



CITY OF BEND

# Minutes

## City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee

January 23, 2025, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Chair Woodfin called the City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee's (COBAAC) January 23, 2025, 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 Zoom recording](#).

### 1. Roll Call and Welcome: Committee Members.

#### Chamber Attendees (5):

- Derek Hofbauer, He/Him, Vice Chair
- Andrew Caruana, He/Him/His
- Ian Isaacson, He/He/His
- John Heylin, He/Him
- Stephanie Utzman, She/Her

#### Zoom Attendees (7):

- Liz Woodfin, She/Her, Chair
- Aaron Rivers, He/Him
- Amanda Hamer, She/Her
- Carl Burnett, He/Him
- Liz Diether-Martin, She/Her
- Whitney Bennett, She/Her
- Mariah Tennison, She/Her (Alt. member)

#### Absent:

- Alysa MacRae, She/Her (Alt. member)

#### City Staff:

- Cassandra Kehoe, She/Her/Ella, Accessibility & Equity Manager / Staff Liaison (*Zoom*)
- Andrés Portela, He/Him/El, Equity & Inclusion Director (*Chambers*)
- Stephanie Betteridge, She/Her, Assistant City Manager (*Chambers*)
- Mellissa Kamanya, Affordable Housing Coordinator (*Zoom*)
- Lisa Larsen, She/Her, Administrative Support Staff (*Chambers*)

#### Public:

- Chris Mehner (*Zoom*)

### 2. City of Bend Land Acknowledgement:

Member Heylin read the English version of the City of Bend Land Acknowledgement.

### 3. Minutes: Approval of January 23, 2025, Draft Meeting Minutes.

**Motion:** Vice-Chair Hofbauer motioned to approve the COBAAC December 19, 2024, Draft Minutes as read, with no corrections. Member Hamer seconded the motion. The motion to approve the December 19, 2024, unanimously passed by all voting members who attended today's meeting, in person (5) and virtually (7).

#### **4. Public in Attendance:**

Chris Mehner observed the meeting.

#### **5. Review COBAAC Charter:**

- Member Burnett: Wants to have a better pulse about what the city has going on in the coming months.
- Chair, Woodfin: At the City Council and Advisory Body Summit there was a collective group of the City of Bend's advisory groups and City Council. We discussed how we can better advise, advocate, and collaborate.
- Mayor Kebler: They just approved the liaison. Councilor Méndez will be the liaison. There will be a liaison report back on the agenda. There will be moments on the agenda for less formal discussion. There was a question about federal funding and the city's commitment to DEIA. Mayor Keebler stated that this is a very important committee and that DEI work at the City of accessibility work, in particular, is very important to us. So, there are not going to be changes there we are not going to initiate. We are going to be working hard at how we continue to protect our ability to address these issues that are important for our community.

#### **6. Finalization: COBAAC 2025 Strategic Plan: COBACC Members.**

- Community Engagement
  - Member Burnett: Wants to engage with ODOT
  - Member Hamer wants to be the HREC Liaison and will be helping to put on the Sprouts Festival. City of Bend employees will be at the festival, and there will be two screenings through the tower website.
    - Connecting staff to these events.
  - Walk and Roll Discussion:
    - Member Burnett Discussed the need for a more targeted approach.
    - Chair, Woodfin: There needs to be a connection to the buses.
    - Vice Chair, Hofbauer: Talked about a ride the bus tour and potential connection to welcoming week activities. And the building of the Troy field mobility hub.
    - A route was discussed
    - Potential connection to a midtown crossing
    - Talked about engineering and planning staff coming to talk about the footprint of the bridge
  - Cityfest
    - Cassandra discussed having the team hold the events and then having COBAAC adopt being a part of the event with staff
- Initiatives and Advocacy
  - Letters of Support and Advocacy

- COBAAC Pamphlets
- Snow Removal Campaign
- Trauma Informed Training
- Ongoing Advocacy Opportunities.

Subcommittee Volunteers:

- A slide showing identified subcommittees

## 7. COBAAC Round Table:

- Member Caruana: Talked about the OSU event and the permit to open without an elevator
- Member Rivers Talked about the off-leash dog issues
  - There was a discussion about intersectionality
  - Motion for COBAAC to prepare a letter for BPRD to enforce/monitor to address off-leash dog issues.

## 8. Accessibility and Equity Manager Update: Cassandra Kehoe, She/Her/Ella.

- Thank you to Chair Woodfin, and members Isaacson, and Caruana for representing COBAAC at the City Council and Advisory Body Summit.
- Welcome to COBAAC's new members Caruana, Isaacson, Tennison, and MacRae.
- Welcome to City Councilor COBAAC Liaison Ariel Méndez

## 9. Agenda Setting: COBAAC Members.

- Committee Assignments
- Possible Route for Walk and Roll Dates
- CET Meeting: OSU and COCC transition connection

**10. Our next COBAAC meeting will be on Thursday, February 27, 2025, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.**

## 11. Adjourn:

With no further COBAAC business, Chair Woodfin adjourned the January 23, 2025, City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee hybrid meeting at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Larsen, Administration Support Specialist

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