

**CITY OF BASTROP
REGULAR BRIDGING BASTROP BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

MAY 14, 2026

The Bridging Bastrop Board met at a Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Bastrop City Hall Council Chambers, 1311 Chestnut Street, Bastrop, Texas, with the following action taken to wit:

Board Members Present

Chair Sheila Lowe
Karen Knight
Nancy Wood
Sandra Ervin
Mary Moody
Eboni Smith *(left at 6:20 pm)*

Staff Present

Assistant City Secretary Victoria Psencik
Human Resources Director Tanya Cantrell

Board Members Absent

Terika Taylor-Williams

City Council Members Present

Kerry Fossler

Other Board Members Present

Keith Ahlborn, Planning & Zoning Commission

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Lowe called the Regular Bridging Bastrop Board meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. with a quorum present.

2. CITIZEN COMMENT(S)

No comments were submitted.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

3A. Update and Discussion on Past Events:

- Springfest (CANCELED)
- Regular City Council Meeting
- Work in Bastrop Event
- Bird Lovers' Weekend
- Derby Day at the Museum
- World Labyrinth Day: Walk as One Event
- F.A.M.E. Days: Nest Fest

No formal action was taken on Item 3A.

3B. Update and Discussion on Upcoming Events:

- May 16 - Touch-a-Truck & Movie in the Park
- May 17 - Lost Pines Art Center Spring Gala

- May 20 - Sit with Sylvia
- May 26 - Regular City Council Meeting
- June 5 - F.A.M.E. Days: Freedom & Flourish
- June 9 - Regular City Council Meeting
- June 19 - Bastrop Juneteenth Banquet
- June 20 - Bastrop Juneteenth - Parade, Freedom Festival, Street Dance

No formal action was taken on Item 3B.

3C. **Additional Announcements and/or Events from individual Bridging Bastrop Board members.**

- May 19 – City Council Budget Workshop from 5:30 to 9:30 pm
- May 20 – Park Improvements Ribbon Cuttings – Fireman’s Park at 4:00 pm, Fisherman’s Park at 4:30 pm, and Delgado Park at 5:00 pm
- June 13 – Bastrop Juneteenth Essence of Beauty Pageant at 1:00 pm
- June 21 – The Walk of Love

No formal action was taken on Item 3C.

4. **REPORTS**

4A. **Post-event report on the Work in Bastrop Event held on April 30th.**

Board Chair Lowe reported the event had 187 attendees and 29 employers which was down from last year’s 296 attendees. The Board completed 30 surveys among the attendees. From the event, transportation was identified as the greatest barrier to employment, followed by childcare and lack of experience.

Board Chair Lowe stated discussion was had with Workforce Solutions and the Chamber of Commerce regarding moving the event date due to the many events happening around the same time. The event for next year will be Thursday, February 11, 2027 at the Convention Center with a Valentine theme of “Fall in Love with Your Next Career.” Marketing of the February 2027 event to begin in October 2026 to get the event out there. Board Members volunteering with planning for next year’s event: Nancy Wood, Mary Moody, Sandy Ervin, and Sheila Lowe.

Additional feedback included employers unable to attend in person to have “virtual presence” through QR code posters linking directly to their hiring sites.

No formal action was taken on Item 4A.

5. **WORKSHOP**

5A. **Discussion about the Accessibility Inventory Walk Initiative, including but not limited to the accessibility checklist.**

Ideas that were discussed during the workshop:

- The checklist is to be sent to Fleet & Facilities Director Doug Haggerty for review regarding ADA compliance standards
- Board Member Knight presented a condensed version of the checklist that will be submitted over to Director Haggerty
- Actual walk taking place in October 2026, finalizing the results in November 2026, and presenting it to the City Council at the December 8, 2026, meeting
- The goal is still to take an inventory of the city buildings and create a potential priority list from the actual walk.
- Focus on disability awareness overall and work on getting city buildings compliant and accessible to all
- The board planned to invite community members with disabilities to share their stories through video interviews starting in September
- Public Information Manager Colin Guerra will be invited to the next meeting to discuss production parameters and templates
- Videos will be displayed at City Hall, Convention Center, and the Library, with International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3rd) as the target awareness date.

