



## Eugene Sustainability Commission

### MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission  
Atrium, Saul Room  
Eugene, Oregon

March 19, 2014  
5:30 p.m.

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

Ms. Jaworski called the March 19, 2014 meeting of the Sustainability Commission to order.

#### 1. Opening - agenda review, approval of minutes

Ms. Jaworski called for corrections or clarifications to the February 19, 2014 minutes. It was noted that Mr. Saxion, not Mr. Bonnett, had made the motion to approve the minutes in the meeting and this needed to be corrected.

Mr. Saxion, seconded by Ms. Luftig, moved to approve the February 19, 2014 minutes as corrected. The motion passed, 6:0 with two abstentions (Boles, Bonnett).

#### 2. Public comment

Mark Robinowitz addressed the commission on the topics of eliminating the spraying of pesticides, concern for preparing for dam failure and flooding events, and a potential council resolution on carbon neutrality and recommended actions.

#### 3. Sub-committee reports

##### Carbon fee

Mr. Boles reported that he had asked if UO students could look at what other communities are doing on voluntary carbon offset programs. There was no response/interest from UO. Staff was asked to share with the commission related correspondence. Mr. Boles also reported that the process of the advisory committee for SB 306 study did not provide an opportunity for public input. Staff was requested to share the work plan for the PSU carbon pricing study with the commission.

##### Transportation

Mr. Bonnett reported that the committee had not met recently. He reiterated a request for other commissioners to consider joining the sub-committee. Commissioners Wolling and Luftig attended a meeting looking at projects in the Transportation System Plan. There is also a Lane Act meeting coming up to look at projects that can't be funded with highway transportation funds. Commissioners Luftig, Bonnett and Wolling will be testifying.

Commissioner Bonnett inquired about the status of the economic study on the S. Willamette Street project and the scheduled briefing at the Planning Commission. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the staff recommendation that the Sustainability Commission not be invited to join the Planning

Commission for that discussion. Ms. Jaworski agreed to approach Planning Commission Chair Bill Randall about members of the Sustainability Commission joining the meeting. Commissioners Bonnett, Luftig and several others indicated they could attend.

### Food

Ms. Gross reported that the sub-committee had not met recently. She inquired about the potential for the Lane Livability Consortium to advance work on the local food system and next steps for creating a food task force. She suggested including a registered dietician on that panel. Councilor Zelenka responded that the Mayor would appoint task force members.

### Triple Bottom Line

The sub-committee met March 13 where they discussed the Brownfields Assessment project and the use of TBL to evaluate sites and set priorities. The sub-committee has created a TBL matrix with specific projects under review and city staff has provided input on how TBL was used and what difference it made. The sub-committee will bring ideas forward at the next commission meeting for recommended triggers and other ways to improve TBL use.

Ben Duncan with Multnomah County Public Health joined the meeting to discuss environmental justice. The group discussed:

- Social/health equity and relation to the commission's work plan items and TBL in particular.
- Looking at various types of investments, i.e. transportation, and how equitably these are distributed in a community.
- Considering doing an event, as a work plan item for next year. Mr. Duncan could come speak with the commission and/or a community speaking event. The commission could co-sponsor the event and City Club and LiveMove might be interested as well. The group suggested perhaps combining this with the Equity & Opportunity Assessment conducted as part of the Lane Livability Consortium. They could also engage the Human Rights Commission to be involved.

### Housing Density

Ms. Luftig reported that she has a request in to meet with Heather O'Donnell (city Planning staff).

## **4. Scenario planning**

Matt McRae, Climate and Energy Analyst, along with Josh Roll from Lane Council of Governments provided a presentation on the Central Lane Scenario Planning project and the first round of results from modeling emission reduction from light duty passenger vehicles. Key points:

- Existing policies will achieve 3% reduction on top of what other fleet and technology changes will provide. This is not to the 20% target specified in legislation requiring the assessment.
- No one policy lever that will get us there.
- These are initial findings - need to ask more questions and refine modeling.
- Work shop in April and commissioners are encouraged to participate.

Some highlights from the discussion with the commission:

- Why only light duty vehicles and why is the region not required to implement the preferred alternative scenario? The state legislation that required this planning effort specified emission reductions for light duty vehicles only. Doing the work on a preferred scenario will set the stage for implementation even if it is not required.
- Need to talk about more than greenhouse gases and highlight other metrics relevant to the average person: differences in quality of life, lowering transportation costs, having better air quality/health, less congestion. This framing makes it more meaning and more likely to be implemented.
- Is there time to make changes to Envision Eugene and Transportation System Plan to capture some of the needed policy changes? This is not great timing for any changes to get beyond the

estimated 3% reduction in emissions. We are not likely to capture significant GHG reductions through land use policies.

