen in and see if there were any areas that I could support or help.
- Written Public comment from Jordan M. Ohlde, read by Chair Burnett.

Using Google Maps and my power chair. It took me over 2 hours. I could not use much sidewalk as it was covered with snow. When I got to downtown, I had to use the road because the sidewalks were not very good. I would just like to figure out a solution. For the next snowfall next year. So that I can get through downtown and places that I want to go safely.

It just seems like the City of Bend. And ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) don't really care much about doing snow removal every year. And I also tried to use the signals and could not because the snow was covering the ramps to get to the buttons. So. I'd like to work on this throughout the year so that we have a plan already in place. For next year.

Accessibility and Equity Manager Kehoe interjected: Bringing awareness, education and educating local businesses and how to support residents, homeowners and renter about snow removal, code compliance and reporting. There is cohesion for this to crossover, potentially addressing snow removal awareness and education to the COBAAC workplan. And look at how we can collaborate with others towards creating an education campaign.

5. Leadership Bend: Accessibility Impact Project Update. Project Leader Ben Berry **Timestamp 12:23**

Project leader Ben Berry gave an overview of the impact project.

- Organize website content in the next couple of weeks and maintain it long term by the City of Bend.
- They have an outreach list of targeted businesses. The cohorts plan to contact the City of Bend Business Advocates and use the business list they created to inform them about the new Transportation Fee increase outreach.
- They plan to leverage Cascade Business News and the Chambers' relationship with them and the Bend Chambers' list of businesses for information dissemination channels. At the end of the project, we plan to send out a press release through the channels mentioned above.
- Cohort Berry asks COBAAC members to review the interview questions for members of our community who have disabilities. And create a list of people who they could contact.
- The Accessibility and Equity Manager will email separate groups and people for input about this website.

6. COBAAC 2024 Strategic Plan Updates: **Timestamp 23:24**

6.1. Improving Transportation and Infrastructure Group.

There are no updates to this group's goals or milestones.

Chair Burnett stated the main thing that COBAAC can do is make accessibility recommendations to other governmental departments, to advocate for the progression of accessibility and encourage the growth of accessible transportation in Bend.

We are not legal experts and cannot say definitively if our local businesses comply with the ADA; we do have a legal department in the City of Bend that can help define if businesses comply with the ADA.

We could make recommendations that include requests for analysis of situations from a legal and licensing standpoint to see whether there are things the city could do to encourage more businesses to comply with ADA laws.

6.2. Creating an Accessible Community Group.

Due to capacity this group was not able to meet.

6.3. Creating a Culture of Accessibility within the City of Bend.

Member Utzman talked with Accessibility and Equity Manager Kehoe about the next steps for Trauma Informed Care training for city employees, within a three-year period. Our next step is to answer, why is this important? And gather information on pricing from Trauma Informed Oregon to bring a trainer to Bend.

7. COBAAC Roundtable: COBAAC Members. **Timestamp 35:11**

COBAAC members shared information about:

- Parent caregiver sessions
- Jay Stubbs, owner, and operator of Modus Transportation. He owns ADA vehicles and is purchasing more. Jay is willing to discuss the challenges taxi companies have with purchasing accessible vehicles, including the astronomical price for insurance.
- Nacho grandma's bingo at the Silver Moon on Sundays.
- Positive feedback for snowboard lessons at OAS (Oregon Adaptive Sports).
- A roundtable discussion at OSU Corvallis, with their Engineering Department concerning roundabout mobility design and for individuals with disabilities. The OSU Corvallis engineering team would like to visit a roundabout in Redmond, holding an event for accessibility/mobility.
- Diversability is looking for Board members, meeting quarterly. Reach out to Member Hamer.
- The Gillig low floor buses will be on the road and available soon. And a re-design of the Hawthorne Station parking lot.
- Discussion about barriers during the winter snow season. Inviting someone to talk about the barriers faced by people using mobility devices. Starting a snow removal subgroup to meet during the summer, to tackle the issues before the winter snow season.

8. Accessibility and Equity Manager Update: Cassandra Kehoe, She/Her/Ella. **Timestamp 1:05:03**

- **Member Radon’s Letter Update – Pushed to March:** In talks with the Engineering Department on how to request items identified with accessible building design issues.
- **Census Bureau Proposal on Updated Disability Questions:** Defining who is disabled and could limit and discard 40% of the folks who currently identified as disabled. *Update:* Census Bureau will not revise the disability questions. This decision comes after community feedback highlighting concerns of the proposed changes vastly undercount Americans with disabilities.
- **Disability Advocate Andrea LaVant. Feature Airlines + Mobility Devices:**
Andraéa LaVant is a Black disabled woman boldly confronting the world’s expectations of her existence by living full and authentically.

She is an activist, communicator, innovator, and style icon with over fifteen years’ experience working within non-profit, corporate, federal, and within the philanthropic systems to advance access equity, and inclusion for people with disabilities.

9. COBAAC Agenda Setting: COBAAC Members. **Timestamp 1:12:34**

Discuss establishing a subgroup for snow removal at next month’s meeting. Chair Burnett suggested that the snow removal subgroup could fall under one of the existing subgroups.

The COBAAC members would like to discuss snow removal before they invite Transportation and Mobility Director, David Abbas to a meeting.

10. COBAAC Councilmember Liaison Update: Councilor Barb Campbell, She/Her/Hers.

COBAAC Liaison Campbell is absent today.

11. Our next COBAAC meeting will be next month: Thursday, March 28, 2024, from 1:00 to 2:30 PM.

12. Adjourn: With no further COBAAC business, Chair Burnett adjourned the February 22, 2024, City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee regular hybrid meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Larsen, Administrative Support Specialist, Accessibility and Equity.



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

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

Para solicitar copias en español de los documentos en esta página web o en un formato alternativo como Braille, letra grande, formatos electrónicos, etc.:

Por favor contacte al Director de Equidad e Inclusión, Andrés Portela aportela@bendoregon.gov o llame al 541-323-8563. Los usuarios de retransmisión marquen el 7-1-1.