No formal action was taken on Item 5A.

6. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

6A. Review, discussion, and possible action on the April 2026 Employment Reports from the City of Bastrop Human Resources Department.

Human Resources Director, Tanya Cantrell presented the April 2026 Employment Reports for the City of Bastrop. The board requested additional data tracking to understand why increased applicant diversity isn't translating to proportional hiring, particularly tracking interview rates by demographic.

No formal action was taken on Item 6A.

6B. Consider and act to approve the Bridging Bastrop Board Meeting minutes from the April 16, 2026, Regular Meeting.

MOTION: Board Member Wood moved to approve the Bridging Bastrop Board Meeting minutes from the April 16, 2026 Regular Meeting as presented. Board Member Moody seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6C. Individual Requests from Bridging Bastrop Board members for particular items to be listed on future agendas.

Individual Requests made by the Board Members:

- Invite Public Information Manager Colin Guerra to the June meeting
- Additional hiring information from Human Resources

No formal action was taken on Item 6C.

5. **WORKSHOP, continued**

5B. **Workshop discussion on the current Bridging Bastrop Board Work Plan and the priorities moving forward.**

GOAL 1: Engagement in activities forums, community gatherings, and events that promote mutual understanding, as well as encourage residents to connect with one another.

THEME: Lift Every Voice / Community Storytelling and Engagement

Key Actions: Engagement & Storytelling to Build Trust and Belonging – Voices of Bastrop

- Launch Community Storytelling initiative: Capture short video stories at events and post on social media. **(IN PROGRESS – disability awareness interviews)**
- Community events and activities – veterans, cultural, family, youth and seniors (Partner with BEDC & BISD to create a student training program in engineering as well as to connect students to City career opportunities.)
- Host Work in Bastrop events: Job training, hiring fairs, and skill-building programs. **(COMPLETED)**

GOAL 2: Create strategies to distribute information to people of different cultures in culturally appropriate ways.

THEME: Speak the Language of Community / Cultural Communication and Access

Key Actions: Culturally Responsive Communication & Resource Access – Language of Belonging

- Train Community Ambassadors: Liaisons from diverse cultural backgrounds to share resources and feedback. **(TABLED – ON HOLD)**
- Identify underserved areas in our community and their preferred method of communication, word of mouth and paper, then Facebook, Community Impact/utility bill inserts **(IN PROGRESS VIA SURVEYS – keep “preferred communication method” on the future surveys)**
- Build a Multilingual Resource Hub: Ensure translated, accessible info on city and partner websites. **(IN PROGRESS – explore website translation capabilities)**

GOAL 3: Work collaboratively with our partners.

THEME: Power in Partnership / Partner Collaboration and Shared Solutions

Key Actions: Strengthening Connections with Community Asset & Support Partners – Bridges not Silos or Better Together

- Launch Partner Spotlight Series: Monthly 1:1 interviews + articles with photo for FB and city site. **(IN PROGRESS – work with the organizations for video?)**
- Include the “partners list” on the new bridging Bastrop board web page on the city’s website (link to easy access) **(IN PROGRESS – work with City staff)**
- Publish successes and analytics on the Bridging Bastrop board web page (OpenGov)
- Collaborate to co-host community events (job fairs, housing/healthcare access events). **(IN PROGRESS – research potential partnership opportunities)**

No formal action was taken on Item 5B.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Upon receiving a motion and a second to adjourn, the May 14th Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m. without objection.

APPROVED:



Sheila Lowe, Bridging Bastrop Board Chair

ATTEST:



Victoria Psencik, Assistant City Secretary