

MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission
McNutt Room—Eugene City Hall—777 Pearl Street
Eugene, Oregon

October 19, 2011
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Josh Skov, Steve Newcomb, Chris Anglin, Jessica Bloomfield, Shawn Boles, Howard Bonnett, Art Farley, Dave Funk, Kathi Jaworski, Rusty Rexius, Stacy Vynne, Sue Wolling, Alan Zelenka, commissioners; Babe O’Sullivan, Matt McRae, City Manager’s Office.

ABSENT: None.

Mr. Skov called the October 19, 2011, meeting of the Sustainability Commission to order.

1. Opening – Agenda Review, Approval of Minutes

Ms. O’Sullivan reviewed the agenda and postponed item 8, *Rental housing code and energy efficiency* and substituted a discussion of social equity in its place.

Mr. Skov welcomed Ms. Vynne to the commission. Ms. Vynne shared some of her professional background, particularly as it related to the work of the commission.

Mr. Skov called for corrections to the September 21, 2011, minutes. Mr. Bonnett noted that Mr. Skov’s name was misspelled in the “Present” section on page 1.

Mr. Bonnett, seconded by Ms. Jaworski, moved to approve the September 21, 2011, minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously, 12:0.

2. Public Comment

Justin Schmik, a commercial real estate broker, shared information about “green leasing,” a method of incorporating the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) in the commercial leasing process. He recommended that the commission work with the City Council to develop green leasing policies for the City and suggested those policies should be in place before the City moved out of City Hall. He offered his assistance. Commissioners asked questions clarifying the information presented by Mr. Schmidt. Mr. Boles asked Mr. Schmidt to provide examples of such policies to staff. Ms. O’Sullivan reported that while the destination for City staff moving from City Hall had already been determined, there would be opportunities to apply such policies in the future.

Arlene Slattery did not support government oversight of rental properties through the Rental Housing Code. She suggested the market could serve the same function and that poor landlords attracted poor tenants. She said “you get what you pay for.” Landlords who did not maintain their properties did not get a good return.

3. Items from commission and staff

Mr. Anglin noted his interest in seeing the City incorporate the potential of community gardens in its planning and shared information about Denver's Urban Gardens Program. The program's goal was to have a community garden in every neighborhood. He suggested Denver's program could be a model for a local program.

Ms. Wolling had attended the Neighborhood Summit and the open house for the Regional Transportation Plan. She invited suggestions for persuading City Councilors to participate in bicycle rides to view bicycle improvements proposed for their wards in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan (PBMP). Ms. Bloomfield recommended Ms. Wolling contact the University of Oregon's Bike Program.

Ms. Jaworski had also attended Neighborhood Summit and discussed the EmX system with West Eugene residents who were working to organize community support for EmX. She anticipated they would seek the commission's support. She had attended the October 10 City Council work session on the Climate and Energy Action Plan and shared the commission's input with the council, and she and Mr. Skov had presented the commission's work plan to the council earlier that day. She said both sessions went well and thought the commission's input was well-received.

Ms. Jaworski said she was installing a solar array on her home through the Solarize Eugene Program and found there was a lack of financing for those who wish to install residential solar arrays. She recommended that the commission discuss ways to overcome the financing gap. She reported that the City of Pendleton had created a loan fund to provide zero percent loans to homeowners who installed solar arrays. Loan payments were scheduled to coincide with tax credits. Ms. Vynne said her organization was administering the grant that funded the Solarize Eugene Program and suggested that Program Lead Sara Mazzi present on the program to the commission at a future meeting.

Mr. Farley shared information about the Community Solar Tool, a web-based decision tool that evaluated a project's solar potential.

Mr. Skov indicated he would schedule a discussion about financing solar residential projects on a future agenda. He believed it would be a good long-term work plan item.

Mr. Farley also attended the Neighborhood Summit. He reported he had been researching the topic of food security and had reviewed the Lane County Food Security Assessment and found that other communities were doing many exciting things, such as organized gleaning.

Mr. Boles reported that the editor of the Senior and Boomer News indicated to him she had asked the commission for articles to include in the publication but had not heard back. Ms. O'Sullivan reminded the commission that she had passed on the request to members but had no response. Mr. Boles suggested the commission could work with some of its partners to generate articles that would be useful to readers and educate the community.

