

MINUTES

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

June 20, 2012
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Kathi Jaworski, Chair; Steve Newcomb, Vice Chair; Shawn Boles, Howard Bonnett, Art Farley, David Funk, Josh Skov, Sue Wolling, Alan Zelenka, commissioners; Babe O’Sullivan, Matt McRae, Keli Osborn, City Manager’s Office.

ABSENT: Jessica Bloomfield, Rusty Rexius, members.

Ms. Jaworski called the June 20, 2012, meeting of the Sustainability Commission to order. She welcomed incoming commissioner Sasha Luftig.

1. Opening – Agenda Review, Approval of Minutes

Ms. Jaworski reviewed the agenda. She added the commission’s letter to the council regarding the street repair bond measure to the agenda as item 7 and renumbered the remaining items accordingly.

Ms. Jaworski called for corrections to the May 16, 2012, minutes.

Mr. Farley, seconded by Mr. Skov, moved to approve the May 16, 2012, minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously, 7:1:0; Mr. Boles abstaining because he was not present at the meeting.

2. Public Comment

There was no one present wishing to offer public comment.

3. Items from Commissioners and staff

Mr. Funk noted that General Motors had its 100th zero-waste facility in operation. He reported the City was attempting to organize some of its sustainability messages more effectively and he was assisting in that effort. He had a new liaison from the Neighborhood Leaders Council Sustainability Subcommittee. Mr. Funk said he was also working with Ms. Jaworski and Mr. Farley on an op-ed piece on 20-minute neighborhoods.

Ms. Wolling reported she had scheduled a bicycle ride with City Councilor Chris Pryor to look at bicycle needs throughout his ward. She said that GEARS was planning to recycle the trash at its annual Blackberry Bramble event. She reported that the Downtown Neighborhood Association was dealing with the influx of people on downtown streets. She concluded by saying she and her neighbors had constructed a chicken coop.

Mr. Zelenka reported he had appointed Dawn Lesley to the Sustainability Commission. He noted that Ms. Jaworski, Mr. Bonnett, and Mr. Boles had all been reappointed to the commission; one council appointment remained to be filled. Ms. O'Sullivan added that the council had appointed Sara Mazze and Ms. Luftig to one-year vacancies and they would be eligible to reapply the following year.

Mr. Skov quoted from an analysis that appeared on the NREL Web site that indicated that renewal electricity generation from technologies commercially available today, in combination with a more flexible electric system, was more than adequate to supply 85 percent of total United States electricity generation in 2015 while meeting demand on an hourly basis in every region.

Mr. Skov reported a former student working in the photo voltaic (PV) development field had told him about the falling costs of PVs, which made him optimistic. Mr. Zelenka noted that PV panel costs had dropped more than 40 percent in the last year.

Mr. Skov had attended the International Sustainable Campus Network Conference at the University of Oregon the previous day and found it very interesting. Jason McLennan of the Cascadia Green Building Council gave an inspiring talk about the "Living Building Challenge" certification and shared information about the number of certified projects built across the world.

Ms. Luftig said the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was seeking new members, and invited commissioners to send her suggestions for candidates.

Mr. Funk recommended that commission members advocate for better bicycle facilities be included in the South Willamette street improvement project.

Mr. Boles had attended a presentation by the landscape architecture students working on the Farmers Market project. Commissioner Faye Stewart had attended the event as well and had pointed out the legal constraints associated with the use of the butterfly parking lot. The design studio had many good ideas but student had been unconstrained by cost considerations and he thought it unlikely any of the ideas could be implemented for a reasonable amount.

Mr. Boles suggested that another commission assume his duties as liaison to the County Board of County Commissioners because he was frustrated by what he interpreted as a lack of acceptance of global warming by commissioners. Ms. Jaworski suggested that Mr. Boles provide the board with a copy of the book *What's the Worse that Could Happen?* Mr. Boles asked that Ms. Jaworski provide the commission with more information about the book.

Mr. Boles said that SPROUT, NEDCO's project to start a year-round farmers market and commercial kitchen in Springfield, was going well. Raffles were being held at the market to raise funds and the next raffle was scheduled for July 13. He recommended the Springfield Farmers Market to the commission.

Mr. Bonnett planned to attend the next BPAC meeting to discuss implementation of a mechanism that would allow the committee to provide input into selecting new alternate modes projects for the next bond measure.

Mr. McRae called attention to several upcoming events and indicated he would provide a follow-up e-mail with dates and times.

Mr. McRae noted that 120 people were at the recent "Designing Communities" event and it was exciting to see the community's interest.

Ms. Jaworski had attended the Designing Communities event and said it was a standing room only occasion.

Mr. McRae noted the recent “Kidical Mass” Family Bike Camping Trip” held on June 16-17, reporting that 25 families had ridden their bicycles from Monroe Park to Armitage Park.

Mr. McRae reported that the City’s commercial stormwater retrofit program was underway. The City was partnering with the Long Tom Watershed on some demonstration retrofit projects in parking lots and big commercial spaces.

