

MINUTES

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

November 16, 2011
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Josh Skov, Steve Newcomb, Jessica Bloomfield, Shawn Boles, Howard Bonnett, Art Farley, Dave Funk, Sue Wolling, Stacy Vynne, commissioners; Babe O’Sullivan, Matt McRae, City Manager’s Office; Kurt Yeiter, Public Works Department.

ABSENT: Chris Anglin, Kathi Jaworski, Rusty Rexius, Alan Zelenka, commissioners.

Mr. Skov called the November 16, 2011, meeting of the Sustainability Commission to order.

1. Opening – Agenda Review, Approval of Minutes

Mr. Skov reviewed the agenda. There were no changes.

Mr. Skov called for corrections to the October 19, 2011, minutes.

Mr. Funk, seconded by Mr. Bonnett, moved to approve the October 19, 2011, minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously, 9:0.

2. Public Comment

Mike Sullivan, Eugene Community Development Manager, solicited a letter of support from the commission for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) brownfields assessment grant. He reported that the City was applying for the grant in partnership with Springfield and Lane County. The grant would underwrite the cost of identifying and assessing brownfields and planning for their mediation. He promised to provide periodic updates of the work funded through the grant. He also solicited commission assistance with the identification and prioritization of the brownfields to be assessed.

Bill Ellis, Eugene Community Development Division, described the purpose of the grant and the three areas to be targeted for assessment, which included neighborhoods in West Eugene, Glenwood, and Goshen disproportionately affected by toxic emissions.

Commissioners asked questions clarifying the details of the work to be funded and noted the relationship between the effort to be funded by the grant and the Sustainable Communities grant, compact urban growth, and reduced emissions.

Mr. Boles, seconded by Mr. Funk, moved to sign a letter in support of the grant to be prepared by staff, reviewed by the co-chairs, and sent out to the commission for members to comment on if they so desire. The motion passed unanimously, 9:0.

3. Items from commission and staff

Mr. Skov acknowledged he had not sent out homework and apologized. He planned to send out homework on carbon taxes and carbon pricing. He reported that he dined the previous evening with Paul Gilding, author of *The Great Disruption*, and found his framing of the issues both compelling and fun. Mr. Skov also reported that the Coordinated Land Use and Transportation Action Committee (CLUTAC) met and the committee appeared to have some momentum.

Mr. Skov reported that he participated on a panel sponsored by the Oregon League of Conservation Voters to discuss the pros and cons of Lane Transit District's West Eugene EmX project. He characterized the discussion as vibrant and said Mia Nelson of 1,000 Friends of Oregon had done a good job in making the connections between land use and transportation in support of the project.

Mr. Funk discussed his liaison work, reporting he continued to stay in touch with the Neighborhood Leaders Council Committee on Sustainability, which was working on a Green Neighbors Fair. He and Mr. McRae had presented the Climate & Energy Action Plan (CEAP) to the Crest Drive Neighborhood Association.

Mr. Funk said pro-EmX residents continued to mobilize.

Ms. O'Sullivan reported that Mr. Zelenka had polled the council to its interest in a work session on a plastic bag ban and staff was awaiting the results of the poll. She reminded the commission of the proposed Willamette Valley Resilience Compact and said Mayor Kitty Piercy and Mr. Zelenka planned to attend a summit on the concept to be held in Salem on December 12.

Ms. Wolling spoke to her liaison assignment, reporting that the Downtown Neighbors was discussing how to address the needs of the homeless who spent time downtown without those needs taking up all the association's energy.

Ms. Wolling had coffee with Mr. Gilding earlier in the day and reported that Mr. Gilding had endorsed many of the items on the commission's work plan. She continued to monitor progress on the Pedestrian Bicycle Master Plan (PBMP) and had submitted testimony in support of the plan to the City Council. She reported that Councilor Andrea Ortiz had toured potential bicycle projects in her ward using a Pedi cab and had expressed support for the projects.

Mr. Farley had also had met with Mr. Gilding that day and reported that Mr. Gilding had recommended that Eugene focus on bicycling because of the community's size and past work on enhancing bicycle transportation.

Mr. Farley said he, Ms. Vynne, and Mr. Boles continued to meet as the Food Security Subcommittee. He noted that the annual Local Food Connection conference was scheduled for February 2012 and the subcommittee hoped to contribute to that effort.

Mr. Newcomb said he had attended and enjoyed the CEAP update meeting sponsored by Mr. McRae. Speaking to *The Great Disruption*, he observed that indigenous people in the United States had stories of several great disruptions that preceded European settlement often caused by environmental disruptions that forced people to move to other locations.

Mr. Boles had also met with Mr. Gilding and heard his presentation. He found the first half of Mr. Gilding's book and argument compelling, but Mr. Gilding offered what Mr. Boles considered to be "a lot of hand waving" in regard to solutions. Mr. Boles thought Mr. Gilding's advice to do the best work

possible even though one might be cynical about the outcome was largely good advice.

