



# MEETING MINUTES

## City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee

**Date:** May 28, 2026

**Start Time:** 1:00 p.m.

**Facilitator:** Amanda Hamer, Vice Chair

**Livestream:** [COBAAC May 28, 2026, Recording](#)

### City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee (COBAAC)

#### 1. Call to order at 1:01 p.m.

- 1) John Heylin, Chair, Zoom
- 2) Amanda Hamer, Vice Chair, Chambers
- 3) Aaron Rivers, Zoom
- 4) Andrew Caruana, Zoom
- 5) Carl Burnett, Zoom
- 6) Ian Isaacson, Chambers
- 7) Liz Diether-Martin, Zoom
- 8) Liz Woodfin, Absent
- 9) Stephanie Utzman, Zoom
- 10) Open
- 11) Open
- 12) Robert Townsend (*ex officio status pending*), Zoom

#### City of Bend Staff in attendance:

- Cassandra Kehoe, She/Her/Ella, Accessibility & Equity Manager / COBAAC Staff Liaison. (Zoom)
- Stephanie Betteridge, She/Her, Assistant City Manager, Chief Innovation Officer (Chambers)
- Ariel Méndez, He/Him, City Councilor & COBAAC Liaison (Chambers)
- Derek Hofbauer, He/Him, Mobility Programs Manager (Chambers)
- Whitney Bennett, She/Her, Transportation Planner (Chambers)
- Lisa Larsen, She/Her, Administrative Support Specialist (Chambers)

#### 2. **April Minutes**, Approval of April 23, 2026, Minutes. **Timestamp 3:46**

April 23, 2026, meeting minutes approved unanimously with no corrections:  
The voice vote passed: 8-0.



- 3. **Public Comment:** No public comment. **Timestamp 14:17**
- 4. **Bend Parks & Recreation District (BPRD) Letter of Support Request:** Hollinshead Park Improvement Project, Rachel Colton, (she/her) Park Planner. **Timestamp 4:36**

Park Planner Rachel Colton from BPRD requests a COBAAC letter of support to apply for a grant for the **Hollinshead Park Improvement Project**.

Local Government Grant Program (LGGP):

- **What:** LGGP is a voter approved, State lottery funded grant program administered by the Oregon Park and Recreation Department.
- **Funding Available:** ~\$15M annually
- **Application Received:** 60-80 annually
- **Recent Projects Funded:** Miller’s Landing, Sawyer Park
- **Request:** Letter of Support
- **Application Due:** June 5

Members had a discussion with Park Planner Colton about various aspects of pertaining to ADA parking, off-dog leash and following the standard ADA guidelines for outdoor trails.

Diether-Martin edits the existing letter:

- Paragraph two, change word composed to comprised or composed.
- Search: remove the places with two spaces.
- Change ADA Accessible to ADA Compliant.

A motion for Bend Parks & Recreation District (BPRD) requested Letter of Support for the Hollinshead Park Improvement Project LGGP Grant unanimously with the corrections above:

The voice vote passed: 7-0-1

Yes: Heylin, Hamer, Rivers, Caruana, Burnett, Diether-Martin, Utzman.

Isaacson abstained due to a conflict of interest of employment at BPRD.

- 5. **City Recruitment Updates, City Manager’s Office. Timestamp 27:32**

Stephanie Betteridge, She/Her, Asst. City Manager / Chief Innovation Officer shared an update about two positions that strongly connect to COBAAC.

- **Equity and Inclusion Manager:** Provides leadership, guidance, tools, and expertise to embed equity into the everyday work of the city, including policy development, decision-making and service delivery.
- **Community Relations Manager (new position):** Will work across city departments to integrate inclusive, equitable community engagement into our planning, our programs, and our public projects.

A representative from the Human Rights and Equity Commission (HREC) and COBAAC will be added to the list of community partner representatives on the interview panel.



Betteridge provided an update for City Manager Eric King Assigned Workplan Initiative:

- Conversations about a transit the transit workgroup being assembled, to help advise staff to create a revised vision for transit services in Bend within the context of the region to make sure it is based on community needs, best practices, evolving technology, and service delivery options within current available resources.
- Manager King is requesting COBAAC identify one volunteer for monthly two-hour, in-person or virtual meetings, possibly starting in July or August.
- COBAAC Volunteers: Chair Heylin, Burnett (depending on meeting times). Volunteers, please contact Manager Kehoe at [ckehoe@bendoregon.gov](mailto:ckehoe@bendoregon.gov).

