



CITY OF BEND

Minutes

Bend Economic Development Advisory Board (BEDAB)

Thursday, July 6, 2020

Staff Liaison: Ben Hemson

12:06 pm BEDAB Meeting

Roll Call: Keith Dodge-Chair, Travis Davis-Vice Chair, Brecht Palombo, Kevin Cole, Stephanie Senner, and Wendy McGrane

Karen Koppel-Alternate

Don Myll, Jim Sansburn, Ken Betschart, Kevney Dugan - Ex Officio

Councilor Piper

1. Public Input

None received.

2. Approve June 11 Meeting Minutes

Approved.

3. Update on Buildable Lands Inventory Tool | Jesse Thomas

In strategic plan. BEDAB wanted to support a more dynamic tool to see what land is available. Buildable Lands Inventory Tool is specifically defined in statute.

BLIS– Bend Land Information System

Wanted to design and implement a GIS based system. First phase is focused on housing/residential land. Will walk Council through next week. Wanted something more timely and create a data source to answer inquiries. Also be scalable and adaptable to other analysis. For instance, looking at which buildings were possibilities for childcare facilities. Would be available for everyone to look at.

Jesse gave a demo of the tool. Jesse noted that it works on Google Chrome.

Introduction: Tells what the tool is and provides definitions.

Residential Land Status Dashboard: 14,763 acres, 37,402 tax lots. Can look at all types, developed, vacant. Can zoom in on map.

Residential Units Dashboard: 43,295 units. Total units, types of units. Has graph of units completed by year.

Land Information Data Explorer: Categorize tax lots into categories. Can zoom in

Intent is to get information out into everyone's hands. Will integrate with other

systems once they are updated.

Future plans to add in different types of zoning and uses. Will keep building tool out through fall and winter. Dependent on launching of City View to build out data set. Rough estimate. Optimistic: present back to BEDAB 1st quarter 2021. Once launched to Council and City will launch to public.

Stephanie: Will business registration information overlay. Jesse: hoping to include.

Jim: how will updates occur? Jessie: automated. Will run on an update cycle. Maybe 6 months. Some areas may be more often like the Land Information Data Explorer. Will do an analysis of Residential Land Status Dashboard when updates.

4. Status of Development & Infrastructure Work | Russ Grayson & Eric Forster

Ben said this will be an update since shutdown. CDD has not slowed down. At or over what was projected for year.

Russ Grayson:

120-150 inspections a day. Are picking up some over summer. Single family permits higher. 2,000-2,500 under construction and/or finished. Watching commercial and industrial. Many are moving forward. Empire extension, Petrosa Master Plan, Discovery West finishing first phase, DSL property – contracted to awarded to Lands Bend Corp.. Other developments want to move forward. At or above projected but looking at closely because know can turn.

City Hall still shut down. Had planned to open but put on hold. There is limited staff downtown. Majority of staff are working virtually. Goal is keep development/construction industry moving as quickly as can. They are having discussions about large projects. Discussions continue about Gateway North.

Holding staffing levels but are not backfilling. All work is done by staff, no outsourcing.

Covid had impact on implementation schedule of City View. In validation. Need to get vendor to come and install here and test. Vendor is out of Canada. Targeted for early fall, maybe September.

Eric Forster:

Update on CIP projects. Empire Corridor work continuing. Murphy Corridor ongoing. Septic to Sewer ongoing. North Interceptor is in Phase 2. Phase 1 will be complete in fall. Will be able to decommission a few pump stations and service Juniper Ridge.

Less visible: Greenway projects. West side happening. Moving to east side. Accessibility project on Division. Integrated Water Master Plan under way. Looking at maintenance and optimization of operations of system. Taking in data and projecting future for a reliable, resilient system. Department reorganized a bit. CIP: delayed some work. Design in fall, not initiated until next July. Next phase of Septic to Sewer. Columbia Roundabout – agreements in place. RFP going out. Will be a design build approach.

5. Childcare Update | Karen Prow and Megan Norris

Ben forwarded message from Karen to BEDAB members. Message from a childcare business is powerful. Bend/LaPine area: 63% of programs are open; however, only 32% of prior capacity due to Covid-19 restrictions of keeping small stable groups (max 10). Those families with children that don't need full time care are out of luck. Not all families can be accommodated and is impacting workforce.

Karen: are there statistics about spreading Covid-19 through childcare providers? Can numbers be upped? Response: there is some information on health website. Worried about small children being asymptomatic carriers and they don't social distance well. There is a survey on Early Learning Division website. Stephanie asked Ben if we can send out survey. Karen mentioned that it closes tonight at nine though.

