

MINUTES

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

January 19, 2011
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Josh Skov, Chair; Howard Bonnett, Teresa Brand, David Funk, Steve Newcomb, Rusty Rexius, Will Shaver, commissioners; Babe O’Sullivan, Matt McRae, City Manager’s Office; Kurt Yeiter, Transportation Division.

ABSENT: Josh Bruce, Lisa Arkin, Shawn Boles, Kathy Jaworski, Alan Zelenka, commissioners.

Mr. Skov called the meeting of the Eugene Sustainability Commission to order.

1. Opening: agenda review, minutes approval

There were no changes to the agenda.

Mr. Bonnett requested changes in the minutes for the December 15 meeting.

Mr. Shaver, seconded by Mr. Bonnett, moved to approve the December 15, 2010, minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public comment

Lorraine Kerwood and **Ken Neubeck** of the Eugene Human Rights Commission invited the Sustainability Commission to participate in a City-sponsored training for boards and commissions on how to implement a Human Rights Framework in Eugene. The training was scheduled for February 15 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Studio One at the Hult Center. Mr. Skov suggested that the Sustainability Commission prepare a brief summary of how the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) analysis tool had been used to date to inform the trainers. Ms. O’Sullivan indicated she would follow up with Human Rights Commission staff.

Phil Carroll, 1054 Van Buren Street, recommended that the commission’s discussions of land use and transportation include more focus on parking and parking supply management. He shared copies of a report from University of California - Berkeley that attempted to quantify the number of parking spaces in the United States and extrapolate the greenhouse gas impact of those spaces. Mr. Carroll also shared an op-ed piece he authored for *The Register-Guard* calling for the abolition of the City’s minimum parking standards. He encouraged the commission to keep the issue in mind as it reviewed transportation-related planning efforts.

Kurt Yeiter, Transportation Planning, invited the commission to complete the survey that appeared on the City’s Transportation System Plan (TSP) Update Web page.

Responding to a question from Mr. Rexius, Mr. Yeiter confirmed that the TSP would be informed by the outcome of the Envision Eugene process. The City’s 20-year land use development plan could not be

approved by the State without a transportation plan. He described the work done to date on the TSP. He confirmed, in response to a question from Mr. Rexius, that the TSP was designed to accommodate the zoning shifts that might result from the Envision Eugene process.

Mr. Rexius asked what happened if modeling indicated projected trips would exceed trip allowances. Mr. Yeiter indicated the City had some options. He added that increasingly, cities were running into that situation. Over time, it no longer was feasible to widen roads to accommodate more vehicles. He suggested that the City's options included pushing people into other modes or accepting higher levels of congestion. He acknowledged there were air quality implications to the latter approach, but suggested improvements in vehicle efficiency and an increase in the use of electric vehicles could mitigate those.

Mr. Skov asked Mr. Yeiter to return to the commission at a later time to talk about how the commission could influence the TSP and that he continue to update the commission on the progress of the TSP. He recommended the Envision Eugene to Mr. Yeiter as a model for engaging divergent views on a topic. He suggested the process could also serve a caution about the danger of waiting until late in a process to introduce data and modeling results.

3. Items from commissioners and staff

Mr. Shaver had attended the first TSP Update Department Advisory Committee meeting. He invited input from the commissioners about changes they would like to see made to the current TSP or other issues of concern related to the document. Mr. Skov scheduled further discussion of the TSP Update as an agenda item for a future meeting.

Mr. Rexius had spoken to the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce about his perspective on the commission's work plan items related to land use and transportation and the relationship of those topics to the Envision Eugene process and the discussion occurring in that venue about densities and transportation corridor development. He was encouraged by the reception his remarks received.

Mr. Rexius continued to participate in the Envision Eugene process. Four more meetings of the Community Resource Group (CRG) were scheduled. City Manager Jon Ruiz was scheduled to present his recommendations to the City Council on February 28. City Manager Ruiz had recently presented the "Seven Pillars" of the Envision Eugene process to the council; they represented the high priority areas of action for the CRG. Mr. Rexius anticipated that the Seven Pillars would form the basis of the manager's recommendations to the City Council. He reviewed the Seven Pillars for the benefit of the commission.

Mr. Rexius concluded by saying that the CRG had formed four subgroups, including an economic development subgroup focused on industrial/commercial acreage; a mixed use development subgroup focused on how to plan for the proper application of mixed-use development, primarily along transportation corridors; a neighborhood livability subgroup; and a technical resource subgroup which was examining the numbers in the Eugene Comprehensive Land Assessment. Those four subgroups would report to City Manager Ruiz soon.

Mr. Newcomb had met with Holly LeMasurier and Raquel Wells of the City's Equity and Human Rights Program to discuss the connections between the work of the Sustainability and Human Rights commissions and a possible joint meeting date. He would work with Mr. Skov to schedule the meeting.

Mr. Newcomb shared information about water levels on the McKenzie River and local reservoirs that he tied to climate change.

Mr. Bonnett circulated a copy of *Storms of my Grandchildren: The Truth About the Coming Climate Catastrophe and Our Last Chance to Save Humanity* by James Hansen.