Mr. Boles reported that when asked what local jurisdictions could do to move in the right direction, Mr. Gilding had suggested that the community celebrate the activities that supported the right direction, such as an award to sustainable businesses awarded jointly by the Sustainability Commission and chamber of commerce. Another suggestion was to reprogram existing dollars in support of transition. Mr. Boles considered Mr. Gilding's visit a sign of progress. He reported that he had met with Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Ellis to discuss how to integrate food into the industrial plan cluster for economic development, which he also considered that a sign of progress. Mr. Boles had attended the CEAP update meeting and had been surprised by how people remained involved. He thanked Mr. McRae.

Mr. Funk reported that he, Ms. O'Sullivan, and Carolyn Stein of BRING's Re:Think Program were meeting with Mayor Piercy to evolve the Bold Steps Toward Sustainability Award into a joint Chamber-City awards program. Mr. Boles advocated for the Sustainability Commission to be involved in the program so that it could gain "cachet by propinquity" with the council regarding its recommendations about economic development activities.

Ms. Vynne anticipated the Food Security Subcommittee would identify key groups working on food issues in Eugene and Lane County and schedule informal interviews with those groups to better understand what they were doing, what they needed, and what kind of services the commission could provide them. The subcommittee would meet with representatives of Lane County in December to discuss the County's actions regarding the topic.

Ms. Vynne reported she attended a brownbag discussion sponsored by the Sustainable Cities Initiative with Mike Houck, Executive Director of the Urban Greenspaces Institute and a co-founder of the Intertwine Alliance, a six-county initiative working on a regional system of parks, trails, and natural areas in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington. Mr. Houck had recommended to attendees that "mini-intertwines" be developed throughout the Willamette Valley. She said Willamalane Park and Recreation District staff were present and were very interested in the concept.

Ms. Vynne also participated in the CEAP update meeting.

Speaking to the PBMP, Mr. Bonnett reported that the City Council held a work session on the plan and councilors had been very receptive to its recommendations. The council would likely accept the plan in early 2012 but nothing would be formally adopted until Eugene's Transportation System Plan (TSP) was adopted. He suggested that now was the time to propose additional amendments to the BPMP. Commissioners briefly discussed the timing of the commission's input.

Senior Transportation Planner Kurt Yeiter assured the commission that staff did not intend to drop all work on the PBMP pending adoption of the TSP, and anticipated staff would request more money from the council to fund the projects in the PBMP. He encouraged the commissioners to comment if they believed there were projects in the PBMP that should be elevated in priority for funding in the TSP, and also encouraged them to comment on the balance of modal interests reflected in the draft TSP.

Mr. Farley urged the commission to argue for a change in the focus of transportation spending. Mr. Boles concurred. He suggested the TSP represented an "intervention point" where the commission could provide policy recommendations leading to the reprogramming of funding from exclusive support of the automobile to combined support for automobile and alternative modes and ultimately to exclusive support of alternative modes. He said the commission needed to initiate that conversation as he believed exclusive support of alternative modes was a reasonable policy position to take given that global warming was real and was here. He added that Mr. Gilding had recommended that people not speak of global

warming as though it was in the future, but to assume it was happening now in all their conversations.

Mr. Bonnett visited with David Suzuki and reported he had asked him for advice on how the United States and Canada should proceed. Dr. Suzuki had little hope for action at the national level in either country and he pinned his hopes on local action; his major concern was that local action would take too long. Dr. Suzuki stated that people were made of the same materials as the earth and so he urged them to adopt strong environmental protections to avoid poisoning themselves. He also indicated that Canadian politicians looked at the parallel movement between population growth and GDP growth and concluded that the best thing to do for the economy was to increase the population. Mr. Bonnett observed that David Suzuki suggested that the end point of such behavior was extinction.

Ms. Bloomfield had also met with Mr. Gilding as well as Mr. Houck. She reported she had met earlier that day with Mike Hogle, Research Director of Metro in Portland, who solicited assistance from the Sustainable Cities Initiative about how University of Oregon faculty and students could assist his agency with the greenhouse gas scenario planning process related to transportation planning.

Ms. Bloomfield had also had attended the CLUTAC meeting and thought it had been a great meeting.

Ms. Bloomfield concluded by reporting on the Sustainable City Year Program, a program of the Sustainable Cities Initiative that provided Oregon cities with students who worked on sustainable projects in those communities. She recalled that Eugene had applied unsuccessfully in 2010, and the Sustainable Cities Initiative hoped it applied again; applications were due in January 2012. Ms. O'Sullivan anticipated staff would discuss submitting an application. She noted that participation required some financial participation on the part of the City.

Mr. McRae said he continued to review the input he received at the CEAP update meeting and would provide a summary to the commission. He noted that there were about 50 people in attendance, which suggested there was still interest in the plan among stakeholders. Most of the feedback he received was positive.

Mr. McRae reported that he has making progress in getting information from Energy Trust of Oregon about the dollars spent in Oregon on the conservation of natural gas.

