



MEETING MINUTES

Bend Economic Development Advisory Board

Location: 710 NW Wall Street, and online

Date: March 2, 2026

Time: 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Bend Economic Development Advisory Board

The meeting of the Bend Economic Development Advisory Board was called to order at 12:01 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2026, in the City Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street, and online.

Roll Call: DaWayne Judd – Vice Chair, Mark Kroncke, Jillian Taylor, Chad Schlottmann, John Evons, Jenn Lynch, Willie Hertford.

Amy Bertram was excused.

Heather Ficht, Sara Odendahl, Nate Wyeth, Don Myll, Rebecca Robinson, Agatha Ventura, Mike Richards- Ex Officio

Mayor Pro Tem Perkins-Council Liaison

1. Public Comment

Brennan Breen, a resident of Bend, spoke about the City's climate impact fee and offered to have conversations with committee members regarding the fee.

2. Approval of February 2, 2026 meeting minutes

Member Kroncke moved to approve the February 2, 2026 meeting minutes. Member Hertford seconded the motion. The voice vote passed, 7-0.

3. Mayor Pro Tem Perkins Updates

- Regarding electrification, Council decided 5 to 1 to move forward investigating and analyzing a fee of 20% of the maximum fee, based on the social cost of carbon. The fee is not 20% of the cost of the house.
- On April 8, 2026, there will be an electrification roundtable to discuss the timeline and potential exemptions to the fee.



- During the February 25, 2026 Work Session Council discussed bridge funding for several projects: transportation funding, shelter funding, funds for the Temporary Safe Tey Area (TSSA) in Juniper Ridge, and an infrastructure revolving loan fund, and additional support for small business assistance – an increase from \$50,000 to \$100,000. The Work Session also covered wildfire resiliency.
- During the March 4, 2026 Council Business Meeting, there will be a presentation on tree code updates.
- On March 17, 2026, there will be a joint meeting with Bend Park and Recreation District.

4. BEDAB Draft Workplan Review and Code Update | Cyrus Mooney, Katy Brooks (40 minutes)

Purpose: Provide feedback and consider revisions

Mooney explained that the three-year BEDAB draft workplan aligns directly with the City of Bend's Economic Development Strategy and the Council goal of Economic Prosperity. It focuses on business retention, inclusive growth, resilience, long-range planning and accountability, while reinforcing BEDAB's role as Council's business-facing advisory body.

Discussion included business and workforce development being more prominent, describing what that support entails and the potential creation of a workplan for strategies to be implemented and coordinated. Discussion also included the potential need to narrow BEDAB's focus to increase effectiveness, that other advisory bodies focus on several items in the workplan, and the possibility of conducting a prioritization exercise.

Evons stated that BEDAB is best suited to focus on business retention, growth and responsiveness and accountability, transparency and performance. Kronke noted that other groups do not have a focus on business, that not all the items in the workplan are weighted equally, and to eliminate them would be a miss for BEDAB as the group should have an across-the-board business focus. Lynch noted that while BEDAB is responsive to Council, it is difficult to know how those recommendations are acted upon and noted the possibility of a more proactive approach to providing the most effective feedback to Council.

Discussion also included the fact that while collecting and aggregating feedback from the business community is helpful, BEDAB has limited time, and that it is built into the Economic Development Strategic Plan.

Economic Development Director Katy Brooks spoke about the possibility of differentiating between what BEDAB is doing and what they are advising on. Discussion included the fact that BEDAB is the business facing advisory board to Council, questions related to what the group is uniquely placed to focus on and provide recommendations on, and how to best do that effectively. Discussion also covered the need for a useful timeline and schedule to add definition, knowing the annual schedule of other committees, details related to the metrics, and the potential to develop an annual report to Council from BEDAB.



5. Board Elections | Group (5 Minutes)

Mooney spoke briefly about expectations for the BEDAB Chair and Vice-Chair and how nominations can be made. Terms for both are one year.

Evons expressed interest in the role of the BEDAB Chair role, he stated that BEDAB has a lot of potential and needs reform to be impactful, needs to concentrate focus, and better pass information between organizational units.

Member Hertford nominated member Evons as Chair of BEDAB. Member Taylor seconded the nomination.

Lynch then spoke in support of John's experience.

The voice vote passed, 7-0.