Mr. Bonnett had met with Mr. Newcomb, Brad Taylor, and Jeannine Parisi of the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) to discuss his concerns about the Veneta water contract. He believed an outcome of the discussions about the contract should be a regional water planning effort, but he did not know the mechanism to begin that process.

While he believed EWEB was correct to attempt to perfect its water rights, Mr. Funk felt that the utility had been insufficiently creative in its negotiations with Veneta as he believed it could have incorporated vehicle miles traveled (VMT) mitigation into the contract. Regarding the subject of regional water planning, Mr. Funk suggested that EWEB was not in a position to initiate such a plan but Lane County could.

Mr. Funk noted he was serving on two United Way committees because of his role as the commission's liaison.

Ms. Brand reported she would be working on the Regional Transportation Options Plan through her employment with the Lane Transit District (LTD). She also announced the upcoming Green Home Show at the Lane County Fairgrounds and an Electrical Vehicle Forum at the upcoming Portland Auto Show. A food justice conference at the University of Oregon was scheduled on February 19-21. The conference was free.

Ms. O'Sullivan reported that the City received ten applications for the commission's vacancy. She asked the commission if it wished to review the applications or if commissioners would like to offer the council some criteria for needed or desired expertise they would like to see in a new member. She reminded the commission its bylaws called for student representation, which the commission currently lacked and might wish to highlight to the council. Mr. Skov proposed to review the applications and prepare a short document to provide to the council that identified areas where the commission needed more expertise or representation. After discussion of the merits of the proposal, Mr. Skov agreed he would not review the applications but would write the document.

Ms. O'Sullivan shared that the consultants conducting the human rights training would also conduct a training opportunity focused on leadership, organizational change, and the TBL framework for a cohort of City staff interested in leadership.

Mr. Skov recommended the commission review a summary from the subgroup on mixed-use development mentioned earlier by Mr. Rexus and said he would forward an article from the *Los Angeles Times* entitled "In Ventura, a retreat from the sea," and an article on "Gen Y's" housing preferences that was provided by CRG member Kevin Matthews.

Mr. Skov said he was consulting for the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) on modeling associated with Senate Bill 1059. The modeling was to determine how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the integrated effects of transportation and land use by 75 percent by 2050. The effort was going well.

Mr. McRae reported that the movie *Deep Green* would be shown at the Soreng Theater on February 24 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Mr. McRae also reported a regional "climate compact" was in the process of being

formed. He was working on neighborhood climate planning. Mr. McRae shared that local carbon monoxide levels were trending steeply downward.

4. BREAK

5. Car Sharing – Update

Ms. Brand reported that the briefing on car sharing for the Eugene City Council was rescheduled for March. LTD staff was meeting with all potential vendors to learn more about their suggestions and capabilities, and would then refine and send out a Request for Information (RFI). Springfield staff had also expressed interest in the program and the Springfield council would hold an information session soon. LTD staff would brief the LTD Board of Directors in March and ask it to sponsor the RFI. Ms. Brand anticipated some initial program funding would be provided by ODOT. In addition, the University of Oregon had also expressed interest in expanding its current program beyond two cars.

Mr. Skov suggested the communication to the council be revised with the addition of a paragraph that placed car sharing in the larger context of land use and transportation. Ms. O’Sullivan agreed to draft the paragraph and provide it to Ms. Brand.

6. Outreach events, communication plan

Mr. Funk emphasized the importance of maintaining commission liaison relationships. He expressed interest in adding Lane County Waste Management as a liaison group. Mr. Skov recommended that the commission revisit the list of liaisons and ensure all assignments were covered. Commissioners agreed.

Mr. Funk noted the annual meeting of Green Lane was February 23 and suggested it was an opportunity for community outreach. Commissioners concurred. Mr. Funk agreed to contact the organization to arrange to be on the agenda.

Ms. O’Sullivan requested commission feedback on the talking points prepared by staff for outreach to business audiences.

7. Climate planning updates

Mr. McRae and Ms. O’Sullivan reported on the following:

- A greenhouse gas inventory was available through the Lane Council of Governments.
- The City hired a full-time climate and energy analyst to help implement the Climate and Energy Action Plan. Ms. O’Sullivan agreed to share the position description with Mr. Newcomb and the name of the successful candidate, when known, with the entire commission.
- Ms. O’Sullivan and Mr. McRae attended the West Coast Climate and Materials Management Forum.
- Governor Ted Kulongoski’s Global Warming Commission had adopted the *Interim Road Map 2020* and would deliver it to the new governor and 2011 Legislature. The commission would take the interim road map “on the road” to discuss its interface with local efforts. A presentation in Eugene would occur in May or June 2011.

- Ms. O’Sullivan expected that staff would provide a progress report on the Climate and Energy Action Plan to the City Council in March.

8. Land use and transportation: updates and next steps

- **CLUTAC**

Mr. Skov reported on the work of the Coordinated Land Use and Transportation Advisory Committee (CLUTAC), which was analyzing the proposed West Eugene EmX extension using the TBL analysis framework. At its last meeting the CLUTAC had developed a format to present the results of its analysis to the Joint Locally Preferred Alternative Committee. Mr. Skov requested commission assistance on how to settle on the proper role for the TBL analysis framework and how to create a culture of using it among advisory groups and staff. He suggested a key question was how to turn the TBL analysis framework into something that moved a decision process forward.

