



CITY OF BEND

Minutes

Bend Economic Development Advisory Board (BEDAB) Monday, February 3, 2020

Staff Liaison: Ben Hemson

12:01 pm BEDAB Meeting

Roll Call: Stephanie Senner-Chair, Keith Dodge-Vice Chair, Brenda Speirs via phone, Jamie Klopp, Kevin Cole, Lisa Goodman, Travis Davis, and Wendy McGrane

Karen Koppel-Alternate

Heather Ficht, Kevney Dugan, Roger Lee- Ex Officio

1. Public Input

Lisa Marshall, co-chair of NLA, here to listen.

2. Approve January 6 Meeting Minutes

Correct 1 parking space per 1,000 sf instead of 10,000 sf. All approved with correction.

3. Potential Transportation Bond | Chris Piper & Susanna Julber

Update on General Obligation Bond dedicated to Capital Improvements. Council Meeting will be on February 5th.

Community says traffic congestion and safety is a pressing issue. Connectivity is a problem. Looking at multi modal. Surveys done in May and December. Also convened focus groups. Investment in transportation will affect other goals.

Will allow us to create seamless connectivity. Additional punch-throughs of major roads. Also bike paths and sidewalks. Second transportation bond General Obligation Bond. Previous was in 2011.

Need better east-west connection. Transportation System Plan (TSP) is in process of being updated. All projects in bond came from list in TSP.

Near, mid, and long term projects total \$800 million. Council gave approval for bond in the amount of \$190 million for May ballot. February 5th: adoption of resolution to put on ballot. Filing date: February 21. Last bond was \$30 million. Double lane roundabout at 15th. List of projects can be found on City website at <https://www.bendoregon.gov/city-projects/safe-travel#Map>.

They include:

- East/West connections
- 20 major intersections improvements
- 12 key bike and pedestrian routes.
- Support for transit
- Interchange improvement – match ODOT.
- Local residential safety improvements program
- Intelligent Transportation Systems investments - safety and traffic flow.

Plan to establish a bond oversight committee. Will include progress reports. Past bond projects were completed on time and under budget which allowed NW 14th to be done.

Kevin Cole: what is BEDAB's role? Purpose is information only. After February 5th staff won't be able to communicate about this.

Kevney: \$800 million in TSP. 190 now, 75 million. What is future plan? Susanna, TSP looks at funding plan. Bond is phase 1 and biggest revenue generator. Transportation utility fee, maybe local gas tax, maybe food and beverage tax, maybe county vehicle registration fee.

4. Committee Communication & Active Ballot Measures | Ben Hemson

Copies of memo and fact sheet from state were provided to Committee. Once ballot measure is referred (after February 21st), can't speak in BEDAB's capacity. Only acting as an individual. No agenda items regarding the transportation bond at BEDAB until after the May election.

5. Childcare & Council Goals | Carolyn Eagan

Katie Brooks, Megan Norris

Part of BEDAB goals and Council goals. Childcare is a BEDAB issue. Goal is to remove barriers that keep childcare from opening or growing.

Need 600 additional slots in next 18 months. Looking at all aspects of what a child care provider needs to do to get moving. There are broader efforts in county and Central Oregon. Russ: We are having conversations with interested people. Tools are limited. Not yet in place but have direction to create incentives. Want to match with actual needs in order to deploy more effectively. Make decisions in real time to meet needs of provider.

Wendy: do we have any recent success stories? Yes, able to allow a facility to proceed in the needed timeframe without building sidewalks upfront. We found out that lots of things city requires to be built, can't be financed like sidewalks.

Childcare providers now know we are wanting to help. They may contact us. In past 18 month, 6 or 7 combinations have walked and CDD is following up as to why.

Want movement at state level but needs to be movement that will make things work.

Karen mentioned that childcare providers can't afford lease rates as they increase. State licensing requires restrooms per number of children and per age group. Adds to costs. Another example was a tenant in a building had a clause in lease to not allow childcare in the building. Drop off areas and yard space requirements limit options. Carolyn mentioned that providers need to know how to raise their rates. Katie mentioned that all this information has been consolidated in one document.

Stephanie: how can we make this goal with what we are doing? Carolyn suggested talking to brokers. Not allowing one tenant to dictate no childcare in a building. Provide leadership. Lisa: need to galvanize energy of private sector. Some companies would like to get involved but don't know what to do. Have a regional childcare summit and gets employers involved.

Couple affordable housing developers with child care. How to get innovative. Loans are hard to get so need to work with financial community.

Lisa: surveyed their workforce and 37% of employees considered leaving workforce due to childcare.

Keith: what is barrier to in home childcare? What are hurdles? Carolyn: many in home providers rent homes, they don't own. Increases in rent. Their children age out and they find a job. Trade off of 18 hours per day as a provider vs 8 hour work day as an employee. Katie: need education about options. Low interest loans. Outside company doing paperwork etc. Come up with targets and plans. Reduce overhead and increase margins. Help them with business aspects. Carolyn mentioned that tax code allows business to put money aside. Is there a loophole that allows for payment not to employee but for a spot. Kevin: would be against pay equity. Keith said federal government was trying to get rid of federal credit but he is not sure what happened. May now only be FSA. Stephanie asked how BEDAB can work along side the City to meet our goal. Lisa: St. Charles is asking employers to participate in a survey. Could scale up projects already in hopper. Carolyn: can we subsidize? Lisa: 6 employers on east side near hospital. \$5,000 for survey. We need data.

Jamie mentioned that Epic looked at years ago. Business needs to understand numbers better and benefits. Stephanie asked if our email list is a different cross section from Chamber list. Survey or a listening sessions. Megan: blanket survey for employers. One pager or facts of what means to an employer. Karen: help from EDCO bringing big childcare providers here.

Stephanie hold a listening session. May need to widen Oregon definition of traded sector, by adding critical support services (child care, housing). Not sure how we push. Look at report. Who can untie. Katie: make a more powerful broader effort.

6. New Chair Election | Stephanie Senner

Keith Doge, Travis Davis and Lisa Goodman expressed willingness to serve if needed. Keith would like to act as chair. Kevin nominates Keith as chair and Lisa as vice-chair. Wendy suggested co – positions. Share to cover for each other due to scheduling conflicts. One chair and two vice chairs. **Slate: Keith Dodge as chair, Lisa Goodman and Travis Davis as co-vice chairs. Kevin Cole made motion and Wendy McGrane seconded. All in favor.**

7. Core Area Code Changes Update | Allison Platt & Ben Hemson

Planning Commission discussed at public hearing. Does BEDAB want to weigh into Council. Didn't change code but did have a large discussion on parking and building size maximums. Parking: want to manage district. Now applied to ground floor only.

Retail sales and service uses must not exceed 30,000 square feet in floor area per business on the ground floor.

Entertainment/Recreation: must not exceed 50,000 sf per business on the ground floor without a condition use permit.

Design standard more options to meet building articulation to reduce costs.

Stephanie proposes that we reiterate our recommendation that we remove maximums and use code to mitigate larger buildings. Support staff's original recommendation with added flexibility on design standard and parking okay. Keith seconds.

Kevin Cole made motion: BEDAB agrees with recommendations of Planning Commission on parking and design standards and support the original staff recommendation on removal square footage caps. All in favor.

8. Adjourned at 1:55 pm.