- Is this a mechanism for inter-governmental collaboration on addressing climate change? This is not in the current scope of the project and it's a bigger question than the project addresses. Other jurisdictions are very shy about talking about climate change.
- Focus on pragmatic impacts: economic resilience, quality of life.
- Concern about inconsistencies in assumptions. Modeling doesn't include environmental impacts.
- Public process for developing alternative scenarios? The project team has been brainstorming policy changes, not changes in assumptions like population or other external changes. Just policy levers including a carbon fee.
- Council response to the 3% reduction? Should commission send message to council? It may be a better time a little further down the road.

## 5. Break

## 6. New City Hall

City Facilities Design & Construction Manager Mike Penwell was joined by Kaarin Knudson and John Rowell of Rowell Brokaw Architects in providing an update on the new city hall project. Some highlights from that presentation and discussion:

- The team is at the very beginning of the architectural design process that will lead to construction.
- First phase on SW corner of site - optimize orientation for building performance and to meet other goals.
- Great Street (8<sup>th</sup>). Eventual intensive redevelopment of whole block. Capture different opportunities in the future.
- Project goals:
  - Civic heart
  - Great Street to the river
  - Green City of Eugene living block
  - Accessible and welcoming
  - Endearing quality
  - Outward, not inward
  - A reason to go
- Rebuilding council chamber: how to connect to iconic aspects of the building going forward.
- Existing wood "screen" - cedar fins can be reused.
- Energy efficiency: EUI (energy utilization index). Old city hall had EUI of 130; for the new city hall the goal is a EUI of 30 (equates to \$250,000 annual savings in energy costs). Within range of net zero with on-site generation (as part of phase 2 of the project).
- Looking at how block will have influence on the district.
- Looking to balance symbolism and function.
- Cultural focus group was held and this led to a presentation to the tribal council at Grand Ronde. Old growth western red cedar is a very important material to their culture - symbol of perpetual generosity and provision. They offered to expand cultural literacy, serve as a partner.
- It may be too late to stop it but this is a bad idea. The City should utilize the County Public Service Building. The new city hall is improperly funded - should use bond, not operation and maintenance funding. Mr. Penwell: council has rejected this idea.
- What will happen with the site if there is no additional building in the future? Mr. Penwell: Using a framework for flexible site utilization as opportunities develop. Trying to build value in the site for future development and interest has been expressed from the development community (though no guarantee of when this may happen).

A council presentation is scheduled for April 9, with the team presenting a single design direction/recommendation. A conceptual building plan and site plan will be presented, and then the team will be moving into schematic design through 2014 and construction thru 2015.

## **7. Climate Action Planning**

Ms. Jaworski asked that time be taken to discuss the communication that followed the commission's decision from its last meeting to send City Council a statement supporting codification of climate action goals. The commission discussed reactions to a follow-up email to City Council from Ms. Gross and what it suggested about guidance for future communication and actions. Ms. Gross explained that her intent in sending the email was not to refute the commission's decision but to express concern over the potential threat of litigation to the City. She felt some urgency because there was no additional opportunity before council discussion of the ordinance.

Commissioners suggested several strategies if this situation arises in the future:

- The commission can include a dissenting opinion **in its communiqué.**
- Commissioners can express concern directly to council as an individual, not in their position as a commissioner or representing the commission.
- Consider having an in-person communication with fellow commissioners by phone before **preparing written communiqué.**

Staff also highlighted the importance of attending the orientation training provided by the City Manager's Office for new board and committee members and acknowledged that the training planned for fall 2013 was cancelled for lack of registered participants. The commission's bylaws also call for the Chair to conduct an orientation with new commissioners. This has not been a consistent practice in the past several years.

As for the proposed Climate Recovery ordinance, no action was taken at council at the March 10 work session. The next discussion of the ordinance is expected in May.

## **8. Items from commissioners and staff**

Ms. Luftig reported that she and Ms. Wolling attended a meeting of the South East Neighbors to share information about the commission. There were no questions or discussion following the presentation though the meeting had a large turnout (100 people).

She also reported that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was submitting a letter to city staffer Chris Henry about the S. Willamette Street pilot study. BPAC is not supporting the study but feel staff has done good work on developing the study concept.

Mr. Boles shared that there is a webinar on the British Columbia carbon fee on March 27 and commissioners are invited to sit in. Mr. McRae will send information about the time and location. There is also a meeting of the 350 Eugene group on April 3, from 7-8 PM at the First United Methodist Church.

Mr. Bonnett asked that the BPAC letter urge staff to get good information on baseline conditions before implementing the pilot. Ms. Wolling mentioned that it will not likely measure business impact or public opinion.

Ms. Wolling reported that there is an upcoming multi-modal community meeting to coordinate transit, bike and other stakeholders.

## **9. Closing**

The next meeting of the commission is April 16, 2014. Ms. Jaworski adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

(recorded by Babe O'Sullivan)