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# MEETING MINUTES

## Name of Meeting

**Location:** Council Chamber, Bend City Hall, 710 NW Wall Street, Bend, OR

**Date:** May 4, 2026

**Time:** 4:00 p.m.

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## 4:00 p.m. Youth Summit

Councilors present were: Mayor Melanie Kebler, Mayor Pro Tem Megan Perkins, Councilor Gina Franzosa, Councilor Mike Riley, Councilor Megan Norris, Council Steve Platt, and Councilor Ariel Méndez

- 1. Check in, mingle**
- 2. Welcome, Introductions (Mayor Kebler)**

Mayor Kebler welcomed the students, which included students from Bend High School, Summit High School, and Caldera High School. Mayor Kebler discussed the agenda, and noted that discussion questions would center around responses from a survey sent to students, including topics such as climate change, affordable housing and homelessness, transportation options, public safety and opportunities for youth.

- 3. Small Group Breakouts**

Students split into small groups with various City Councilors and discussed the topics listed above.

- 4. Report outs**

Students provided summary of their group discussions. Themes included:

- Transportation
  - E-bikes, allow non-drivers to get around, but associated dangers
  - Need to educate community on transportation options
  - Improve safety infrastructure
  - Capacity concerns, in light of projected population growth
  - Encourage alternatives to driving
- Housing
  - Homelessness visibility
  - Concerns over affordability and ability for youth to live in Bend as adults



- Anticipated Growth
- Climate change
  - How youth can get involved
- What we like about Bend
  - Nature
  - Small enough that youth voices can make a difference

Mayor Kebler added that the group she participated with discussed the need for indoor spaces for youth that stay open late, and how the City can connect with students.

## 5. Closing

Senior Strategist Brian Rankin gave a presentation on the City's long-range growth plan, and how students can be involved. Rankin discussed the City's engagement strategy and noted that it is difficult for the City to connect with certain segments of the population, including youth. Rankin shared ideas for engagement and asked for input from students on how the City can engage with youth.

Suggestions for engaging with youth included:

- Central location to learn about all aspects of the public sphere, such as an interactive map
- A free community events listing page
- In person events that are both fun and informative
- Engaging directly with the District Student Voice Council, which is a group that is already deeply engaged with the community
- A City-initiated youth council
- Spaces for youth that stay open later
- Engaging directly with schools, which have established communication networks and student organizations
- Social media, such as ThunderCloud, which is used by student organizations
- Providing opportunities for students who are interested in studying or going into politics, such as internships
- Informal community events

Students were interested in continuing to be involved with the City, and felt there would be significant interest within the student body.

The meeting ended at 5:53 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Ashley Bontje, City Recorder



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