



CITY OF BEND

Meeting Minutes

Bend Economic Development

Advisory Board

Location: Council Chambers, City of Bend, 710 NW Wall Street

Date: October 20, 2025

Time: 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

12 p.m. Bend Economic Development Advisory Board (BEDAB) Meeting

Called to order at: 12:01

Roll Call: Gary North- Chair, DaWayne Judd- Vice Chair, Briana Manfrass (online), Mark Kroncke (online), Jillian Taylor, Jenn Lynch, John Evans

Chad Young, Sara Odendahl, Nate Wyeth, Don Myll,- Ex Officios

Mayor Pro Tem Perkins-Council Liaison

Absent: Tierney Booker, Chad Schlottman, Jennifer Gould and Mike Richards

Members and ex-officios introduced themselves.

Member Briana Manfrass introduced herself, noted she has been with BEDAB for about five years, and works as the president of Pinnacle Architecture.

Member Mark Kronke introduced himself and noted he has been on BEDAB a couple of years.

Member Jen Lynch introduced herself, noted she is a partner at Portland Seed Fund, and has been on BEDAB for a year.

Member Jillian Taylor introduced herself, noted that she also joined BEDAB a year ago, and runs a consulting practice focused on helping businesses with strategic planning, scenario planning and leadership and executive coaching.

Member John Evans introduced himself, notes he is a newer member and runs a local company called Engel, a software company that works with brands and retailers in the Shopify ecosystem.

DaWayne Judd introduced himself noting he has been on BEDAB for 9-10 months and

has retired from corporate finance.

Chair Gary North introduced himself, noted he was with R&H Construction for 25 years, has been with BEDAB for a few years, chair for a year, and runs a transportation company called Cruzy.

Nate Wyeth (online), introduced himself, he is the Senior VP of Strategy at Visit Bend, an ex-officio, and he represents the tourism and hospitality .

Willie Hertford (online), an alternate member introduced himself and noted he is the president of Miller Lumber.

Amy Bertram (online), an alternate member introduced herself and noted she is with S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Chad Young (online), an ex-officio, introduced himself noting that he is the project manager at Skanska with a lens of workforce.

Sara Odendahl (online), introduced herself as the Interim CEO and Government Affairs Director at the Bend Chamber of Commerce.

Don Myll, an ex-officio, introduced himself noting he is with Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) as the Bend Area Director and has been involved with BEDAB for about six years.

1. Public Comment

Alyson Lenhart introduced herself and noted she owns a contracting company in Bend specializing in custom concrete and repairs and is interested in that business being more involved in City issues and events.

2. Approve September 8 Meeting Minutes

Taylor moved to approve the September 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes. Evons seconded the motion.

The voice vote passed 7-0:

Yes: North, Manfrass, Judd, Lynch, Taylor, Kroncke, Evons

No: none

3. Electrification Update and Letter Approval | Cyrus Mooney, Gary North (15 minutes)

Chair North noted he attended the last week's City Council meeting and wants to ensure BEDAB is aligned with the business community in general. North notes there were a number of public commentors and estimates that they were split 50-50 regarding moving forward with a fee. North noted that his comments as a community member were related to the mindfulness around affordability, that electric bills have increased 50% in five years and the City needs to consider the affordability of Bend in decision making. North notes that the Letter speaks to that and recognizes that we all want clean air and water while taking care about impacting affordability.

Taylor asked if anyone raised any new reasons for being proponents for the fee?

North summarized that people are concerned about the environment and that carbon and fossil fuels related to natural gas are seen as a contributor to the degradation of the environment and there is a desire to take active steps to improve the environment. North noted that no one brought data forward to support that if a fee is imposed, what impact that will have, noting it is difficult to know that. North notes that Cascade Natural Gas has two related projects taking a reduced carbon gas to supply 17,000 homes in Bend. The

other is a heat pump project – 15 homes to test combination and see results, mentioning there are ways carbon -use reduction can be voluntary. North mentions BEDAB being aligned on an opinion can be helpful.

Mooney noted his hope that the letter articulates all these conversations and asks for a motion to approve.

Lynch moved to approve the recommendation letter to the Bend City Council on behalf of the Bend Economic Development Advisory Board regarding electrification policy options as presented on October 20th, 2025. Jillian seconded the motion.

Odendahl noted that from the Chamber's perspective, BEDAB's letter represent a balanced approach regarding housing affordability as the community is very focused on housing production. She mentioned she looks forward to a joint letter from the Chamber and EDCO as well.

The voice vote passed 6-1:

Yes: North, Manfrass, Judd, Lynch, Taylor, Evans

No: Kroncke

4. Invest Bend Update | Katy Brooks (45 minutes)

Brooks mentioned that she made a presentation to Council last week to ensure BURA aspects of economic development are specific to investing. Brooks mentioned that the idea was to set up the logic and work which will lead to BURA playing a more assertive role regarding urban renewal lands. This work is Invest Bend. On December 17, this proposal will go before BURA to make recommendations on initial steps.

Brooks noted that the Economic Development program is separated out and includes everything else the City works on, including the Economic Development Department. Brooks noted there will be updates in next couple of months but highlights one programmatic approach will be to not only encourage businesses to come to Bend, but to stay and grow, with a focus on target industries.

Brooks mentioned the City will put program together with focus group and with BEDAB.

