

MINUTES

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

September 14, 2010
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Josh Skov, Chair; Josh Bruce, Vice Chair; Shawn Boles, Howard Bonnett, Dave Funk, Kathy Jaworski, Rusty Rexius, Will Shaver, Alan Zelenka, members; Babe O’Sullivan, Keli Osborn, Matt McRae, Michelle Mortenson, City Manager’s Office; Kurt Yeiter, Public Works Department; Carolyn Weiss, Planning and Development Department; Pat Farr, councilor-elect.

ABSENT: Lisa Arkin, Teresa Brand, Steve Newcomb, Mark Nystrom, 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. Rexius, seconded by Mr. Boles, moved to approve the minutes of July 21, 2010, as presented. The motion passed, 8:1:0; Mr. Shaver abstained because he had not been at the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Paul Conte, Chair of the Jefferson/Westside Neighbors, asked the Sustainability Commission to request that City staff provide a frank accounting of when and how the City planned to meet the requirements of House Bill 3337. He expressed concern that the approach being taken would short-change the public’s ability to provide input both directly and through appointed commissions like the Sustainability and Housing Policy Board, which were charged to act on behalf of the public.

Mark Robinowitz referred to the City’s Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP) and expressed concern that it did not adequately address the issue of peak oil and did not convey the proper sense of urgency for action.

Brian McWhorter and **Paul Bodin** provided information about this year’s 350.org event and solicited advice about funding. They distributed their e-mail address.

3. Items from Commissioners and staff

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

Update

Mr. Skov reported the first committee meeting was scheduled for the end of September; the committee would use the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Framework to evaluate the options for the West Eugene EmX extension route. He invited commissioners who wished to become involved to contact him.

b. Climate and Energy Action Plan Update

Mr. McRae reported that the Eugene City Council unanimously adopted the CEAP earlier that day. There was discussion about implementing the plan, including identifying priorities and availability of funding and staff support. Mr. McRae stated that he would continue to do some work on plan implementation and follow-up after he returned to his permanent position.

Commissioners agreed to schedule discussion of how to publicize the plan to the community as an October agenda item. The Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce and the Eugene City Club were mentioned as possible venues for outreach. Mr. Shaver offered to take a program proposal to the City Club. Mr. Rexius offered to serve as liaison to the chamber.

Ms. O'Sullivan announced that the City of Eugene was a runner up for the ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA Sustainability Leadership Award for Medium-Sized Cities.

c. Outreach/Messaging

Ms. O'Sullivan reported that Jan Bohman of the City Manager's Office had expressed interest in convening representatives of the commission to put together a messaging plan for the CEAP.

Mr. Funk solicited a volunteer from the commission to participate in a panel discussion at the Eugene Local and Green Community Conference on October 30 at the First Methodist Church. He also solicited two volunteers for a planning committee formed by Green Lane for its Sustainability Expo, scheduled for February 2011.

The commission agreed to a recommendation from Mr. Funk to form a subcommittee to discuss its objectives around messaging and how it coordinated with other groups. Ms. Jaworski and Mr. Funk agreed to be the subcommittee and would report back in November.

Referring to item 2.2 in the work plan (community liaison relationships), Mr. Funk also recommended the commission revisit that item to see if there were any gaps.

d. Car sharing

Ms. Jaworski summarized a report prepared by a Lane Transit District consultant on the topic of car sharing. The report indicated Eugene could support a car share program and recommended: 1) formation of a Car Sharing Steering Committee to outline the goals and structure of the program, 2) development of a Request for Proposals to coordinate community resources and a pilot project, and 3) development of a process for evaluating and adjusting the program in the future. The report envisioned the cities of Springfield and Eugene, the University of Oregon, and Lane Transit District as the major program sponsors. The report also recommended that the Sustainability Commission become the City of Eugene's champion for the project. Ms. Jaworski believed the report provided sufficient support to move forward.

Mr. Boles believed the UO would be a key player in a care share program, and suggested Lane Community College and the two student body associations might also be involved.

The commission agreed the Car Share Subcommittee would reconvene and develop a formal recommendation to the City Council that would be circulated among commissioners prior to a formal endorsement in October.

e. Staff and commissioner reports

Commissioners welcomed Ms. O’Sullivan as the City’s new Sustainability Liaison.

Mr. Shaver reported that LTD’s West Eugene EmX Extension Corridor Steering Committee continued to meet.

Mr. Funk said that Bold Steps needed more applications, and encouraged commissioners to send companies to SustainEugene.com or KRVM.

Ms. Jaworski announced the Neighborhood Summit on October 2 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. would be held at South Eugene High School and there was an opportunity for a commissioner to participate on a panel regarding successful collaboration. She also announced the Best Practices for Boards and Commissions event scheduled for November 6. She indicated she would e-mail commissioners requesting input on the content areas.

Mr. Zelenka reported the Oregon Planning Institute was meeting in Eugene on September 15-17, and included several panels on sustainability.

Mr. Boles announced that James Hansen was speaking at the UO on October 16 at 3 p.m. at 175 Knight Library. He encouraged commissioners to attend.

Mr. Boles asked the chair and vice chair to contact absent members about their attendance at commission meetings.

Mr. Boles indicated his intent to advocate for a City of Eugene carbon fee to “send a price signal” about the community’s use of fossil fuels.

