

MINUTES

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

October 20, 2010
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Josh Skov, Chair; Lisa Arkin, Shawn Boles, Howard Bonnett, Teresa Brand, Kathy Jaworski, Steve Newcomb, Rusty Rexius, Will Shaver, Alan Zelenka, commissioners; Babe O’Sullivan, Keli Osborn, Michelle Mortenson, City Manager’s Office.

ABSENT: Josh Bruce, Dave Funk, Mark Nystrom.

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

1. Opening: Agenda Review, Minutes Approval

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

Mr. Rexius, seconded by Mr. Boles, moved to approve the minutes of September 15, 2010. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Comment

Denise Christine, Neighborhood Leaders Council Committee on Sustainability, shared information about the upcoming *Eugene – Local and Green Conference*. She asked the commission to help publicize the conference and solicited ideas from the commissioners on how to reach the Hispanic community.

3. Items from Commissioners and Staff

Mr. Shaver reported the first meeting of the CLUTAC had occurred.

Mr. Rexius reported he had completed his term on the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) Sustainability Peer Group. It was possible the group could meet again in 2011. He anticipated that as a next step, EWEB would be developing something similar to the City’s Triple Bottom Line (TBL) tool.

Mr. Rexius said it appeared that a “West Eugene Collaborative II” effort could convene to discuss how that group could help in the public discussion regarding the proposed EmX route in West Eugene.

Mr. Newcomb reported that EWEB had opened its new facility on Roosevelt Boulevard.

Ms. Jaworski shared fliers for the November 6 *Boards and Commissions Best Practices* training.

Ms. Arkin announced a public hearing on a floodplain ordinance and a drinking water protection overlay ordinance before the Board of County Commissioners on October 26. After discussion, the Sustainability Commission agreed that members would receive and review additional information about the proposed ordinances and consider a letter of support at the November meeting.

Ms. O'Sullivan reported on her attendance at the Institute for Sustainable Communities' Climate Leadership Academy in Boston, Massachusetts, for discussions of climate adaptation and resilience, following by meetings with other sustainability directors from around the country. She noted that City Manager Ruiz attended the Climate Leadership Academy and returned with renewed momentum around the issues related to land use and transportation planning.

Mr. Boles noted the well-attended presentation at the University of Oregon on October 16 by James Hansen. He asked Ms. O'Sullivan to secure the name of the young man who spoke at the event.

Mr. Boles reported he spoke at the Neighborhood Summit about the Climate and Energy Action Plan.

Mr. Boles spoke to the importance of a tax on carbon as the key to reducing future greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Boles discouraged commissioners from reviewing the US Climate Adaptation Plan because it contained no concrete action steps.

Mr. Skov reported that the West Eugene EmX Alternatives Analysis would be released soon. The CLUTAC would evaluate the analysis using the TBL framework, and the analysis would be shared with the Sustainability and Planning commissions.

Mr. Skov called the commission's attention to City Manager Ruiz's recent summary of the Envision Eugene process published in *The Register-Guard*.

4. Car Sharing Report

Ms. Jaworski reported that Lane Transit District's *point2point* service had emerged as the lead champion agency for a local car sharing program. Commissioners discussed next steps and agreed to discuss the topic again in November in preparation for a council work session when it had more information so it had clarity about what it would be asking the council to support. Ms. O'Sullivan noted that possible council work session dates for the item were November 10 or December 8.

Mr. Zelenka arrived.

5. Work Session: Follow-up Discussion on Envision Eugene and Transportation Planning

Mr. Skov asked the commission to consider overarching strategy questions for discussion: *Who do we want to influence? What are ways we can do that? What do we need—information, resources, other? What actions or products?*

Mr. Newcomb asked that the background materials include text from the Consolidated Plan that spoke to the need to consider low-income and affordable housing in the Envision Eugene effort.

Commissioners brainstormed answers for each question.

Who do we want to influence?