Brooks discusses a slide from the Council presentation entitled: Economic Development Program Elements which shows four quadrants: BURA, Contracted, Partnerships, and City Economic Development:

- BURA is investing, building, recruiting, leveraging investment, and housing. The three areas currently are the Bend Central District, Juniper Ridge, and the Murphy Crossing area.
- Contracted is what the City pays other people to do for us. This includes EDCO, destination marketing (visit Bend), economic advocacy – includes advocating for infrastructure investment, also with the State.
- City Economic Development represents internal staff work, including business and entrepreneurial support, commercial, industrial, infrastructure, and housing development and regional collaboration, which includes the tri-county.
- Partnerships represent areas of work that the City does not necessarily lead including workforce development, education, funding and infrastructure, housing in three of four categories

North asked if Brooks has begun to draft an org chart to facilitate knowledge of who is working on what. Brooks responded yes and noted that having a close relationship with EDCO and having connections is important. Brooks noted that putting together the Economic Development plan is a start. for a plan – year and a half. Brooks mentioned a desire to get away from longer term and

noted there will be many upcoming changes due to the economic situation. Brooks outlined the following likely categories of focus/bodies of work:

- Retention - What can Bend do to businesses to equal the image of being a citizens, so businesses know they are wanted.
- Sustainability and resilience – This is not just electrification; it includes what happens in a natural disaster, economic downturn, and asks what is the City's role?
- Permitting and customer service – Looking at improving those moving forward.

Brooks would like to categorize these bodies of work and walk through them with BEDAB in October. The plan is to speak with focus group and then BEDAB.

Taylor asked about the contract for econ advocacy. Brooks responded that there will be a personal services contract with the Bend Chamber of Commerce.

Lynch noted that it is important to have an end result that can take advantage of State and federal opportunities, as there are several and Bend doesn't always get them.

Brooks agreed and noted that would help existing companies grow, and mentioned that it is something to explore through collaboration with EDCO.

Vice Chair Judd notes that each quadrant will require funding and that there is currently recessionary trends and that federal opportunities are drying up. He said that the City needs to prioritize the dollars in hand and planned and is not sure how that happens. Judd asks how the City is considering the financial aspects involved and is there a way BEDAB can support prioritization, looking at data to help make smart investments? Judd noted that it is important to be intentional especially during a downturn and expresses that having the technical ability to take advantage of the opportunities available is also important. He notes that BEDAB should be the entity to bring private businesses to the table.

Brooks admitted that in terms of budget, there are clear limits but that the City does recognize the importance of prioritization. Brooks explained there are ways to generate funds including reinvesting into BURA, business licenses, and the general fund and noted that there will be opportunities for BEDAB to help including on policy on economic development and programmatic issues and will need to take BEDAB involvement on a case-by-case basis.

Mooney noted that with the evolution of Economic Development at the City level it may be helpful for Mayor Keebler, Mayor Pro Tem Perkins, and staff to present where the best effectiveness for BEDAB is at this point to provide some clarity.

North Gary – as business people, we hear challenges and we have ideas to expedite certain pieces, looking at a list of priorities, seeing a layout of priorities with low hanging fruit is first place to go and then connecting things to help us understand. Maybe BEDAB can help with links. BEDAB hones in on challenges, where can we help considering low budget?

- Katy – we start by bringing focal points, vetting those, making sure we are on right track and refining those with BEDAB will be useful. November 3 is next meeting. October 30 is focus group, we will bring back feedback and have a conversation about where BEDAB is most needed. Taken time to tease things out to plan work.
- Jillian – Investing time to figure out the way forward will set a strong foundation and then we can accelerate from there.
- DaWayne – Nov 3 – anything to approve? No. Last BEDAB meeting push back about approving invest Bend, but now specific to BURA?

- Katy – BEDAB will not need to approve any Invest Bend decisions. Dec. 3 delayed. BURA goes to council 12/16 (Date?) we are not ready for that. BURA decisions and investments, not ready to bring to BEDAB for approval. Different. Now – programmatic outcomes, let's talk about htme. Q1-2 – work plan moving forward. Between now and Q2 of 26. BURA's advisory body is the CORE body.
- Gary – we had spoken about combining those bodies
- Jonathon – prioriites for cab – Katy and I - how to get public input – next biennium. Investment strategy – we need to implement plans, how to we do these things . Climate friendly, urban renewal – longer term about advisory body to facilitate. CAB tasked by Council to XX, input and policy advise to BURA – how to create policy and programs? Had one in Juniper Ridge. Longer term – council wants CORE area – Council put pin in that. Prioritizing CoRE area at the moment. To private/public – outside of BURA needed – host of work for legal – five year out project – 1-2 years – establish public involvement.
- Brianna – should committees be more streamlined in general? Process makes sense, but is the number of committees the best?
 - Cyrus – we speak with Mayor offline. TRT numbers – parking and roads.

5. Roundtable and Future Topics | Group

6. Adjourned at

1:11pm

7. Upcoming

Meetings:

October 22: Bend City Council Work Session | Council Chambers, 4 pm. Electrification Discussion, Transient Room Tax Project(s) Evaluation

Accessible Meeting/Alternate Format Notification



This meeting/event location is accessible. Sign and other language interpreter service, assistive listening devices, materials in alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, language translations or any other accommodations are available upon advance request at no cost.

Please contact the City Recorder no later than 24 hours in advance of the meeting at abontje@benoregon.gov or fax 385-6676. Providing at least 2 days-notice prior to the event will help ensure availability.

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