

# MINUTES

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

December 15, 2010  
5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Josh Bruce, Vice Chair; Lisa Arkin, Shawn Boles, Howard Bonnett, Teresa Brand, Dave Funk, Kathy Jaworski, Steve Newcomb, Will Shaver, Alan Zelenka, commissioners; Babe O’Sullivan, Michelle Mortenson, Matt McRae, City Manager’s Office; Jeff Petry, Public Works Department.

**ABSENT:** Josh Skov, Chair; Rusty Rexius, commissioner.

In the absence of Mr. Skov, Mr. Bruce called the meeting of the Eugene Sustainability Commission to order.

## **1. Opening: agenda review, minutes approval**

Mr. Bruce reviewed the agenda.

Mr. Funk, seconded by Mr. Newcomb, moved to approve the minutes of November 17, 2010. The motion passed, 7:1:0; Mr. Boles abstaining from the vote because he had no opportunity to review the minutes. Ms. Jaworski and Mr. Zelenka had not yet arrived at the meeting.

## **2. Public comment**

There was no one present wishing to offer public comment.

## **3. Items from Commissioners and staff**

Mr. Bruce solicited items, reminding commissioners to mention signs of progress.

Mr. Funk announced that Café Yumm would receive the “Bold Steps Award” at the Green Home Show. Mr. Funk said he continued to meet monthly with the Neighborhood Leaders Council, and at the most recent meeting had discussed with members the potential of the council and commission doing a joint project. Mr. Funk reported that he had discussed the role of the Sustainability Commission with City Manager Jon Ruiz, who expressed concern about the commission’s impact on the City’s work load. City Manager Ruiz had envisioned that the commission could do more to “tell the story” of the City’s sustainability efforts, which was consistent with the commission’s work plan.

Mr. Funk said that he and others had commented on the Joint Prosperity Plan in an effort to integrate sustainability as an economic driver and sustainability concepts into that effort to a greater degree, which seemed to be having some effect.

Mr. Funk reported that the Crest Drive Citizens requested a presentation on the Climate and Energy Action Plan. He anticipated more neighborhood groups would request similar presentations.

Mr. Funk suggested a sign of progress was the \$96 million in projects being constructed downtown.

Ms. Brand reported that she and Ms. Jaworski had drafted a letter to update the council on the Car Share Program prior to the January meeting when the topic was scheduled to be discussed. She asked Ms. O'Sullivan to review the letter and forward it to the commission for its review. Ms. Brand reported that she had recently been hired by Lane Transit District (LTD) to run its Transportation Options Program.

Mr. Newcomb said he completed a study circle on racism with City staff, which he considered a start in understanding racism in the community and a sign of progress.

Mr. Newcomb said that the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) had completed the move to its new facilities on Roosevelt Boulevard and was looking at site redevelopment options for the downtown facility, which he also considered a sign of progress.

Ms. Arkin noted that December 14 had been International Human Rights Day, and the event held to commemorate it had been very well-attended, which she thought was a sign of progress. She reported that the State of Oregon had received an award from President Barack Obama for environmental justice.

Mr. Boles reported that he participated in a tree planting event at the neighborhood park in Trainsong. The City did a great job of providing materials, and about 30 trees were planted. He said that the City of Eugene was working with NeighborWoods to plant trees such as fruit trees in public spaces, which he considered a sign of progress and an incremental step toward an "Edible City."

Mr. Boles reported on his participation in the Community Resource Group (CRG) advising the City Manager on the Envision Eugene process. He said there was a great deal of work remaining to be done because of a focus on process. The manager would take his recommendations to the council in February 2011. The CRG formed a technical review group to work with the Planning Division staff, and he hoped to be able to highlight energy and climate issues through that effort. Mr. Boles noted that the work of the CRG would be recognized by Mayor Kitty Piercy at the upcoming State of the City event on January 4.

Mr. Bonnett reported that the Street Bond Advisory Committee learned that the projects funded by the street improvement bond measure had been coming in under budget, leaving some dollars available for other projects. He anticipated the committee would recommend some additional projects to the council. He invited project suggestions. As a sign of progress, Mr. Bonnett shared a picture of his grandson.

Mr. Bruce inquired about the status of the commission presentation to the City Club. Mr. Shaver recalled that Mr. Skov suggested both a commissioner and Mr. McRae present to the City Club. Mr. Shaver said he would follow up with Mr. McRae.

Mr. Shaver indicated he was beginning a new job with Emberex Inc., a new software firm in Eugene.

Ms. Jaworski indicated she intended to prepare an op-ed piece regarding the proposed car sharing program.

Mr. Bruce said he had been unable to meet with the mayor and Mr. Zelenka as planned. As signs of progress, Mr. Bruce reported that the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) tool was being utilized more by City staff. He said *The Register-Guard* had printed several articles on bicycling and he thought the new

bicycle bridge at Delta was very exciting for the community. He also commended the removal of leaves from the bicycle paths. Mr. Bruce also perceived a great deal of energy going into downtown, where several efforts were coming to fruition.

