



# MEETING MINUTES

## Bend Economic Development Advisory Board

**Location:** Council Chambers, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 710 NW Wall Street, Bend OR

**Date:** August 3, 2026

**Time:** 12:00 p.m.

## 12:00 p.m. Bend Economic Development Advisory Board (BEDAB)

### 1. Called to Order by roll call at 12:02 p.m.

Present were: John Evons- Chair, Jillian Taylor- Vice Chair, Amy Bertram, Mark Kroncke, Jenn Lynch, Willie Hertford, Chad Schlottmann, Patrick Neely

Member Bobby Grover was excused.

Heather Ficht, Sara Odendahl, Emily Boyd, Jeff Knapp, J.C. Nore- Ex Officio

Council Liaison Mayor Pro Tem Perkins was excused.

### 2. Public Comment – no public comment

### 3. Mayor Pro Tem Perkins Update – Cyrus Mooney provided updates:

- The BEDAB recommended resolution was approved by Council on July 15, 2026
- Small business assistance grants opening August 5, 2026
- Other funding opportunities opening August 5, 2026 as well; climate action grant program, City sponsorship program
- August 31, 2026 will be a developer round table
- Mid-September Bend Welcoming Week kicks, encourage BEDAB participation
- Related to BEDAB's workplan, the City will be doing an annual business survey.

### 4. Approve July 6 Meeting Minutes

Member Schlottman moved to approve the July 6, 2026 Meeting Minutes. Chair Evons seconded the motion.

The voice vote passed 8-0.

Yes: Bertram, Lynch, Taylor, Evons, Hertford, Schlottman, Kroncke, Neely

No: none



## **5. Staff Schedule & Updates - Cyrus Mooney A. Informational – this item was combined with Mooney’s delivery of the Mayor Pro Tem update**

Regarding the September BEDAB meeting, Chair Evons mentioned that other committees are taking a break and Mooney mentioned that September would be an ideal time for a break. BEDAB agreed that there will not be a meeting in September.

Knapp asked to receive the survey questions.

## **6. Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) Overview and Quarterly Update Presentation - Garrett Loveall A. Informational with Opportunity for Feedback and Questions**

This item did not take place.

## **7. Community Speakers Series Conversation - Chair Evons, Vice Chair Taylor A. Informational Discussion**

Chair Evons provided an introduction, saying that BEDAB can look at speakers who may have relevance according to upcoming Council agenda items and those who are related to BEDAB and community interest. Evons stated that if BEDAB makes recommendations to Council, it can be helpful to move important items forward and the group needs to agree on a structure and cadence for community speakers.

Vice Chair Taylor mentioned it would be good to have a speaker every meeting to get started and adjust as needed, suggesting a 15-minute presentation and a 15-minute Q and A session.

Boyd stated that a diverse range of speakers would be helpful and that the Chamber can handle invites and plan to bring speakers into BEDAB meetings.

Ficht spoke about city and state policies that could be helpful for BEDAB, and using speakers for education purposes.

Mooney stated that potential topics can be economic development policy, topics that come out of the developer roundtable, developer land site readiness, and neighborhood commercial.

Chair Evons listed the following potential topics: system development charges, zoning requirements, job creation, transportation, the cost of doing business in Bend, workforce affordability, retention, weather impacts on businesses, and how to best partner with the city of Bend to take advantage of tax benefits.

Odendahl expressed excitement to see different perspectives and hear from those who have not yet had a seat at the formal table.

Evons stated that for the October, November, and December BEDAB meetings, invites probably need to go out soon and suggested agreeing on topics and questions in order to enable invites for speakers.

Mooney asked the group which three standard questions will be asked of the speakers.

Vice Chair Taylor suggested minimizing prep time for speakers by allowing them to choose their presentation format and made question suggestions.



Discussion included the best three standard questions to ask speakers, such as business barriers and challenges, how to best partner with the City, and what can businesses better take advantage of through the City? Discussion also included how to best use the 30 minutes and ensure there is enough time for BEDAB to best make recommendations to Council.

Discussion included how to choose upcoming speakers, including aligning with Council goals, and inviting underrepresented and underserved groups.

## **8. Workforce Development Presentation and Mobile Employment Resource Vehicle Tour - Heather Ficht A. and Matt Olson**

Informational with Opportunity for Feedback and Questions

Ficht stated that East Cascade Works is the local workforce development board, which is designated by the governor to support 10 counties, and acts as a neutral evaluator and investor. They contract with COIC as the adult and youth service provider and cover 30,000 square miles. The board of directors has 19 people. Their federal funds are through the U.S. Department of Labor, and are based on the last year's unemployment rate, population density, and poverty rate.

The operations team consists of five people, and the program team is also five people.

One caveat for not providing direct service is there is a waiver to provide it in Lake County something, which is far from other WorkSource Centers.

Ficht shared a map showing WorkSource Oregon Centers throughout the State, noting that individuals can go to one place to receive several services regarding workforce development. Their role is to ensure other agencies are working well together and streamline processes, their organization will coordinate but does not do direct service.

Ficht stated that regarding adults, which are 18 and over, anyone can get service. Regarding the youth program, the focus is 16-24 years old, not working or in school and is much smaller. East Cascade Works contracts with alternate school programs to get GEDs and diplomas, in addition to the workforce aspect. The youth career program includes leveraging funds to support internship opportunities, work readiness training, support services, and career guidance.

Ficht shared a slide with funding sources and expenditures through counties and explained specific job training programs. Ficht spoke about the Prosperity Program, which is a \$219 million benefit to taxpayers getting 10,000 people back to work. Being down \$1 million this year will impact the organization's ability to help people and benefit taxpayers.

Ficht spoke about industry sectors where there are lots of entry points, career ladders, different levels of education required, and projections show growth and stated that the goal is a thriving local economy.

Ficht spoke about the Central Oregon Business Response Network which is a partnership with 20 organizations coordinating behind the scenes. Ficht shared resources including the



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organizational impact report and links for Business Response Network and spoke about different programs supported.

Ficht then spoke about their prison program, noting a recidivism rate of 4% with the program vs. 19% without the program.

Ficht then shared data tables showing employment trends, availability and wages by sector in various areas of the region.

## **9. Ex-Officio Updates**

J.C. Nore updated that the COCC Small Business Development Center now has a Tillman scholar.

Boyd mentioned that the Bend Chamber will host Representative Kropp, on August 26, 2026, to talk about the impacts of the Prosperity Council's findings on business. Boyd also spoke about the Chamber's summer roundtables for the Regional Business Alliance and invited the group to attend the Bend events.

Knapp updated that Visit Bend is at the end of their fiscal year and shared that Bend's average daily hotel rate is up, demand is slightly down, supply is also slightly down, and occupancy is up. Knapp stated that the Cascada Hotel broke ground, it is a new hotel and wellness space with public membership options, and that Field and Stream will open in the next three years to improve the Shilo Inn space. Visit Bend and Destination Think held a summit with 20 DMOs from around the world. Knapp will also be traveling to explore public assembly venues and will also be issuing a survey but will ensure no overlap.

## **10. Roundtable and Future Topics**

Regarding the Redmond Airport, Schlottman noted that a new structure is moving forward with an end date of November 2027.

Neely spoke about franchise poachers, explained what a franchise poacher is and why they matter.

Knapp spoke about the Hayden Homes Amphitheater's recycling tour and how useful it is.

## **11. Adjourned at 1:48 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

Trish Savage, Deputy City Recorder

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### **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**

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