Member Lynch nominated Member Taylor to serve as Vice Chair of BEDAB. Member Kronke seconded the nomination.

The voice vote passed, 7-0.

6. Public Assembly Venue Feasibility Study Findings | Jeff Knapp Visit Bend and John Kaatz, CSL (40 minutes)

Purpose: Informational

Brooks mentioned that the City has been refining the code relevant to a couple of advisory bodies and that this is a good time to begin this work as things will be well defined. Brooks also supplied a presentation preview, noting that the group will see initial findings about the viability of a public event space.

Nate Wyeth, with Visit Bend, stated that the organization understands that a public assembly venue could meet many needs in business community, and drive revenue.

Kaatz reiterated that things are early in the process, with lots of planning going on in the community. Kaatz spoke about local market characteristics, and local meeting and event venues, as well as regional conditions. Kaatz noted that Bend lacks indoor venues with a capacity of 1,000, and therefore an opportunity exists.

Kaatz addressed important market demand factors including outreach, and then reviewed types of potential opportunities an appropriate venue could bring to Bend, such as hosting corporate events larger than 100. Regarding a comparable analysis, Kaatz reviewed statistics regarding which cities have which types of venues, noting that the desire is to cover several types with one venue.



Kaatz spoke about a multi-use venue concept and explained concepts which could be utilized for a variety of purposes, including emerging trend events. He noted the opportunity to partner with the community and listed a diversity of community events.

Kaatz reviewed opportunities and challenges associated with this project, including the current lack of any type of similar venue. He then highlighted the potential pillars that a space would include, such as layouts, possible square footage, and types of various rooms. Kaatz shared pictures of similar venues from across the country and spoke about the criteria needed for the surrounding area, including a hotel, dining, retail, nightlife and parking. Kaatz then reviewed next steps, reiterating that this study is in the early stages.

Jeff Knapp, CEO of Visit Bend spoke about their work as an economic engine, highlighted that this is a possibility to help the City grow for a long time in the future and how the changing landscape and climate contribute to the need for this type of venue. Knapp noted that this would be a community asset and generate revenue.

Taylor asked about funding for the structure and operational responsibility. Knall responded that funding options exist and noted that it could be a public private partnership, and that operations can be funded by transient room tax.

Lynch asked which comparable cities are in a similar situation geographically. Kaatz stated that other cities with hours of separation from urban centers and metropolitan areas do build these types of venues. Discussion included various potential uses for the space, including school district related events.

7. Electrification Policy Update | Cassie Lacy (15 minutes)

Purpose: Informational with Next Step Action Items

Lacy shared an update on the electrification fee, noting that staff presented to Council to explain the impacts of an electrification fee at different potential price levels based on the social cost of carbon. The maximum level was set at \$10,000 because the greenhouse gas impact of natural gas appliances adds up to that amount. Staff shared various percentages of that level, 50% and 20%. Pacific Power also shared information about the potential grid impacts at different electrification uptake levels.

Lacy reiterated that the fee is assessed per appliance and then discussed a potential joint committee while explaining that Council will have direct engagement with public and the joint committee may be developed in the Summer of 2026.

Lacy shared the following:

- April 8 - Roundtable with Council for exemptions and implementation date
- April 22 – Council Work Session to finalize fee policy details
- Late May/early June - Public hearing on policy adoption



Discussion included BEDAB involvement in the electrification process and events, a potential pilot and grid impacts.

8. Ex-Officio Updates | Group

Rebecca Robinson – OSU Cascades hosted potential developers for innovation district and expects final proposals in April 2026. They are also hosting a Startup Engine workshop as part of the Central Oregon Innovation Hub.

Mike Richards – St. Charles opened pharmacies in Madras and Prineville. These impact rural and urban areas. Redmond Cancer Center opens April 2026. Construction started on an inpatient rehab unit, which will increase capacity from 9 rooms to 23, and the emergency department will have 16 new units.

Nate Wyeth – Visit Bend room tax collections up 7.5% year over year. The Board will vote on sustainability grants which will support local and visitor economy. March 27 2026 is the deadline for other grant programs.

9. Roundtable and Future Topics | Group

Upcoming Meetings:

March 4: Bend City Council Business Meeting | Council Chambers, 6 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trish Savage, Deputy City Recorder



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