Mr. Zelenka arrived.

Mr. Boles commended the book *The Great Disruption* by Paul Gilding. Mr. Skov noted Mr. Gilding would visit Eugene soon.

Mr. Boles circulated *What a Carbon Price Means to You: The Pathway to a Clean Energy Future*, a pamphlet that provided information to Australian citizens about that country's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. He suggested it encapsulated what government should do to educate its citizens.

Mr. Bonnett had attended the public forum on the PBMP, which would go to the council soon. He said the council would also consider a list of projects recommended by the Street Repair Review Panel to be funded with the unexpended money from the Street Bond at a work session scheduled October 26.

Ms. Bloomfield had attended the earlier council work session and enjoyed the interaction between the commission and council. She reported she was working on a project to develop a Resilience Compact between counties and cities in the Willamette Valley, and there was considerable interest in a joint food initiative.

Ms. O'Sullivan reported on the *2050 Vision for Materials Management*, an initiative sponsored by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that sought to reduce environmental impacts by managing materials throughout their lifecycle, including extraction, production, use, and end-of-life management. She is participating on a stakeholder group DEQ had formed to develop the vision. She reported that she and Mr. McRae had attended a faculty colloquium that focused on climate change research. Ms. O'Sullivan wanted to build a stronger collaboration with faculty working on climate change, and suggested one opportunity could be a symposium about the relationship between climate change research and policy the colloquium planned to host in the spring. Mr. Boles asked that the commission be provided with the colloquium schedule.

Ms. O'Sullivan alerted the commission to the upcoming forum sponsored by EWEB entitled "Our Energy Future, Together We're Powerful."

Mr. Zelenka asked Ms. O'Sullivan to copy the City Council on the periodic reports she provided to the commission.

Mr. McRae reported that Richard Heinberg would return to Eugene for a speaking engagement in March 2012. Mr. McRae was working to arrange a meeting of topic specialists and participants in the development of CEAP to discuss progress, future opportunities, and possible barriers. He invited the commission to attend the meeting.

Mr. Skov encouraged commissioners to offer support for the innovative bicycle improvements the City was installing when they provided input to the council about the PBMP. He commended the work being done by the Oregon DEQ. Ms. O'Sullivan anticipated the lead DEQ staff would be part of a speaker series sponsored by the faculty colloquium.

4. Work Plan

The commission debriefed the presentation on the work plan to the City Council made earlier that day by Mr. Skov and Ms. Jaworski. Commissioners present at the work session noted the council's interest in the topic of food security. Mr. Boles recommended the commission subcommittee working on food security update Councilor Andrea Ortiz on its efforts after it had a more complete product. He regretted the council's focus on short-term economic costs. Ms. Jaworski said the commission had reminded the council it was charged to look at the long-term.

The commission discussed the council's request for changes to the work plan before it was approved, specifically the item referencing the Rental Housing Code. The council was seeking an approach more focused on incentives for increased energy efficiency than regulations. Mr. Skov and Mr. Zelenka agreed to revise the item in accordance with the council's discussion.

Mr. Boles reminded the commission of the item's relationship to EWEB's Integrated Electricity Resource Plan (IERP). The committee that advised EWEB on the IERP was concerned there were no mechanisms in place that made weatherization worthwhile for landlords. He suggested the commission's discussion focus on how the City could work with EWEB on that issue. Mr. Zelenka agreed.

Ms. O'Sullivan shared information about the Open Public Meetings law requirements as they applied to commission committees. She agreed to follow up on a question from Mr. Funk about whether meeting notes were required. The commission accepted a recommendation from Ms. O'Sullivan that the committees provide monthly reports to the commission to help it track progress on the work plan.

The commission discussed how it could provide input into upcoming council decisions such as the PBMP and accepted a suggestion from Ms. Jaworski that the commission identify a liaison for each decision to monitor the status of the item. Depending on the timing of the issue, the commission could respond by setting up temporary committees or communicating via e-mail.

Mr. Skov said he would coordinate with Mr. Bonnett on the commission's response to the PBMP and coordinate with Mr. Newcomb on the IERP. He would report back to the commission on the results of the upcoming CLUTAC meeting. He anticipated he would work with Mr. Boles and others on the commission's response to the staff recommendation to the council about the housing mix.