Kevin: is there anything business community can do to help situation? Megan: Still working with employers regarding providing space. Did however pivot when Covid happened. Working on getting some funding for providers to keep them open. They have secured some funding. Also working on mentors who would train and provide information to providers including information on stress and domestic violence. Also advocating on state-wide level to increase CARES funding to help providers. Looking at pilot concepts. Looking at partnering with third party folks. Would be employer based. Fee would be paid to a third party. COCC pilot still being worked on throughout region. Looking at other places in communities to house childcare. Brokers are concerned about leasing to childcare providers. Maybe some office space will free up. Need access to commercial space of all sizes. Stephanie: are you working with Parks and Rec & Kids Inc.? Response: They work with ages 0-5 only. Karen Prow: NeighborImpact works with Parks and Rec. Uncertain as to what reopening will look like. Worried about uncertainty about economics and space availability and school schedules. Stephanie: how do we bring employers voice to table? How can we help? Is a crisis. Karen Koppel: seeing a slowdown in office space. Criteria regarding bathrooms is a key issue. Megan: this issue has been flagged and needs to be addressed. Has to be done first at a state level. Karen Prow: will move slowly. Restroom requirement is important. Instead of changing requirements, make sure funding is available and change perception of childcare to a sustainable business. Then building owners may do upgrades. Some stable state dollars are coming in.

Roger: Heard that there was a significant drop off in past around certification and education requirements. Karen Prow: Was in 1992-93. Change implemented: Family childcare used to submit a simple form. Switched to a home inspection being required. There was a big departure from field. Also a requirement of certain amount of hours of training every two years. Will not go away. Requirements are increasing.

Travis said he is a fan of distributed model, small in-home care. Is there anything we can do to support that effort? Document a path? Help people open? Megan: there are students looking for work who majored in early child development. Maybe some opportunity there. Bringing providers and employers together. Employers

could pay fees. Also capacity to expand to rural areas. Keith: are same restrictions related to Covid in effect for commercial versus in home? Karen: all childcare was shut down. Can only be open if have emergency permit. Certified family (16) and registered families (10) are capped at number of children. But there are restrooms and separate areas required. Still have to be stable groups of 10 or less. Has been easier on them.

Link to survey will be sent to BEDAB.

6. Council Subcommittee & Goal Amendments | Keith Dodge & Ben Hemson

Council requested changes in Council Goals. Economic Vitality is a Council Goal. RFP for housing did not get traction as a need so it was pulled. In its place, business support related to Covid was added. Two proposed goals.

Key is money. We are waiting for up to \$600 million to be allocated to cities and counties. Need to get into hands of businesses. Let BEDAB be oversight body. Get money out to those organizations that are already good in putting money to work.

First: Business and family support and assistance: direct grants to businesses to retool for re-start up costs of bringing back employees or for PPE. Also childcare funding, to get childcare off the ground again. Housing assistance could be an option. Work with Affordable Housing Advisory Committee to provide stability for families. Success of focus would be getting employees back to work.

Second: How do we continue to diversify economy. New industry development. Examples might be business recruitment, site prep for Juniper Ridge, setting aside money to pay down SDCs for different traded sectors.

Need to see how much money comes in. Would not be reviewing grant applications. More of a strategic direction to give out money to organizations. Set goals and metrics. Subcommittee seemed receptive. Will be presented to Council at July 15 meeting. A letter was sent to State regarding CARES Act funding.

City and Council made agreement of \$50,000 each for childcare. Understanding it will come out of CARES Act funding when it is received.

Wendy: what kinds of discussions are we having with other cities within Oregon to understand their perspectives? We might want to partner. Ben some discussion. First wave was regarding business assistance. Will follow up with Redmond, Sisters, LaPine and EDCO.

Councilor Piper: working with shared governance model. COIC as an intervener. Also bring in other agencies from different taxing districts. Ben: on agency side, there has been collaboration regarding children and schools. Councilor Piper said they have discussed in COCO, Central Oregon Cities Organization. Ben: could use OEDA, Erik Kancler is also doing this. Also Bend is part of a Bloomberg cohort so could tee up there too.

7. July 15 Council Quarterly Check-In | Ben Hemson

3 – 5 pm. Council will discuss changes to goals. Is anyone interested in sitting in and then present to BEDAB at next meeting. Mostly for questions and to listen. Is a virtual meeting. Stephanie Senner volunteered.

Policy setting has slowed down over last few months.

HB-3450 discussion at Advocacy later this month. Would allow rezoning of some commercial to residential.

New members: announcement out this week. Will keep open for a month. Keep sharing openings. Diversity of businesses/industries first, then DEI.

Stephanie: question about business registration and any Covid impacts. Ben will share on Friday email. A dip in April but has come back quickly. Our bigger budgetary concern is delay of City View.

8. Adjourned at 1:46 pm