6. **Workplan Updates / Next Steps, COBAAC Members. Timestamp 36:48**

- A discussion about the need for thirty-minute meeting time before the regular COBAAC meeting to work on COBAAC initiatives.
- An agenda item will be added, asking if any of the members would like to utilize the extra thirty minutes prior to the next meeting to discuss something pertaining to COBAAC business.
- Manager Kehoe mentioned WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) and Department of Justice's (DOJ) implementation due in April 2026 extension next year and a presentation in June.

7. **Charter Language Review, COBAAC Members. Timestamp 55:06**

What was reviewed: Voting membership goals not maintaining, Disability advocates, Professional members, one community member at large. Manager Kehoe will investigate where the origin of "at large," does ex officio conflict with the at large and bring it to the June meeting.

8. **3D Model Intersection Update**, Derek Hofbauer, Mobility Programs Manager | Scott Beard, and Daniel Bowers from Kittelson Associates (online) | Timothy Gorbald, Backstitch Inc. **Timestamp 1:02:51**

Kittelson Associates provided an update on the 3D Model Project, navigating roundabouts, accessible roundabouts, challenging intersection, and the development of the tactile maps for the blind and low vision. Prototypes of sample tactile maps were passed around.

9. **COBAAC Member Round Table**, COBAAC Members. **Timestamp 1:19:02**

10. **Accessibility + Equity Manager Update**, Cassandra Kehoe (she/her/ella). **Timestamp 1:22:34**

- Inclusive Communication Lunch + Learn – Pride in Public Service: Please contact [lwengloski@bendoregon.gov](mailto:lwengloski@bendoregon.gov) if you have any questions or want to attend.
- COBAAC Recruitment: Conducting interviews, goal to wrap up next week.



- **Free Upcoming Go Electric! Workshop Series:**

- Weatherization for Income Qualified Households, June 24, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Efficiency and Comfort Options for Renters, July 23, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Questions? Contact Megan Lee, Environment & Climate Management Analyst at [mlee@bendoregon.gov](mailto:mlee@bendoregon.gov)

11. **City Council Update**, Ariel Méndez, City Councilor (He, Him). **Timestamp 1:25:17**

- Council will decide whether to move forward with the first reading of the Climate impact fee, going into effect April 1, 2027, new homes only.
- Moving forward with expanding the Transportation Oversight Committee, creating a broader transportation advisory committee.
- City Council is interested in proposing an economic improvement district for the Bend Central District. The meeting is scheduled for July 15.
- The Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) was designated as a qualified entity. This means we get a significant amount of money thanks to administrative efficiencies.
- Two-year pilot program for traffic diverters, providing a protected space along the Bend bikeway.
- Reminder about the redlight speed camera's go into effect with real citations on Saturday, May 30, 2026.
- Bend Tree Project: Volunteer based community effort to count trees in the City of Bend for a GPS tagged inventory of trees in the public right of way and city property.

12. **Adjourned**, with no further COBAAC business at 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Larsen, she/her, Administrative Support Specialist, Accessibility & Equity Program



**Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities & Language Assistance Services**

You can obtain this information in alternate formats such as Braille, electronic format, etc. Free language assistance services are also available. Please email [accessibility@bendoregon.gov](mailto:accessibility@bendoregon.gov) or call **541-693-2198**. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1. All requests are subject to vendor processing times and should be submitted 48-72 hours in advance of events.

**Servicios de asistencia lingüística e información sobre alojamiento para personas con discapacidad**

Puede obtener esta información en formatos alternativos como Braille, formato electrónico, etc. También disponemos de servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Póngase en contacto en correo electrónico [accessibility@bendoregon.gov](mailto:accessibility@bendoregon.gov) o número de teléfono **541-693-2198**. Los usuarios del servicio de retransmisión deben marcar el 7-1-1. Por favor, envíe sus solicitudes con 48-72 horas de antelación al evento; todas las solicitudes están sujetas a los tiempos de procesamiento del proveedor.