Ms. O’Sullivan reported that the TBL Framework was the topic of a September 29 City Council work session. She also reported she would be traveling with Mr. McRae to Boston, Massachusetts to participate in several conferences, including the Climate Leadership Academy, which was focused on adaptation and resilience.

Speaking to commission inquiries about her work plan, Ms. O’Sullivan said the CMO was still determining her future focus, but in the near term her focus would be on the CEAP, land use and transportation issues, the TBL Framework, and support of the commission.

Ms. Osborn reported that the City Council would also discuss food security on September 29 as well as current limits on the number of chickens and goats that could be kept by Eugene residents.

4. Break

5. Envision Eugene

Carolyn Weiss, Long-Range Planning Manager with the City’s Planning and Development Department, joined the commission and provided a briefing on the Envision Eugene planning process. The outcome of the process would be a new urban growth boundary (UGB) as well as a new Eugene-only comprehensive plan that would dictate how the community grew in the next 20 years. The Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan General Area Plan would continue to exist to govern regional planning issues. Ms. Weiss reviewed the steps in the process and indicated the Community Resource Group (CRG) would contribute

to a concept plan, or draft growth scenario, that would also be discussed by the general public. The council would be asked to make final decisions in February 2011.

In discussion about the Envision Eugene process, commissioners made the following observations:

- Participants in the CRG were in agreement about approaches the commission could support. They were interested in making land use and transportation fit together and to use space sensibly. No one thought the answer was merely moving the UGB. (Rexius)
- It may be difficult to complete the process by February 2011. (Skov, Boles)
- It's not clear how the work of the CRG will be integrated with other public input. (Boles)
- More detailed information and analysis was needed and requests have been made of the staff for additional data and maps. (Boles, Skov)
- The commission should take a higher level view of the planning process and think about the policy changes needed to reach sustainability goals. (Bruce)

Ms. Weiss responded with the following points:

- Staff feels the February deadline can be met.
- The official hearing process could occur after February 2011 because the February deadline was council-imposed, not State-imposed. Following that, staff would be directed to write the needed code language and develop the findings necessary to support the concept plan.
- Staff would check in with the council on October 13 and continue to work with the Planning Commission on the parameters of the plan.
- Staff was doing the data analysis, although it had been taking place in the background. Staff was beginning to integrate those results into the process.

Mr. Boles asked that the September 2 letter that had been sent to Planning Director Lisa Gardner be sent to the Planning Commission as well.

Mr. Skov indicated interest in finding someone to replace him on the Community Resource Group.

6. Transportation Planning

The commission was joined by Manager Rob Inerfeld and Transportation Planner Kurt Yeiter of the City's Transportation Planning Division, who provided a presentation on the City's upcoming transportation planning effort, which included the development of a Eugene-only transportation system plan. They briefly noted the many related transportation planning efforts occurring throughout the community that would inform the development of the plan.

Mr. Yeiter reported that the department advisory committee that would be formed to advise City staff on the development of that plan would include a member of the Sustainability Commission and Ms. O'Sullivan would be asked to join the technical advisory committee. Mr. Inerfeld anticipated that the commission would want to be involved in discussion of such issues as the community's future mode split.

Mr. Yeiter anticipated the outcome of the planning process would be a preferred scenario tied to the land use model, followed by development of a list of projects that would implement the scenario and associated funding sources.

Commissioners asked questions clarifying the information presented and the timelines involved in the various planning processes identified by staff.

Mr. Shaver asked Mr. Yeiter to provide Ms. O’Sullivan with the dates of the upcoming workshops so she could e-mail them to the commission.

Commissioners offered the following input:

- A modeling system based on linear projections going forward will not serve the City well; moving forward with numbers that merely suggested level of service problems would not be sufficient. Suggest staff consider something not as detailed that captures the realities the community faces. (Boles)
- Consider grade-separated systems that served all modes. (Boles)
- Review Portland’s Peak Oil report, which provided information about the impacts on the transportation sector. The future will not resemble the past. (Boles)
- Suggest scenarios could include both assumptions about what would happen and what the community would like to see happen. Focus not just on data assumptions, but on policy outcomes. (Jaworski)
- There was no mention of greenhouse gases as a constraint in the model. (Zelenka)
- How does this relate to Senate Bill 1059? (Skov)

In response, Mr. Yeiter stated:

- The model could be adjusted.
- The City was on a faster time frame than that required by the senate bill. The City was hoping to use the plan as a test run toward creating local policies regarding reduce greenhouse gases emissions and climate change.

Mr. Shaver expressed some interest in serving on the department advisory committee. Mr. Skov asked Mr. Yeiter to provide the commission with logistical information about the committee’s schedule and timeline.

Mr. Skov expressed interest in further discussion of the future mode split and asked staff to think about how the commission could provide input. Mr. Yeiter agreed, saying the City could adopt numbers but the real question was how to make the mode split happen, and he welcomed the commission’s input regarding the subject. Mr. Inerfeld anticipated the City would look at multi-modal levels of service in the future and suggested the commission might want to weigh in on that topic.

7. Roundtable discussion with staff and commissioners on integrating planning process, ways for Sustainability Commission to contribute/influence, and triple bottom line issues for decision makers

Due to a lack of time, this item was not addressed and was carried forward to the next agenda.

8. Closing: Call for agenda items for next meeting

Mr. Skov welcomed suggestions via e-mail for future agenda items and adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)