Ms. O’Sullivan said that she and Mr. McRae were working with other staff on an update of the City’s Internal Climate Action Plan (ICAP) and had produced a progress report for the executive management team that she promised to share with the commission via e-mail. She reported that unlike the community picture, trends for key metrics did not look good and staff was discussing how to get on track to meet the organization’s internal goals. Mr. Boles determined from Ms. O’Sullivan that some departments did better than others, and that the Fire and Police departments’ gasoline use were driving the upward trends. There had been progress with electricity and natural gas use.

The commission debriefed a recent event focused on the intersection of health and transportation. Ms. Jaworski believed that the commission could build on that message and promised to bring the issue up again at the retreat.

Ms. Jaworski said she and Ms. O’Sullivan had met with Mayor Piercy and Mr. Zelenka to discuss the work plan. She would share more of the input they received at the retreat.

Ms. Jaworski said her neighborhood association, the Northeast Neighbors, was applying for a SNAP grant with the goal of making the neighborhood a 20-minute neighborhood.

Mr. Newcomb said there were new charging stations at the Eugene Water & Electric Board’s Roosevelt offices. He said that the agency was working with the hazelnut growers in the McKenzie basin to convert their orchards to organic production and reduce overall pesticide use in the basin.

Mr. Newcomb provided an update on EWEB’s budgetary situation and its impact on services and conservation programs. Several commissioners expressed concern about reductions in EWEB’s conservation programs. Ms. O’Sullivan agreed to share the materials for the joint meeting scheduled between the EWEB commissioners and the City Council on July 10 with the commission.

4. CLUTAC

Mr. Skov provided an update on the Coordinated Land Use and Transportation Advisory Committee (CLUTAC). He referred to the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) assessment of the West Eugene EmX route produced by the committee and asked the commission to consider what it wished to forward to the council. He briefly outlined the structure of the analysis. He was unsure of the next steps in the process and whether the Planning and Sustainability commissions could come together with a joint statement. He believed the commission should consider such a statement even if it could not come to agreement with the Planning Commission.

Mr. Skov acknowledged that the analysis was unlikely to be accepted by those already opposed to the West Eugene EmX route.

Mr. Boles encouraged Mr. Skov to revise the analysis by putting route in context of the larger system plan. He also noted that the plan was predicated on immediate funding, and if that did not happen the project would not happen.

Ms. Jaworski thanked Mr. Skov for his work on the document. She suggested that the analysis was most appropriately directed at those without a firm position about the route.

Ms. Jaworski asked for volunteers to continue to work on the analysis and identify next steps. Commissioners agreed that Ms. Luftig, Ms. Bloomfield, and Ms. Wolling would continue to work on the analysis with Ms. O'Sullivan's assistance and provide it to the Planning Commission for its review.

5. BREAK

6. City Council Report

Mr. Zelenka reported that the City Council had adopted Envision Eugene with a 55:45 single-family/multi-family housing ratio. He had unsuccessfully attempted to bridge the gap between those favoring a 45:55 ratio and those favoring a 55:45 ratio by proposing a 52:48 ratio. He reported that the council would discuss the proposed street repair bond measure on July 9. Mr. Zelenka recalled the community support for the last bond, which had been based on the way the measure was structured, which had geographically dispersed projects that affected every part of town. He hoped to have a similar specific bicycle-pedestrian project list. He believed the council would support the measure.

Mr. Zelenka reported that he had submitted two resolutions to the council for action, one opposing the passage of coal trains through Eugene and one calling for the use of the Clean Air Act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He distributed copies of the resolutions and thanked commissioners for their input. He briefly reviewed the two resolutions. Mr. Zelenka anticipated the council would discuss the resolutions soon and encouraged the commission to attend the public forum scheduled for June 25 to express their support for the resolutions.

Mr. Boles, seconded by Mr. Funk, moved that the Sustainability Commission approve the resolution calling for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act. The motion passed unanimously, 8:0.

Mr. Zelenka provided a brief update on the City's effort to find the Farmers Market a permanent home.

7. Letter regarding bond measure

The commission reviewed a letter to the City Council regarding the street repair bond measure that had been drafted by Ms. Wolling on its behalf and offered suggestions for changes. Mr. Bonnett and Ms. Wolling agreed to revise the letter in accordance with the commission's discussion.

8. New commission appointments

Ms. Jaworski noted the appointment of the new commissioners. New commissioners would be oriented soon. Ms. Jaworski asked the commission to consider the following question so she could share their responses with the new commissioners: What do you wish you had known when you joined the commission that you only figured out after you had served for a while?

9. Retreat planning

The commission planned for its retreat, scheduled for July 28 at the Hilyard Community Center. Ms. O'Sullivan reported that Cliff Jones of the Nonprofit Association of Oregon would facilitate the retreat. She previewed the agenda for the retreat.

11. Closing: next meeting, other follow-up

Ms. Jaworski thanked Mr. Skov, Mr. Farley, and Chris Anglin for their service on the commission. She noted Mr. Farley's recent receipt of the Turtle Club for his service on behalf of the community and congratulated him for that award.

The next commission meeting was scheduled for July 18, 2012.

Ms. Jaworski adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)