



CITY OF BEND

Minutes

City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Commission

December 19, 2024, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Chair Woodfin called the City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee (COBAAC) December 19, 2024 hybrid regular alternate meeting at 1:02 p.m. This meeting was held virtually through Zoom and in person in Council Chambers at City Hall, 710 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon, from 1:00 to 2:30. Please [watch the COBAAC meeting livestream](#).

1. Roll Call: Committee Members. Timestamp

Chamber Attendees (6):

- Chair, Liz Woodfin, She/Her
- Vice Chair, Derek Hofbauer, He/Him
- Amanda Hamer, She/Her
- Carl Burnett, He/Him
- John Heylin, He/Him
- Stephanie Utzman, She/Her

Zoom Attendees (4):

- Aaron Rivers, He/Him
- Kori Sparks (She/Her) (last mtg)
- Liz Diether-Martin, She/Her
- Whitney Bennett, She/Her

January Appointments: Attended a month early.

- Andrew Caruana, He/Him/His (*Chambers*)
- Ian Isaacson, He/He/His (*Chambers*)
- Mariah Tennison, She/Her (Alternate I) (*Virtual*)
- Alysa MacRae, She/Her (Alternate II) (*Virtual*)

City Staff:

- Cassandra Kehoe, She/Her/Ella, Accessibility & Equity Manager / Staff Liaison (*Chambers*)
- Andrés Portela, He/Him/El, Equity & Inclusion Director (*Chambers*)
- Ian Leitheiser He/Him, City of Bend Attorney (*Chambers*)
- Barb Campbell, She/Her/Hers, Councilor / COBAAC Council Liaison (*Chambers*)
- Lisa Larsen, She/Her, Administrative Support Staff (*Chambers*)
- Stephanie Betteridge, She/Her, Assistant City Manager (*Chambers*)

Public Comment:

- J. Teeter, Re: Franklin Midtown Crossing Project.

2. City of Bend Land Acknowledgement: COBAAC Volunteer. [Timestamp 5:28](#)

Member Heylin read the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Minutes: Approval of December 21, 2024, Draft Alternate Meeting Minutes. **Timestamp 6:25**

Motion: Vice Chair Hofbauer motioned to approve the COBAAC December 19, 2024, Draft Minutes as read, with no corrections. Member Burnett seconded the motion. The motion to approve the December 29, 2024, unanimously passed by all voting members who attended today's meeting, in person (6) and virtually (4).

4. Public Comment: **Timestamp 7:40**

4.1. J. Teeter Re: Franklin Midtown Crossing Project. (comment extension approved)

5. New COBAAC Member and Alternates Acknowledgement: **Timestamp 15:58**

Welcome and meet the new COBAAC and COBAAC Alternates.

5.1. Ian Isaacson, Landscape Architect for Bend Parks and Recreation District.

5.2. Andrew Caruana, Graduate Counseling Program at OSU (Oregon State University) to become a Behavioral Health Counselor and serves on the Disabilities Commission.

5.3. Alysa MacRae has worked for an Architectural Firm in Bend.

5.4. Mariah Tennison works in assisted living and memory care, serving our senior community/residents in Bend.

6. COBAAC Strategic Plan 2025 Subgroups Updates: **Timestamp 19:35**

6.1. *Improving Transportation and Infrastructure Group:* Not able to meet due to the group's capacity.

List of continued and new initiatives for the 2025 Strategic Plan:

- **Vice Chair Hofbauer:** Continue with the Walk and Roll Tour.
- **Vice Chair Hofbauer:** Attend Breaking Barriers Conference on April 22. Support Welcoming Week event. Design improvements for the Hawthorne Station's parking lot event.
- **Member Burnett:** Wants to see more involvement in infrastructure part of the subgroup's goal.
- **Member Bennett:** She agrees moving some of the goals forward, sidewalk events, route planning with the City of Bend for older adults traveling by foot.
 - Questions about a COBAAC subgroup or COBAAC as a whole involvement with infrastructure and the many intersections.
 - Continue with accessible airport transportation to get closure on this goal.
- **Member Hamer:** She would like to see a subgroup meet and bring the recommendations back to COBAAC.
- **Attorney Ian Leitheiser:** Explained the difference between subgroup and subcommittee and the public meetings law and state law.

6.2. *Creating an Accessibility Community Group:* Not able to meet due to the group's capacity.

List of continued and new initiatives for the 2025 Strategic Plan:

- **Member Heylin:** would like COBAAC to be more involved with Affordable Housing and infrastructure.
 - Advertise COBAAC existence.

6.3. *Creating a Culture of Accessibility within the City of Bend Group.* Not able to meet due to the group's capacity.

List of continued and new initiatives for the 2025 Strategic Plan:

Goal 1:

- Ask COBAAC members to complete the asynchronous free trainings currently available through Trauma Informed Oregon by the end of June 2025.

Goal 2:

- Lunch and Learn in June or July, with Trauma Informed Oregon on trauma informed practices for the City of Bend employees.
- Phase in a training program for City of Bend employees.

Goal 3:

- Ask COBAAC to participate, host a table and ask City of Bend staff to attend the Sprouts Film Festival.
- COBAAC hosts a table at the Breaking Barriers table.

7. COBAAC Reflection: Timestamp 53:03

Each COBAAC member was asked to highlight something that brought them joy and reflect on how 2024 went and want to see in 2025.

8. Accessibility and Equity Manager Update: Cassandra Kehoe, She/Her/Ella. Timestamp 1:09:57

- Gratitude for the AMAZING Kori Sparks. Farewell to Kori and your 6 years of service to the City of Bend and advocacy for an accessible city. We are so grateful for her leadership, which included serving on both as COBAAC's chair and vice-chair. Kori has been a foundational member of COBAAC and poured into this committee. We will miss you tremendously, Kori, and wish you the very best.
- City Council and Advisory Body Summit: COBAAC Representative. Tuesday January 14, 2025, 4:40 to 6:30 pm at the Council of Aging.
- Gratitude for COBAAC members

9. Agenda Setting: COBAAC Members. **Timestamp 1:20:11**

Member Heylin: Would like COBAAC members to read the letter J. Teeter, Re: Franklin Midtown Crossing Project wrote and see what kind of support COBAAC can be.

Chair Woodfin: Would like to see/hear a less technical version of the letter.

COBAAC members mentioned they would like to share information with other outside groups and other groups' information with COBAAC. This could be a regular occurrence.

10. Council Liaison Update: Barb Campbell, She/Her/Hers. **Timestamp 1:28:28**

Member Burnett shared a letter of gratitude acknowledging Councilor Campbell's work with COBAAC, the disability community and throughout her service as a City of Bend City Council member.

Councilor Campbell shared how she loves advocating for accessibility and working with COBAAC and each COBAAC member.

11. Our next COBAAC meeting will be on Thursday, January 23, 2025, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

12. Adjourn:

With no further COBAAC business, Chair Woodfin adjourned the December 19, 2024, City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee hybrid meeting at 2:42 p.m.

Submitted respectively,

Lisa Larsen,
Administrative Support Specialist, Accessibility & Equity



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