5. BREAK

Mr. Rexius left the meeting at the break.

6. Liaison Assignments

The commission accepted a recommendation from Mr. Boles that the liaisons approach their assigned organizations and share the commission's work plan with them to identify items of common interest where those organizations might "plug into" the work plan.

The commission reviewed and revised the current list of liaison assignments. Ms. Jaworski indicated she would send the revised list via e-mail to the commission and would ask members to indicate if there were assignments they wished to drop, to identify preferred assignments, and to suggest new liaisons.

7. Carbon Pricing

Mr. Skov noted the predominant approaches to carbon pricing in the form of "cap and trade" systems established at the regional/national level and carbon taxes. The purpose of such systems was to send a "price signal" so that decentralized market behavior helped to solve the climate crisis. Such systems were challenges to implement as one moved down in geographic scale. California would soon implement the world's second largest cap and trade system. While a municipal-scale system was almost unheard of, Mr. Skov suggested that there was policy momentum for such a system. The easiest way to implement a cap and trade system was to join the existing system of a bigger economy to which one was proximate. He suggested that the fact of the new California system in combination with a forward looking community such as Eugene created an opportunity for the commission to influence policy. He suggested that the commission spend some time outside of meetings educating itself on the topic with the goal of having a discussion about what the commission would ask the council to do.

Mr. Zelenka recommended that Ms. O’Sullivan secure the background materials prepared for the Council Subcommittee on Transportation Funding Solutions, which had considered various forms of a carbon tax.

Mr. Newcomb expressed skepticism about a Eugene-only approach during difficult economic times and suggested the commission instead consider incentives for carbon sequestration. Mr. Skov acknowledged the concern but suggested the commission could still ask the council to consider a regional approach.

Mr. Boles thought Mr. Newcomb’s point was well-taken but believed the commission could discuss how to set the stage for a broader carbon pricing system to produce more effective actions. He was concerned the problem would be exacerbated if the commission failed to address it. He did not think the City Council comprehended what society faced if nothing was done to stop climate change. He was willing to investigate the topic in more detail. Mr. Boles suggested the potential that someone might put forth a referendum on the topic.

Ms. Jaworski committed to learning more about the topic. She said she was happy to discuss the issues involved but did not want to presuppose an outcome. She did want to know what local actions could be taken.

Ms. Vynne recommended that the commission invite Janis Adair, formerly of the Western Climate Initiative, to talk about collaboration and a “bottom up” approach that linked local, state, and regional initiatives.

Mr. Bonnett believed there was little likelihood that climate change would be addressed at the national level.

Mr. Skov believed that the State legislature’s past effort to pass a cap and trade bill failed because legislators were unfamiliar with the concepts behind the system. He said that the commission could play roles in raising community consciousness on the topic and providing education.

Mr. Skov and Mr. Boles agreed to provide the commission with a reading list.

8. Social Equity

Ms. Jaworski suggested the commission consider the following questions: 1) what does the commission mean by social equity? 2) What items on the commission work plan were related to social equity considerations? 3) What are the implications of what the commission considered social equity and what did the commission plan to do around social equity issues that affected its next steps. She suggested the commission defer further discussion to the following month after commissioners completed the provided homework assignment. Commissioners offered to share various documents to inform that discussion. Commissioners agreed to complete the homework assignment and provide it to Ms. O’Sullivan.

9. Coordinated Land Use and Transportation Action Committee (CLUTAC)

Mr. Skov provided a brief history of the CLUTAC for new commissioners. He said the CLUTAC, a joint committee of the Sustainability and Planning commissions, was established to provide input on Envision Eugene and the West Eugene EmX corridor. He anticipated that the CLUTAC would focus its efforts in the near-term on EmX and in the future on other transportation issues. He did not anticipate the committee would be able to produce a recommendation in regard to Envision Eugene. He invited commissioners who had other issues that might be of interest to the CLUTAC and who were interested in

serving on the committee to contact him.

Mr. Boles recommended that Mr. Skov share the commission's work plan with the CLUTAC.

Ms. O'Sullivan suggested that the CLUTAC could be the forum for a broader discussion of sustainable transportation. Mr. Skov concurred.

10. Closing

Mr. Skov adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)