

MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission
Atrium, Saul Room
Eugene, Oregon

October 16, 2013
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Kathi Jaworski, Sue Wolling, Paul Nielson, Howard Saxion, Dawn Lesley, Alan Zelenka, Howard Bonnett, Joanne Gross, Shawn Boles, Carolyn Stein, commissioners. Babe O'Sullivan, City Manager's Office.

ABSENT: Bob DenOuden, Sasha Luftig, Steve Newcomb

Ms. Jaworski called the October 16, 2013, meeting of the Sustainability Commission to order.

1. Opening – agenda review, approval of minutes

Ms. Jaworski called for corrections or clarifications to the Sept. 18, 2013 minutes. Mr. Boles noted that his name was misspelled in the minutes and this needs to be corrected.

Mr. Saxion, seconded by Mr. Nielson, moved to approve the Sept. 18 2013 minutes as submitted. The motion passed, 8:0 with no abstentions.

Howard Bonnett mentioned the [City of Eugene Advisory Groups Member and Staff Manual](#) has information about minute taking. The template Ms. O'Sullivan has provided for committee minutes is based on this and meets the city's requirements.

2. Envision Eugene Roadmap

Planning and Development Department Executive Director Sarah Medary and Interim Planning Director Carolyn Burke provided an update on implementation of Envision Eugene and the recommendation (or "Pillars") document from March 2013. Ms. Burke presented the results of a "crosswalk" of implementation actions with the climate and energy pillar and the compact urban development pillar. Work to date reflects a council directive to start with a list of actions required for the implementation of a new Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Phase 1 activities include first priority actions to complete the state-mandated work to establish the UGB.

There was discussion about how and when to apply the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) during Phase 1 implementation. Ms. Medary pointed out that the whole plan incorporates the TBL approach and reflects a balance of impacts. She asked the commission at what level should TBL be applied. If TBL is used for every action in isolation, it may not reflect the balance of all actions taken together. The TBL is good for focusing where there are tradeoffs/tensions.

The following concerns were discussed:

- Whether the housing mix approved by council (55% single family/45% multifamily) will be analyzed again: Ms. Burke said the decision made by Council will stand and no additional analysis is expected.

- The potential for piecemeal development in expansion areas: Ms. Burke pointed to pillar seven which calls for on-going monitoring of data and development and the opportunity to tie that evaluation to extending services in expansion areas.
- TBL for schools and/or UGB expansion as a whole: Ms. Burke mentioned that the school district has to demonstrate the need for new expansion for schools under state law. There is no TBL planned at this point but state requirements are extensive as part of this required demonstration.
- Clear Lake Rd. expansion – why wasn't TBL and environmental justice considered early in the decision-making? Ms. Burke: soil type in the area eliminated the possibility of residential expansion but expansion for industrial land need is still possible in that area.
- Status of neighborhood refinement plans: Ms. Burke pointed to the Envision Eugene approach that does not allow density beyond what is already permitted in neighborhoods. Refinement plans will stand as they are. The focus is more on commercial areas, not neighborhoods. Envision Eugene does call for new neighborhood plans (University, River Rd) and review of existing plans on a phased basis (e.g. one is needed in Bethel, for example). This may be of interest as a follow-up item for the commission. Need new approach – more nimble and efficient (e.g. S. Willamette).

When asked about commission involvement and input, Ms. Burke suggested that the commission review the specific implementation actions to find those of interest. Commissioners could serve on steering committees that are formed around these actions. Ms. Burke suggested looking to those actions where commissioners see biggest threat or opportunity.

Ms. Burke offered to have staff come back to the commission, if desired, to discuss individual items in greater depth. Commissioner Gross expressed interest in what constitutes “key industries” in the actions focused on commercial and industrial jobs/land. Ms. Burke will send commissioners a list from the Regional Prosperity Economic Development Plan.

