



MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission
Atrium, Saul Room
Eugene, Oregon

December 18, 2013
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Kathi Jaworski, Sue Wolling, Bob DenOuden, Sasha Luftig, Steve Newcomb, Dawn Lesley, Alan Zelenka (by phone), Howard Bonnett, Joanne Gross, Shawn Boles, Howard Saxion, Carolyn Stein, commissioners. Babe O'Sullivan and Matt McRae, City Manager's Office.

ABSENT: Paul Nielson,

Mr. Newcomb called the December 18, 2013, meeting of the Sustainability Commission to order.

1. Opening - agenda review, approval of minutes

Mr. Newcomb announced a change to the agenda: item #7 for the Sustainable Business Practices sub-committee was postponed until a later meeting. He then called for corrections or clarifications to the November 20, 2013 minutes.

Mr. Bonnett, seconded by Ms. Lesley, moved to approve the November 20, 2013 minutes as submitted. The motion passed, 9:0 with one abstention.

2. Public comment

There was no public comment.

3. Triple Bottom Line review: Stormwater Development Standards

A staff presentation was provided by Mark Schoening, Eugene City Engineer. He was accompanied by Public Works staff Matt Rodrigues and Peggy Keppler. Mr. Schoening provided background on the Stormwater Development Standards and the proposed ordinance that will go before the City Council in January, including the new hierarchy of requirements for new development:

- a. Infiltrate stormwater onsite
- b. Filtrate stormwater onsite
- c. Pay a fee to mitigate stormwater impacts on another site

Mr. Schoening reviewed the results of the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) assessment of the new standards that has been conducted by a staff team. A summary of these findings as well as the more detailed assessment were included in the meeting packet for the Sustainability Commission. After a number of clarifying questions and discussion about the ordinance requirements, the commission was asked to provide feedback on the TBL process and results. Highlights included:

- While the TBL assessment was conducted after the ordinance had been drafted, the results would likely have been similar earlier in the process.

- The process reflected input from the Home Builders Association but staff acknowledged a missed opportunity to reach out to other stakeholders like the Long Tom Watershed Council.
- The ordinance reflects the minimum to meet the City's NPDES permit. More could be done to address stormwater that would be above and beyond the NPDES requirements.
- Costs from the new proposed standards will be passed on to renters and owners but this may be relatively small as stormwater development requirements have been in place for several years. This proposal may or may not increase the costs beyond what is currently incurred.
- Staff found the TBL tool useful, particularly the prompts in the "long form." It highlighted a lot of the social aspects that might not have otherwise been addressed.
- Using the TBL would likely not change the proposal (ordinance) brought to the Planning Commission and City Council. There is very little leeway to change the minimum requirements in response to social or economic impacts identified in the TBL assessment.
- Staff used the long form of the TBL as the short form didn't provide enough information or prompts. The long form was not cumbersome. The important part was inviting a broad group of staff - not just civil engineers and designers.
- In hindsight, would have done the TBL before developing the code, though in this case the TBL didn't highlight issues that were changed in the code.
- Staff is working from the environmental requirements of water quality. Partnering with home builders helped to look at economic and social impacts of the ordinance.
- There are a number of TBL-type analyses in the public works profession to assist with future assessments. The city has used STARS (Sustainable Transportation Analysis and Rating System) to assess some projects and is experimenting with several other tools.

Council Zelenka reminded the commission that this is part of an effort to get TBL integrated into the work and the Agenda Item Summaries that are given to City Council so they can be sure staff is thinking about TBL issues as they weigh the decisions in their work. Was it useful? Does it help with the decision making? How could we integrate it more into the work we are doing? Those are the kind of questions Councilor Zelenka had in mind when suggesting this TBL assessment come back to the Sustainability Commission. He also suggested the commission come up with a feedback memo to Council about findings from this discussion about how to make better use of the TBL. It was also suggested that the memo highlight examples where the TBL can be used before a decision is made.

4. Sub-committee reports

Food

The food subcommittee requested an update from the City Manager on the status of recommendations in the memo to City Council (May 2012). Mia Cariaga, Division Manager for the City Manager's Office, indicated that no update was available as the council had not responded to the memo or asked staff to act on any of the recommendations. Ms. Cariaga committed to preparing a response to the sub-committee.

Transportation

The sub-committee inquired with city staffer Kurt Yeiter regarding the Transportation System Plan. He may come to the commission to provide an update in January. Rob Inerfeld, also with the City, may come to the transportation subcommittee to discuss how funding mechanisms

work. The group also attended the meeting about design of 13th Ave. This may be a good candidate project for the TBL.

