



Eugene Sustainability Commission

MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission
Atrium, Saul Room
Eugene, Oregon

January 15, 2014
5:30 p.m.

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

Ms. Jaworski called the January 15, 2014, meeting of the Sustainability Commission to order.

1. Opening - agenda review, approval of minutes

Ms. Jaworski called for corrections or clarifications to the December 18, 2013 minutes. Councilor Zelenka, seconded by Mr. Boles, moved to approve the December 18, 2013 minutes as submitted. The motion passed, 9:0.

2. Public comment

Mark Robinowitz addressed the commission on the topics of ending highway expansion, drought and stopping deforestation.

3. OLIS student project "Community Voice on Sustainability"

University of Oregon students Carolyn Candela and Sarah Allison presented the findings from their project for the Oregon Leadership in Sustainability program. The project focused on evaluating the effectiveness of the Sustainability Commission and potential alternatives to the current structure. The team conducted local interviews, investigated examples from 5 other US cities and conducted a literature review to inform the research.

Key findings

- In looking at other examples, variations in the number of members, method of appointment, advisory focus or sustainability focus has little to do with how well the commissions functioned. The relationship between the commission and the city government was more important.
- Adopting the coalition model from Corvallis was not recommended as it does not have formal capacity to advise the city government. This is a unique role for the commission and should be maintained.

Recommendations

- Clarify role through internal visioning exercise.
- Support recommendations by working strategically to build political pressure.
- Increase the capacity of the commission through the liaison system, alumni relations and broad membership on subcommittees.

- Complement the existing structure by focusing on issues that are under-addressed and by supporting efforts by other stakeholder groups.

The following points were raised in the commission's discussion with the student team:

- Did self-selection of interviewees color the findings? There were diverse responses, and interviewees were a representative pool.
- Who should be in visioning session for clarification of role? The initial session should be with just the commission, followed by a broader conversation including City Council and the City Manager and other stakeholders.
- Changes to the mission statement? The team had no revisions in mind. In feedback from interviewees it was viewed as an opportunity statement but one that allows the commission to select areas where there are gaps in the community.
- Using alumni - did other organizations use these? None of the other city commissions had specific alumni relationships. This idea came more from local interviews.
- Did the research include looking at GreenLane as an example of a local coalition option? Neighborhood Leaders Council was closest example looked at.
- Turnover makes work planning difficult in late summer. This is one example of what might come out of a visioning exercise.
- Did any of the cities investigated have a coalition and an advisory group? None of the examples had this.

4. Sub-committee reports

Transportation

The subcommittee met Monday January 13 with Rob Inerfeld with the City of Eugene Transportation Planning Department to talk about work plan elements. Most of the discussion came back to funding issues and the subcommittee is organizing a summary to share with the commission.

The commission discussed whether there was value in developing a policy recommendation on priorities for transportation spending. Several points were made including:

- The Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) has limited power over transportation policy direction. They have no control over ODOT project spending such as the Beltline flyover.
- ODOT funding comes mostly from the federal government but there is a role for city/public in the process of ODOT project development. They can stop project but not necessarily direct funds toward an alternative (e.g. alternative/active transportation projects)

Triple Bottom Line (TBL)

The subcommittee has not met recently.

Food

Mr. Boles reported that he received a response from Mia today to his request for an update submitted over three months ago. He recommended that Chair Jaworski set up a meeting with the City Manager to discuss the delay and the commission's frustration with the response.

Councilor Zelenka reported that he is working with Councilor Evans on a motion for Council to pull together a task force to address food policy issues of economic development, food security, and the farmers market. He suggested the Food subcommittee could assist by helping craft the motion. He will send the draft motion to the subcommittee.

Carbon fee

The subcommittee did not meet. The SB 306 study on a statewide carbon fee is delayed, with a report due in fall 2014. Staff will send Mr. Bonnett contact information for the researchers working on the report at Portland State University.

Housing Density

The newly formed subcommittee has not yet met. Their focus is looking at how the goal of higher density along transportation corridors is being carried forward in the implementation of Envision Eugene.

Babe O'Sullivan offered to attach to future meeting packets copies of the most recent meeting minutes

5. Break

6. Transportation System Plan update

Kurt Yeiter, Senior Transportation Planner with the City of Eugene provided an update on the Transportation System Plan. He highlighted the process of applying TBL to the list of proposed transportation projects. The commission also discussed with Mr. Yeiter:

- Relationship to scenario planning
- Complete streets network
- Placeholder for Beltline improvements
- Oregon Department of Transportation projects: W. 11th near Terry; Beltline widening, W. 6th exit from Delta Hwy
- Expansion funding for Pedestrian Bicycle Master Plan

7. Sub-committee item: Sustainable Business Practices

Ms. Stein provided an overview and update on the work to finalize the revised draft memo on for the Sustainable Business Practices project.

Mr. Boles, seconded by Mr. Bonnett, moved to approve the Sustainable Business Practices memo. The motion passed, 9:0.

8. Items from commissioners and staff

Budget public meetings

Need commissioners to testify. Use memo to Budget Committee for talking points. January 21, 28 5:30 PM. Share memo with liaisons and ask to submit letters and encourage testimony. Short statement call to action (Kathi will develop) in bullet points

Updates

Ms. O'Sullivan:

- The monthly Sustainability Report was delayed and due to be distributed by the end of the week.
- Upcoming Council work sessions on climate issues include Feb. 19 (Internal Climate Action Plan) and Feb. 26 (Climate Recovery Ordinance).

Councilor Zelenka:

- In the City Council discussion of fossil fuel divestment on Jan. 13 they voted unanimously to request the City Manager to bring back a proposed policy. They also endorsed the idea of asking PERS and other investment boards to allow divestment.
- He has requested a Council work session on glass recycling. Currently there is no recycling of glass collected curbside.
- He requested the Council work session on the Climate Recovery ordinance (scheduled for Feb. 26).
- He is working with Councilor Syrett on a work session to address the right of all workers to earn sick days as a policy for all employees in Eugene.
- He put in a request for a local hire policy requiring that city capital projects have a certain percentage of local workers.

- He is developing a motion with Councilor Evans to establish a Food Policy Task Force with councilor Evans.
- A bike sharing project that includes 124 bikes and 27 stations is one of the top three priorities moved forward to the state for funding under the ConnectOregonV program.
- There is discussion of revisiting the housing mix decision for Envision Eugene , including having the Technical Resources Group reassess the split of 55% (single family homes) and 45%(multifamily homes).

Mr. Nielson:

- Mini Commute Challenge started today.

Ms. Wolling:

- She had a liaison meeting with Councilor Syrett who was very interested in the residential density discussion and supportive of a complete streets policy.

Mr. Boles:

- Participated in EWEB's planning for second water source.

9. Closing

The next meeting of the commission is February 19, 2014. Ms. Jaworski adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

(recorded by Babe O'Sullivan)