

MINUTES

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

May 16, 2012
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Kathi Jaworski, Jessica Bloomfield, Howard Bonnett, Art Farley, David Funk, Steve Newcomb, Sue Wolling, Alan Zelenka, commissioners; Babe O’Sullivan, Matt McRae, City Manager’s Office.

ABSENT: Shawn Boles, Rusty Rexius, Josh Skov, members.

Ms. Jaworski called the May 16, 2012, meeting of the Sustainability Commission to order.

1. Opening – Agenda Review, Approval of Minutes

Ms. Jaworski reviewed the agenda. She called for corrections to the April 18, 2012, minutes.

Mr. Farley, seconded by Mr. Bonnett, moved to approve the April 18, 2012, minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously, 7:0 (Mr. Zelenka not yet having arrived at the meeting).

2. Public Comment

Patricia Hickson and **Allie Kemp** from the University of Oregon student group “Live Move” shared information about their advocacy for the West Eugene EmX route and thanked the commission for being a positive voice of support for the route. They solicited feedback for the message they sought to deliver and invited suggestions for other groups to reach out to. Mr. Funk encouraged the students to focus on the fact the system was being designed for the future rather than today. Ms. Wolling encouraged the students to voice their preference for a lifestyle that was not car-dependent. Commission suggestions for outreach included the Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce, and Eugene Human Rights Commission.

Mr. Zelenka arrived during public comment.

3. Items from commission and staff

Ms. Wolling congratulated Mr. Farley for the “Turtle” award he would receive from the City Club later in the week. She had presented on the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP) to the Whiteaker Community Council.

Mr. Zelenka distributed copies of a Clean Air Cities resolution that originated with the Center for Biological Diversity and which he had modified for adoption in Eugene. He noted some of the cities that adopted similar resolutions. He invited feedback on the resolution. He anticipated the council would consider the resolution soon.

Mr. Zelenka referred the commission to the “Climate Change in the American Mind” survey conducted by Yale University and shared some of the results, which showed a slight increase in the number of people who accepted climate change.

Mr. Zelenka anticipated he would ask the council to consider a resolution regarding coal trains and requested assistance in its development. Ms. O’Sullivan recalled that the students of the Climate Justice League had provided the commission with a draft resolution at a previous meeting that Mr. Zelenka could consult as a model. Mr. Bonnett and Ms. Bloomfield offered their assistance.

Mr. Zelenka anticipated the council would consider a plastic bag ban soon.

Mr. Newcomb reported that he and Ms. Jaworski met with Linda Hamilton and Richie Weinman of the Human Rights Commission (HRC) and Tom Schwetz and John Evans of the Lane Transit District (LTD) to discuss the West Eugene EmX route. They had a good conversation and discussed the areas of concern to the HRC. He said the LTD representatives had been clear in their goals to improve service and the need for dedicated lanes to do so. He had hoped to arrange for a meeting of the HRC and the LTD representatives so the full commission could hear the facts. Mr. Zelenka indicated he had asked HRC staff to invite LTD Board member Greg Evans to an HRC meeting to discuss the social equity aspects of the issue.

Ms. Jaworski noted the HRC had met the previous night and failed to achieve a quorum. The HRC would not hold a regular meeting until September. It was up to the HRC to determine the next steps. However, she believed that the discussion had set the stage for future collaborative efforts between the Sustainability Commission and the HRC. Mr. Zelenka did not anticipate the council would discuss EmX until September or October at earliest.

Mr. McRae offered as a sign of progress the Oregon Department of Transportation’s Climate Adaptation Strategy, which was released earlier that day.

Ms. O’Sullivan said she and Mr. McRae had attended the first meeting of the Cascadia Regional Urban Sustainability Directors Network in Seattle. Attendees discussed climate adaptation in the Cascadia region. She commended the event and anticipated future fruitful discussions. Among the subjects touched on was how to engage with the region’s asset managers about the risks that climate change posed. Mr. McRae added that he had presented to professional engineers at a statewide conference earlier in the month and his remarks had been well-received.

Ms. O’Sullivan reported on her recent attendance at a meeting of the West Coast Forum on Materials Management in Portland. She led the forum’s research work group and reported that the work group had been able to update the forum on the status of several research topic areas ranging from changing consumer and producer behavior to the implications of landfill management. She reminded the commission that the forum had initially been focused on waste but over time had evolved into a more holistic discussion of the production and waste cycles and how their greenhouse impacts could be reduced.

Ms. O’Sullivan noted that six candidates for the commission’s vacancies had been interviewed and the council would make appointments on June 11.

Mr. Zelenka said the governor would release the State Ten-Year Energy Plan on June 1.

Ms. Jaworski expressed interest in seeing the agendas and work plans of other Oregon cities' sustainability advisory bodies.

4. Food Initiatives

Mr. Farley reminded the commission of its April discussion and referred commissioners to a letter to the council from the commission prepared by himself, Mr. Boles, and former commissioner Stacy Vynne regarding potential actions the City of Eugene could take to support local food. He reviewed the letter.

The commission briefly discussed the letter and offered some suggestions for changes to Mr. Farley, who agreed to incorporate them into the letter and email it to commissioners for final review.

Ms. O'Sullivan recommended that the commission request a work session on the topic with the City Council. Mr. Zelenka endorsed the recommendation, saying such a session might be a way of spurring progress on the issue of a location for a farmers market, and agreed to make the work session request.

6. Envision Eugene

Mr. Zelenka provided an update on the council work session held earlier in the day on the City Manager's recommendations regarding Envision Eugene. He had raised four issues during the work session, including the housing ratio, the industrial land acreage need and its relationship to actions contemplated by Lane County regarding industrial land, the potential of development in the Russell Creek/Lane Community College basin, and the possibility of including the airport inside the urban growth boundary (UGB). He said many councilors had expressed interest in the Russell Creek/LCC basin due to the campus planning that LCC had been doing, which included the provision of student housing.

5. Street Repair Bond Measure Renewal

Mr. Bonnett reported that the City Council would hold a work session on June 27 to discuss the Street Repair Review Panel's recommendation that it ask the voters to renew the street repair bond measure. The recommendation would maintain the tax rate at the current level. He said staff prepared a list of street projects to be funded by the bond revenues and allocated six percent for alternate mode projects, or approximately \$2.5 million.

Commissioners briefly discussed the funding allocated for alternate mode projects and a suggestion from Mr. Zelenka that the allocation be more specifically focused on the implementation of the project list in the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP). Mr. Bonnett and Ms. Wolling explained how the City had managed the funding allocated for alternate mode projects and leveraged other funds and projects to make additional alternate mode improvements. Mr. Bonnett advocated for flexibility and a longer term focus on projects that encouraged additional bicycle ridership, such as bicycle boulevards on low traffic streets.

The commission then briefly discussed sending a letter in support of the panel's recommendation, and Ms. Wolling agreed to draft a letter for the commission's review in June.

7. BREAK

Mr. Zelenka left the meeting for another obligation.

8. Work Plan review

Ms. O'Sullivan led the commission through a spreadsheet detailing the status of items on the work plan. Commissioners asked questions clarifying the details of the spreadsheet and offered minor revisions, which were recorded by Ms. O'Sullivan.

9. Retreat planning

The commission planned its upcoming retreat, tentatively scheduled for July 14.

10. Closing: next meeting, other follow-up

The next commission meeting was scheduled for June 20, 2012.

Ms. Jaworski adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)