Responding to a question from Mr. Rexius, Mr. Shaver described the approach the CLUTAC was taking in framing its recommendation within the context of the TBL analysis framework. Mr. Skov added the CLUTAC worked to place the issues in the context of the essential tradeoffs and to place the decision in the context of other key strategies that were under discussion, such as mixed-use development along transit corridors.

Mr. Rexius observed that one criticism he heard of the TBL analysis framework was that the outcome depended on the importance and value an individual placed on one or more of the three legs. If one only saw the results and not the evaluation process, it was difficult to see how the framework was applied. Mr. Skov said people discussed the TBL analysis framework as though it generated a result, but that was not the case. The CLUTAC was attempting to determine what the framework generated and how it could be useful.

Mr. Newcomb suggested that rather than generate results, the TBL analysis framework generated a “place to hang” long-term policies on. He believed the analysis made it clear where one was moving toward in the long-term. Mr. Skov hoped so.

Mr. Skov reported that the CLUTAC had identified planning documents, stakeholder processes, and policies, such as the growth management policies, that taken together created a vision of the built environment. He felt it was valuable to remind the council that the vision existed.

- **Report to council on January 11**

Mr. Zelenka was not present to discuss his report.

- **TBL proposal for Envision Eugene**

Mr. McRae reported that at the commission’s urging, the City planned to apply the TBL framework analysis to the Envision Eugene process. Sustainability Commission staff would work with Planning Commission staff to apply the framework to the strategies that arose from the CRG, particularly those strategies related to land use efficiency. He anticipated the analysis would produce a list of issues and impacts related to the strategies. In response to a question from Mr. Rexius, Mr. McRae confirmed that CRG members would be involved in the analysis. A meeting was scheduled for that purpose on February 12; that meeting would be open to the public as well, which would be provided an opportunity for input.

Those in attendance would be divided into small groups and each group would be asked to discuss three strategies. Mr. McRae invited the commission to the February 12 meeting.

The commission discussed the meeting outcomes. Mr. Skov suggested that in the worst case scenario, the outcome would be a long laundry list of non-prioritized issues and he questioned how that informed the decisions to be made. He asked how that could be avoided. Mr. Skov believed that in a best case scenario, people would describe the list of issues as tradeoffs rather than long lists of “goods and bads.” He wondered if there was a way to highlight the positive tradeoffs that could result from acceptance of what some might consider negatives. He acknowledged that someone would always be adversely affected by the efficiency strategies.

Mr. McRae asked if there was a way to highlight the biggest tradeoffs. Mr. Skov said the TBL was not generally a way of highlighting tradeoffs but rather a way to identify the good and bad things that could happen. Sometimes those things were bundled coherently, but sometimes they were not. He suggested the February 12 could be focused on highlighting the good and bad outcomes of pursuing the proposed strategies, which was a different task than making a list. Ms. O’Sullivan suggested that Mr. Skov was seeking to bundle the tradeoffs in a meaningful way that identified the connection between the negative and the positive. Mr. Skov concurred.

Mr. Newcomb believed that more people of color should be involved in the process. Mr. McRae agreed, and solicited additional suggestions for participants at February 12 meeting. Ms. Brand suggested Mr. McRae ask Ms. Arkin that question as well. Mr. Funk suggested staff make an effort to involve people under 30.

Mr. Funk suggested that unemployed people would have a different perspective than employed people. Mr. Skov acknowledged that the CRG was composed of community leaders and did not include those on the margins. However, he believed that “when the prompts were good and people are open” that could be overcome.

The commission briefly discussed how the group that met on February 12 might apply the TBL analysis framework. Mr. Skov suggested to staff that it revisit the TBL questions and determine if they should be split into three questions given the efficiency strategies the group would consider. He also wanted staff to identify the strategies with higher uncertainty so they could be revisited in the future through a mechanism to be determined. Ms. O’Sullivan questioned if such a process could be determined through a TBL discussion. Mr. Skov acknowledged the point.

Ms. O’Sullivan summarized the discussion, saying the commission recommended that staff provide context for the efficiency strategies to focus the group’s conversation, that it focus on the key tradeoffs, and that it bundle the strategies to demonstrate the connections between them. The commission also advocated for more diversity in meeting participants. Mr. Skov added that the process should not put people “on the hook” for making decisions. He suggested that the meeting format could also include a minority reporting mechanism. Mr. McRae emphasized that the intent of the process was to air all issues and not debate which were more important than others.

Mr. Skov asked staff to share any materials to be provided to the group that was meeting on February 12 with the commission.

- **Next steps on framework for commission TBL review**

Mr. Skov suggested that it should be a future commission work task to summarize the use of the TBL analysis framework to this point, including the CLUTAC process. Ms. O’Sullivan concurred about the value of such a summary.

9. Closing, next steps

The commission’s next meeting was scheduled for February 16, 2011.

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

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)