- City Council
- City staff and other policy setters
- Community at large
- Board of County Commissioners
- Community Resource Group
- All levels of society—unsure we have a message other than that we need a fee associated with the production of greenhouse gases. Consider cap and dividend approach
- All the groups working on sustainability issues
- The press
- Emphasize importance of positive messages and in particular the ongoing message about the impact of personal behavior changes. Use Climate and Energy Action Plan rollout as a way to get to different groups such Business Climate Masters, Climate Masters, BRING, University of Oregon sustainability-related groups, social equity groups
- Lane Regional Air Protection Agency
- Oregon Department of Transportation
- Faith community

What are ways we can do that?

- The Sustainability Commission could take an official position as a body or write a position paper and get it to the City Council and Board of County Commissioners
- Environmental protection is the crux of sustainability but it is not emphasized in sustainability objectives 1-8 (*from handout*); the commission needs to infuse the vision of sustainability it wanted to see in land use and transportation activities, and emphasize the environment and environmental health
- Add a new objective 9 spelling out that the commission would be champion for social equity, environmental health, and economic prosperity
- Note that a small group that included Mr. Skov applied the TBL tool to Envision Eugene and the points in that analysis could be used as influence points
- Consider the City budget in light of sustainability issues
- Enhance the message that the City's strategies for transportation corridor development and density was a business development opportunity
- Recognize and declare that the community's economic viability was as important to the commission as social equity and environmental protection – commit to ensuring that the commission is part of the discussion of the industrial lands shortfall
- Suggest that Community Resource Group be asked to apply the TBL tool to its work
- Suggest our role in the Envision Eugene is to reinforce the sustainability principles related to green buildings, cluster zoning, green job development, and cottage industries – focus not just on development, but sustainable development
- Need to convince people that there can be economic gain from infill development – land outside the city limits was county land and there were limits on what could be added to the city

- Need to convince people that we can accommodate new residents through infill in a graceful way that works economically for the community. Consider that industrial properties may not be readily available in Eugene but could be available in another part of the region, such as Springfield, and that could also work
- Suggest that people are ignoring evidence that multi-way boulevards and transit on commercial streets improved conditions for those who did business there – need to get that evidence out to the community
- Need to address short-term fears about business closures resulting from the construction of multi-way boulevard projects
- Stress that Envision Eugene, EmX, and the transportation system plan were part of the same conversation and could not be treated as separate decisions and could not be separated from the land use system
- The community will need to consider investments along transit corridors that were good economic ideas but might require some subsidization

Mr. Skov called for a brief break.

What do we need—Information, resources, other?

What actions or products?

Ms. O’Sullivan proposed that the Sustainability Commission could author an op-ed piece that discussed its sustainable vision and how it could be manifested in the Envision Eugene process and other City planning efforts. There was general support for the proposal.

Mr. Bonnett suggested that issues such as affordable housing should be listed as a subheading under a single sustainability objective related to the TBL tool.

- Review the commission’s existing work products and highlight the outcomes that pertain to the sustainability elements that might emerge from the Community Resource Group
- Suggest that the commission create vision statements similar to those from the final report of the Global Warming Commission’s Transportation and Land Use Committee, and make them specific to Eugene
- Best practices from other cities related to how those communities made the linkage to sustainability
- Provide some real life examples of sustainable practices and activities from other communities and using the materials produced for the Walnut Station and the West Eugene Collaborative to illustrate sustainability principles
- Suggest that the materials provided to the Community Resource Group for its next meeting include the May 2010 TBL analysis and the LUTSCO memorandum
- The Community Resource Group needs more discussion about the policies and policy commitment that will be required to realize the ultimate vision

The commission agreed to continue its discussion at the next meeting.

6. Check-in on Commission Work Plan

This item was postponed.

7. Next Meeting

The commission's next meeting was scheduled for November 17, 2010.

8. Closing Call for Agenda Items

Mr. Skov asked members to send signs of progress to Ms. O'Sullivan for sharing. He adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)