There was also discussion about the economic study currently underway for the S. Willamette St. project and how the commission could have input. The study will be presented to the Planning Commission. Suggested strategies included:

- a. Joint meeting with the Planning Commission
- b. Get a presentation for the Sustainability Commission
- c. Review the results through CLUTAC (Coordinated Land Use and Transportation Action Committee).
- d. Attend Planning Commission presentation as audience members

Babe O'Sullivan will investigate these options and report back to the commission. The commission also requested the TBL assessment that has been conducted to date on the project.

TBL

The sub-committee reported that Lisa Arkin with Beyond Toxics is interested in an Environmental Justice training, perhaps highlighting how TBL was integrated into the brownfields assessment work. Ms. O'Sullivan suggested that one of the consultants who prepared that assessment might be a better source for the presentation. She will provide the written assessment to the sub-committee.

The sub-committee also discussed criteria for when TBL gets used. The group looked at genuine progress indicators as well as the STAR (Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating) Communities Rating System but felt that it is designed more for an organization than for a community. They will continue to investigate.

5. Break

6. FY 15 Budget update

Councilor Zelenka provided an update:

- The memo from the commission was sent out to the Budget Committee.
- Didn't get much feedback. Those who read it understood it and it was fairly well received.
- Not all of the proposed budgets scenarios have cuts to the Human Rights/Neighborhood Services/Sustainability program budgets.
- In order to get down to the Sustainability Liaison position, need to cut about \$600k out of the City Manager's Office budget.
- Commissioners should participate in providing testimony during public hearings scheduled for January.
- The conversation about revenue will happen in the Feb./March timeframe when council begins taking up downtown parking, urban renewal fund increase, and others. There isn't really an appetite to take up discussion about larger revenue sources than that. There is physically not enough time, nor an appetite, to develop a revenue measure for the ballot.
- We will hear what the Budget Committee has to say. The City Manager will come up with a draft budget in the Mar/April timeframe.

Commissioners suggested that members take talking points to Budget Committee and testify and that they refer to the commission's letter in the testimony.

7. Sub-committee item: Sustainable Business Practices _____

8. Items from commissioners and staff

Commissioner Gross recommended that the commission read the report from the OLIS student team regarding environmental justice and industrial expansion. The report recommends food packaging as a compatible industry for the area and this aligns with some other priorities. There's a proposal that zoning take into account cumulative air quality impacts in the area. Performance zoning could address this. Currently there is nothing in City code that addresses environmental regulation. This would require a lot of work. There was additional discussion about regulatory strategies and the importance of working more closely with LRAPA.

Commissioner Bonnett reported that he had met with city Councilor Betty Taylor. She thought the commission should be doing something around water quality. She mentioned things like the Amazon watershed and setbacks for EWEB riverfront property. Mr. Bonnett did not propose adding this as a work item.

Mr. Bonnett also mentioned a summary of a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in September. The IPCC reports that they're 95% certain that humans are causing climate change. The IPCC confirmed that we have to leave fossil fuels in the ground. We cannot burn them all without grossly exceeding temperature thresholds in the climate system. Other commissioners suggested sharing this with City Council, perhaps during liaison meetings.

Commissioner Boles shared that there is increasing resistance on behalf of several neighborhoods to achieving medium density residential zoning. In fact, there is active pressure to down-zone some areas from medium to low density residential. This flies in the face of urban density and Envision Eugene and puts pressure on the Urban Growth boundary.

In testifying to City Council, Mr. Boles suggested:

- a. Pass a climate recovery ordinance.
- b. Modify the Climate and Energy Action Plan to meet these new standards.
- c. Purchase offsets of any air travel done by City staff.
- d. Work with County administration and State to build climate action strategies.
- e. Make a carbon fee resolution.
- f. Divest from fossil fuels.

Councilor Zelenka reported that he put in a request for the council to meet on the proposed ordinance from Our Children's Trust. Regarding the carbon fee, council supported the state study bill for a carbon fee (SB 306). This is underway right now.

In further discussion about Mr. Boles' remarks on urban density, Chair Jaworski pointed out that Envision Eugene is a work item for the whole commission and that neighbors in her area are supportive of higher density. Commissioner Boles pointed to a summary of findings given to the Technical Resource Group that multi-family homes are being built much more quickly than single family homes. This information is available from Carolyn Burke in the Planning Division. Commissioners Stein, Luftig and Wolling expressed interest in following up on this issue and were requested to develop a timeline and action steps as soon as practicable.

Commissioner Luftig expressed regret at losing some important members of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) but that they are doing new recruiting. BPAC also received a presentation from OLIS students and the product was very good.

Chair Jaworski requested that commissioners look for gaps in the list of Liaisons included with the meeting packet and indicate either people you want to adopt or organizations who need to be on that list.

9. Closing

The next meeting of the commission is January 15, 2014. Ms. Jaworski adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

(recorded by Matt McRae)