Ms. O'Sullivan said she had learned from Project Manager Tom Schwetz of LTD that no mediator had been hired for the West Eugene EmX project. Bob Chadwick, however, was conducting a listening session with West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue business owners that night.

Ms. O'Sullivan reported that she and Mr. McRae had used materials developed for a presentation on the Community Climate and Energy Action Plan to the Chamber of Commerce to develop a basic outline for future presentations to business audiences. Mr. McRae was also developing some talking points and she indicated she would forward that material to the commission for its review.

Ms. O'Sullivan reported that Ethan Nelson would discuss tips for a sustainable Christmas in a television interview on KEZI.

Ms. O'Sullivan reported on her participation on a regional National Hazards Mitigation Plan Subcommittee, a group composed of people working in emergency services in the area. The subcommittee meets on a quarterly basis to discuss progress on implementing the National Hazards Mitigation Plan. She hopes to develop some action items related to implementation of Eugene's Climate and Energy Action Plan to include in the plan.

Ms. O'Sullivan alerted the commission to January 10-11 video conference of the West Coast Climate and Materials Management Forum and indicated she would provide a link to the forum Web site.

Ms. O'Sullivan reported on the meeting with the mayor and Mr. Zelenka, where they discussed strategic communication between the commission and council and Mr. Zelenka's desire that the commission would have a more structured role in reviewing City plans and policies. The mayor was cautiously receptive. Ms. O'Sullivan said she would arrange a follow-up meeting with the commission's chair and vice-chair as soon as possible. The mayor invited more frequent meetings. She said that Mr. Zelenka had mentioned that the council planned to have quarterly check-ins with advisory bodies such as the commission.

Ms. O'Sullivan reported that the City would include the TBL in its next leadership training. She shared a request from City staff seeking volunteers for a one-hour usability test of the City's Web site.

#### **4. Car Sharing**

Parking Services Manager Jeff Petry was present for the discussion.

Ms. Brand provided a brief overview of the contents of the Car Sharing Report and highlighted the report recommendations. They included that the council support the expansion of a car sharing program beyond the current University of Oregon program; that it direct City staff to work with *point2point* staff on next steps, which could include the development of an Request for Information (RFI) to potential vendors; that it identify a project champion; and that it reach out to potential partners, such as the City of Springfield and Lane County.

The commission briefly discussed its presentation to the City Council.

Mr. Petry reported that he was receiving more requests from developers seeking information about shared car arrangements. He stressed the need for community education, particularly in areas near campus where there was a great deal of multi-family housing and the residents had never heard of car sharing.

Mr. Bruce suggested the commission might propose the idea of parking standard reductions in the land use code to accommodate car sharing agreements. Ms. Brand suggested that might be a future area of discussion.

## **5. Commission vacancy—process and timing**

Ms. O’Sullivan provided information about the process used to fill commission vacancies. She recommended that the commission postpone filling the vacancy and that it be filled when the positions of four other members expired in June 2012. The commission accepted the recommendation but it was later reversed on the advice of Councilor Zelenka.

## **6. Oregon Toxics Alliance: Air quality, climate change, and health**

Ms. Arkin presented a PowerPoint presentation on the *West Eugene Environmental Justice and Environmental Health Project 2010*. The goals of the project were to raise awareness of health hazards, to interview West Eugene residents about their opinion of air, health, and sustainability, and to help residents address the impact of disproportionate exposure to air pollution.

Ms. Arkin recommended local development of: 1) a childhood asthma reduction plan; 2) a health, climate, and air pollution awareness campaign; and 3) a citywide “no idling policy.”

Mr. Boles asked if the City Council had discussed train idling with representatives of the railroad. Ms. O’Sullivan said she would look into that.

## **7. BREAK**

The commission took a brief break.

## **8. Land use and transportation: work plan status and next steps**

The commission broke into two small groups to discuss policy recommendations and strategies it could take to the City Council. Facilitators recorded the small group comments that were shared later with the full commission. Commissioners reviewed the comments and discussed the ideas put forth.

Mr. Bruce summarized the commission’s discussion: 1) the commission would develop an overall process framework for future policy issues that provides the commission with a role in providing input on the TBL analysis brought forward; 2) that the commission consider maintaining a laundry list of “low hanging fruit” to vet through the City Council and to include on future work programs; and 3) that the Sustainability Commission would give Mr. Zelenka talking points to share with the council in January 2011. The talking points would include:

- That council keep in mind long-range implications of decisions.
- That the council consider the mitigation of negative impacts of decisions.

- The importance of social equity considerations.

Mr. Zelenka suggested that the talking points focus on Envision Eugene and that the Sustainability Commission's role be clearly identified as one of either being involved upfront in the TBL process or as being charged to review and provide comment on the TBL analysis done by staff for each of the Envision Eugene strategies. Mr. Boles believed the point could be broadened to suggest the commission could play a similar role in other large projects. Mr. Bonnett agreed.

Mr. Funk did not want the commission to lose sight of its initial charge to institute the 22 recommendations from the Sustainable Business Initiative.

#### **9. Closing: Next meeting, follow-up**

The commission's next meeting was scheduled for January 19, 2011.

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

*(Recorded by Kimberly Young)*