The following were identified as topics for additional conversations with planning staff:

- 1) Neighborhood plans
- 2) Clear Lake Rd expansion area
- 3) Where to conduct TBL analysis

3. FY 14 Work Plan

Ms. Jaworski called on staff to provide a review of the meeting with City Manager Jon Ruiz for feedback on the commission's draft FY 14 work plan. Ms. O'Sullivan and Vice Chair Steve Newcomb met with City Manager Jon Ruiz to review the work plan before it will be brought to City Council for approval. Generally the City Manager was in support of the work plan. There was discussion about the work session on climate change scheduled for January 15, 2014. The City Manager clarified that he was looking for this to be a staff-driven session, not a joint session between City Council and the Sustainability Commission. Ms. O'Sullivan confirmed for the commission that the original request for this work session didn't ask for a joint session. After discussion, commissioners recommended that the chair and vice chair meet with Mr. Ruiz to further negotiate the structure of the work session. Staff was asked to share the elements of the January work session content at the next commission meeting. Staff was also asked to provide commissioners with information on the upcoming work session on urban ag and sustainable food systems (Oct. 23).

Mr. Bonnett, seconded by Mr. Saxion, moved to request that council invite the commission chair and vice chair to participate in work session on Jan. 15. The motion passed, 10:0.

4. Break

5. Public comment

No members of the public wished to address the commission.

6. FY 15 budget process

By way of introducing this agenda item, Ms. Jaworski pointed out that the environment for bringing the commission's message forward is changing with the way the community budget workshops have been structured. The commission reviewed the budget process and developments since the last commission meeting in September. As requested by the commission, staff prepared charts showing potential cost savings from implementation of climate action goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from city operations.

Commissioners Lesley and Bonnett shared feedback on the recent community workshop on the FY 15 city budget. Commissioners felt there was no opportunity for the commission to have any meaningful input to the Budget Committee through these workshops. Mr. Bonnett stated that he had met with City Councilor Betty Taylor. She suggested the commission needs to provide to the Budget Committee a specific justification for keeping the commission.

After further discussion there was agreement that the commission should prepare a memo to the Budget Committee highlighting accomplishments of the staff and the value of maintaining the sustainability program. The memo will include an analysis of the financial impact of these efforts. Commissioners Saxion, Jaworski and Stein along with Councilor Zelenka will meet as an ad hoc committee to develop the memo. Staff was asked to provide background materials on program work plans and accomplishments. The ad hoc committee will prepare a draft memo and send out to the commission for comment with a goal of finalizing the document by the end of October.

7. Urban agriculture and sustainable food systems

Members of the team that attended a recent training on urban agriculture and sustainable food systems were invited to share highlights with the commission. The team included Eugene City Councilor Greg Evans, Lynne Fessenden (Willamette Farm and Food Coalition), Claire Sequin (NEDCO), Sarah Mizejewski (Lane County Economic Development), Bill Ellis (City of Eugene Community Development) and Babe O'Sullivan (City of Eugene Sustainability Program). After a brief introduction and overview from Ms. O'Sullivan, team members shared reflections about the training content and participants. Councilor Evans stressed the importance of building an integrated, unified strategy. At the upcoming work session on this topic on October 23, he will be looking to council to call upon the commission to further develop a comprehensive strategic plan in concert with other regional partners. Commissioner Boles suggested that the commission ask the City Manager where the city is in responding to the recommendations from the commission's letter to council in May 2012.

8. Items from commissioners and staff

Councilor Zelenka noted that the new City Hall project will be on the commission's agenda in November and suggested that a committee prepare recommendations in advance of the November discussion. The ad hoc committee formed to develop the memo to the Budget Committee will also address this request. A meeting was set for October 21.

Chair Jaworski announced that she will make temporary appointments of lead commissioners for each of the ad hoc committees supporting a work plan topic. She requested that each committee hold a meeting before the November commission meeting and begin developing action items for the year.

Ms. Jaworski adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM.

(Recorded by Babe O'Sullivan)