Mr. McRae alerted the commission to the Solarize Eugene Program, a program overseen by the Resource Innovation Group with funds from EWEB. The program supported solar installations on residences. The City supported the effort. He reported that the issue of solar access had arisen in the context of conflicts between such installations with the shade created by the urban forest. He expected that to continue to be an issue.

Mr. Farley recalled that Mr. Gilding had suggested the formulation of a "gross happiness measure" as opposed to a GDP measure, and suggested that the commission look into the work Sustainable Seattle had done on the topic as a model for Eugene.

4. Liaison Assignments

The commission reviewed a document entitled *Sustainability Commission community liaisons 11/20/11 update*. The document summarized the commission's October discussion about the role of community liaisons and listed the liaison organizations and commissioner assignments. Commissioners confirmed the assignments for which members had volunteered.

The commission briefly discussed the need for material that liaisons could employ in presentations to other organizations. Mr. Funk recommended the commission charge the Communications Subcommittee in reviewing existing material and developing new material. There was general agreement. Mr. Skov suggested that Ms. O'Sullivan send out existing material for the commission to review and discuss in December.

5. BREAK

6. Social Equity

The commission was joined by Ken Neubeck, Vice Chair of the Eugene Human Rights Commission, and Raquel Wells, Human Rights and Equity Manager. They provided a presentation entitled "*A Look at Human Rights Framework Implementation Work at the Municipal Level.*" Ms. Wells first described the evolution of the Human Rights Program. Mr. Neubeck then provided an overview of the Human Rights Framework, noted its origin in the Universal Declaration of Rights, and related the framework to the services provided by the City organization to low-income residents. He shared the principles guiding the implementation of the framework, which included 1) providing human rights education; 2) being proactive in the City's human rights efforts; 3) addressing human rights concerns/issues; 4) ensure active public participation; 5) being transparent and open; and 6) publicly accountable for progress. He reported the Human Rights Ordinance was being revised by the City Council to reflect the principles in the Human Rights Framework.

Mr. Neubeck shared the commission's work plan priorities. They included 1) connecting with Sustainability Commission and other groups; 2) work group focused on youth; 3) work group focused on homelessness; 4) work group focused on integrating immigrant communities; and 5) work groups focused on hate/bias/individual and systemic racism. He suggested that item 3, the work group on homelessness, could be a point of connection for the HRC and Sustainability Commission, and noted that the HRC had agreed to focus on creating access to bathrooms for homeless people. He pointed out that issue touched on public health, sanitation, and pollution, which were somewhat related to environmental protection as well as social equity.

Ms. Wells concluded the presentation by encouraging the HRC and Sustainability Commission to work together and determine where their efforts connected.

Mr. Newcomb recommended that the two commissions develop some shared talking points that addressed key topics related to reshaping Eugene as a more sustainable, livable place from a human rights perspective. He identified EmX and transportation as other potential areas of common interest.

Ms. Bloomfield believed that everything the Sustainability Commission did had a relationship to human rights. She agreed that the two commissions should partner on topics such as EmX.

Mr. Boles recommended the two commissions send a parallel synchronized message to the City Council that it needed to reprogram transportation dollars to address the transportation needs of all members of community, not just some.

Mr. Funk observed that every item in the Sustainability Commission's work plan matrix had a relationship to social equity. He asked how the HRC measured success in regard to its work plan. Mr. Neubeck acknowledged that the HRC had yet to fully grapple with that issue and welcomed the commission's assistance.

Speaking to the question raised by Mr. Funk, Mr. Boles suggested one metric for the HRC to consider was the physical concentration of social services in the community.

Mr. Skov said for many people sustainability was a human rights issue. For example, when he thought of bicycle and pedestrian issues, he thought of them in terms of human rights because they were issues about access and economic justice. He asked about the HRC's interest in a shared work plan item focused on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and access. Mr. Skov said the phrase "climate equity" was gaining currency, and people increasingly saw anthropogenic climate change as a social equity issue.

Ms. Wells said it was important that the two commissions understand each other's languages, and that would take time and relationship building. She said it was also important to test the impacts of the commissions' recommendations with those in the community who would actually feel their effects but might not be aware of the commissions' existence.

Mr. Farley suggested that the two commissions overlay the Human Rights Framework onto the Triple Bottom Line to determine shared points of interest and prioritize them for discussion.

Mr. Funk believed it was important the two commissions were closely aligned. He suggested a more intense joint effort modeled on the CLUTAC might be appropriate.

Ms. Vynne suggested the two commissions could embark on a joint project based on one in Multnomah County, which involved identification of the populations positively or negatively impacted by every action item in that county's climate and energy action plan.

Mr. Skov identified Envision Eugene and EmX as upcoming council decisions on which the two commissions could provide social equity recommendations.

Mr. Neubeck volunteered to serve as the contact person for the HRC.

7. Sustainable Transportation Assessment Rating System (STARS)

Mr. Yeiter and the commission debriefed the October STARS training.

8. Closing

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

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)