



CITY OF BEND

Meeting Minutes

Council Stewardship Subcommittee

Location: Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street

Date: May 29, 2025

The meeting of the Council Stewardship Subcommittee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 29, 2025, in the City Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street, and online.

1. Roll Call: Councilor Megan Norris, Councilor Steve Platt, Councilor Mike Riley

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Councilor Riley moved to approve the April 4, 2025, Stewardship Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.
Councilor Platt seconded the motion.

The voice vote passed 3-0:

Yes: Norris, Platt, Riley

No: None

3. Public Comment (2 minutes each)

4. Houseless Services Update

Presentation by Senior Program Manager of Housing Amy Fraley and Shelter Coordinator Brooke O'Keefe.

O'Keefe announced that the 2025 Point in Time count, which provides a count of people experiencing homelessness in our region, was released and shared metrics and details on how the data was collected. The region experienced a 17% increase in houselessness, and Bend experienced a 4% increase. However, over the past biennium, there was no net increase in Bend due to the increase in different types of shelter beds and increased investments in outreach and rapid rehousing services.

O'Keefe shared details on the funding of City-led solutions, which includes four City-supported shelters and safe parking sites. O'Keefe stated that despite the State's change in funding structure, the City will cover gaps in funding for Stepping Stone and Navigation Center. Central Oregon Villages is fully funded

with City and County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars through December 2026. The City provided funding to Safe Parking sites through Safe Parking Pod and Houseless Services Grant Programs. Franklin Avenue Shelter is fully funded through this fiscal year.

City Manager Eric King stated that the City is dependent on State shelter funding and without it, Franklin Avenue would most likely be the first shelter that would need to close.

O'Keefe stated that City-supported shelters have provided over 82,000 nights of shelter and have maintained a 98% utilization rate in the first quarter. The City is working on expanding the safe parking program and expects to add 36 additional safe parking spaces by the end of this fiscal year.

O'Keefe discussed Central Oregon Villages' need of a permanent location, as their lease expires in 2026. The City is exploring options including the public works campus on 15th street, which could accommodate 20 units or more.

Fraley provided updates on the Temporary Safe Stay Area (TSSA) and impacts of land closures in the area. With the China Hat closure and upcoming closures of the Bureau of Land Management land and a portion of the City of Bend land at Juniper Ridge, the TSSA experienced a 45% increase in the number of people camping. Prior to May 2025, the TSSA housed 75 camps. As of May 19, 2025, that has increased to 112 camps and approximately 142 occupants, and City staff expects this number to grow.

Councilor Platt asked for clarification on why the population is increasing if the policy for the TSSA was to avoid a population increase.

Fraley responded that due to the land closures, more people have moved into the area and were not turned away.

Riley clarified that the policy was not actively encourage people to move to the TSSA, and that service providers would not actively encourage people to move there.

Councilor Platt asked if the City will be able to continue its level of service for a growing population with the current funding.

Fraley stated that staff believe they will be able to continue providing services until the closure date of December 31, 2026, even at the increased occupancy level. Brooke added that many of the grantees have pursued additional funding sources to aid in their ability to provide services in the TSSA.

King clarified that when Council passed the resolution establishing the TSSA, there was a desire, specifically on the part of the County, to not grow the camp. However, the plan to reduce the acreage may need to be adjusted given the influx of campers.

5. Invest Bend Campaign Update

Presentation by Business Advocate Cyrus Mooney and Urban Renewal Project Manager Jonathan Taylor.

Mooney provided an overview on the Invest Bend project, with a purpose of developing the first Economic Development Strategic Plan to guide the City's economic development programs, policies, partnerships and investments for the next ten years.

Taylor provided an update on the work to date and a timeline of the project.

Mooney shared information on the community engagement process, including stakeholder interviews, focus groups and industry support groups. Staff and advisory body members will conduct 100 stakeholder interviews by the end of August 2025. Focus Groups will include about 20 key partners who will participate in three sessions led by an outside facilitator.

Councilor Riley asked how the City can engage with relatively young people who are at the beginning of their professional careers.

Mooney stated that this age demographic has not been specifically targeted, but staff are looking for a variety of avenues to gather that feedback.

King announced that Katy Brooks will be starting at the City on June 30, 2025, and will be actively engaged in this process.

Councilor Norris asked about how the City can engage with remote workers.

Taylor responded that it is very difficult to capture remote work from the data available, and Mooney suggested reaching out to coworking spaces to connect with remote workers.

6. Next Meeting

July 31, 2025

7. Adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Bontje
City Recorder



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