



MEETING MINUTES

Bend Economic Development Advisory Board

Location: Council Chambers, City Hall 710 Wall Street, Bend OR

Date: October 5, 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, Willie Hertford, Chad Schlottmann, Patrick Neely

Jennifer Lynch, Mark Kroncke, and Bobby Grover were excused.

Garrett Loveall, Emily Boyd, Jeff Knapp, J.C. Nore, Rebecca Robinson - Ex Officio

2. Public Comment – no public comment

3. Mayor Pro Tem Updates

Mayor Pro Tem Perkins provided Council decision updates to BEDAB including about lighted signs, SDC exemptions, the new City Hall building, potentially on the Conners Property, and a Defensible Space code.

4. Approve August 3 Meeting Minutes

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

The voice vote passed 6-0.

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

No: none

5. Children's Museum of Central Oregon Guest Presentation – Informational



Presentation by Museum Director Erica Segal and Museum Board Chair John Winters

Segal spoke about the [planned museum, which will be in the BCD and respond to significant demand. The museum will open in 2027, include indoor and outdoor exhibits with the ability to be rented out overnight and draw tens of thousands of visitors to the area. Segal and Winters shared a planned map of the museum and spoke about various exhibits.

Winters noted the museum will be a catalyst for the area, spoke about safety issues and accommodating classrooms, planned collaboration with area colleges and fundraising statistics and status.

6. Bend Central District Conceptual Planning – Informational +feedback

Presentation by Urban Renewal Manager Jonathan Taylor

Taylor shared information and the status of the City's conceptual planning regarding the Bend Central District (BCD), including recently proposed exemptions, catalyzing specific buildings, triggering minimum development standards and recommendations from the Core Area Advisory Board. Feedback will also be sought from BEDAB and the Environment and Climate Committee regarding the scope of work. A request for proposals is expected in January 2027, and an 18-month process is envisioned, to ensure robust public involvement.

Economic Development Director Katy Brooks spoke about the need to develop the area and asked BEDAB what a business would need to succeed, including work-life components and community assets.

Chair Evons noted that art and good food can bring people to the area from across the city and member Schlottman mentioned that some area sidewalks need improvements and the issue of lacking infrastructure.

Taylor spoke about similar types of development in different areas and explained the history of the Old Mill development.

Further discussion included the need to attract minority-owned businesses, having supermarkets and community spaces, looking at data including how other areas in other cities developed, utilizing various incentive structures and area housing and traffic implications.

7. Small Business Assistance Grant Program Discussion – Informational + action items

Presentation by Central Services Manager Meghan Goss



Brooks provided an introduction to the program, noting that the City has \$130,000 devoted to the program and 63 applications for BEDAB review.

Goss reviewed program details, application information, and the application review process, including the scoring criteria and guidance to reduce subjectivity. Goss spoke about timelines and potential conflicts of interest.

Discussion included the significant amount of time needed to review all the applications and the possibility of dividing out the 63 applications among the BEDAB members, which the board decided to do.

8. Ex-Officio Updates

Boyd with the Chamber of Commerce spoke about the "What's Grooving" event, ADU space event, the upcoming Regional Business Alliance Summit for Chamber members, and that the legislative priorities survey is out.

Knapp with Visit Bend gave the group a summer recap, noting that the revenue record was broken with a 4.4% increase year over year. He noted there was minimal smoke impact, and that the year ended solidly. He said there is positive stability.

Nore with COCC spoke about organizational reconciliation internally, new advisory office hours in various locations, and that the college is onboarding a bilingual advisor in mid-October, 2026. He stated that SBA loans are available for regional businesses, impacted by wildfires.

Loveall with EDCO mentioned that Lonza had their groundbreaking, the significance of the investment, and what it means for bioscience. He also noted that EDCO advertised the City's grant program, and spoke about the High Desert Innovation Week events.

9. Adjourned at 1:38 p.m.



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