



## MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission  
Atrium, Saul Room  
Eugene, Oregon

May 21, 2014  
5:30 p.m.

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

Ms. Jaworski called the May 21, 2014 meeting of the Sustainability Commission to order.

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

Ms. Jaworski called for corrections or clarifications to the March 19, 2014 minutes.

Ms. Gross, seconded by Ms. Luftig, moved to approve the March 19, 2014 minutes as submitted. The motion passed, 7:0.

### 2. Public comment

Andrew Hitz, editor of the farmer's market newsletter, inquired about the Food Market Analysis (2010) and progress made toward implementation. The commission reviewed recent related activities, including the letter sent to Council in May 2012 and interest in establishing a food policy task force. Mr. Hitz was advised to check with Lane County about implementation of the Food Market Analysis.

Gordon Levitt, with Our Children's Trust, appealed to commissioners to attend the Council meeting on May 27 to show support for a climate recovery ordinance.

### 3. Sub-committee reports

#### Carbon fee

The sub-committee met May 8. Recent updates include:

- They have not been able to obtain not much information on the Portland State University study of carbon pricing but a draft is expected fall 2014.
- They are pulling together fact sheets to be included in the packet for the May 27 Council work session on climate recovery in response to Councilor Zelenka's request. The fact sheets cover 1) information on the British Columbia carbon tax, 2) summary of information in the 5<sup>th</sup> assessment report of the International Panel on Climate Change, and 3) summary of information in the recent national Climate Assessment report.
- There is a webinar on the National Climate Assessment report tomorrow featuring Phil Mote with Oregon State University.

Ms. Luftig, seconded by Ms. Gross, moved to direct staff to include the fact sheets and cover letter in the upcoming Council packet, with a few minor grammatical edits.

Discussion: Should the cover letter be edited to address the prior communication on March 3 that supported the concept/principles of codifying climate action goals? Suggestion that March memo be included as an attachment. Commissioner Gross would like to review edits prior to approving the cover letter. Staff will develop edits during the meeting break and bring back for consideration.

Mr. Bonnett, seconded by Ms. Luftig, moved to table the motion until after the break.

### Transportation

The sub-committee met recently and provided the following updates:

- Ms. Wolling and Mr. Bonnett testified at a recent LaneAct hearing to prioritize Connect Oregon projects.
- Sub-committee members sat at the table and joined the Planning Commission for discussion of the ECONorthwest study on economic impacts related to the proposed alternatives for S. Willamette Street. Consultants did not find any information in a literature review that suggests adverse impact on the economic welfare of businesses under option 3. Economic impact study was focused on the impacts of reduced auto traffic - and neglected to report on the potential positive impacts associated with increased non-motorized traffic. Concern that a test trial on the S. Willamette St. redesign could similarly be weighted on impacts of changes in auto traffic. Economic consultant said that the existing research was inconclusive as to the economic impacts.
- Members testified to Council about S. Willamette St. design. Most comments at the Council hearing this week were supportive of bike lanes.
- Members may be advocating a complete streets policy with city transportation planner Kurt Yeiter to include in the Transportation System Plan.
- Connect Oregon projects:
  - The Super Area Committee on Transportation (ACT) is looking at \$2.8 million for pedestrian bridge projects associated with the W. 11<sup>th</sup> EmX alignment. This project was ranked #2 and is likely to be funded.
  - Springfield is redesigning an intersection that indicates the need to rebuild the EmX McVeigh station. This was ranked #5 by the Super ACT.
  - Bike share is the last project - not a high priority. Not expected to get funded this round.
- Beltline facility plan: 3 options for NEPA analysis. All would add arterial bridge over the river (\$210-\$270 million, not including purchase of right of way). This is a large portion of the budget for the Transportation System Plan (TSP).
  - Question about if/how the Commission could/should weigh in. Could there be a Triple Bottom Line analysis conducted on this project? How about the STARS tool? Should this project be on the agenda for a future discussion?
  - Mr. Saxion recused himself from discussion/decision as he works for CH<sub>2</sub>MHill. Other suggestions for action: talk with city councilors; write a memo to Council and provide a sense of scale of expenditure. Sub-committee can draft a statement and bring back at June meeting.

### Food

The sub-committee has not met recently. Members were able to join a webinar on food councils, including Ms. Lesley, Ms. Gross and Kara Smith from Lane Food Council. Ms. Smith has extensive research and documentation on the work of the Lane Food Council.

### Triple Bottom Line

Ms. Gross reported that the STAR rating is a compromise for Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) in Oregon and is not an alternative to measuring community success in Gross National Product (GDP) nor does it have the same value as GPI. A study is currently underway with PSU (involving Governor Kitzhaber) - the contact is Dr. John Talberth and he may look at Eugene. The commission should invite Dr. Talberth for a TBL discussion.

#### Housing Density

Commissioners Wolling, Stein and Luftig met with city planning staff Heather O'Donnell and Alissa Hansen, along with Ed McMahon, to discuss land need for housing and Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) expansion. The amount of land required is very small - and doesn't take into account all of the new student housing that has been built. It seems as if the housing mix were revisited and/or re-measured, the assumptions might have to be changed. A revised housing mix of 46% single family and 54% multi-family would eliminate additional land need but staff is ready to move on. Commissioners may want to check in with Technical Resource Group members (Josh Skov, Shawn Boles, Mia Nelson) to gauge the need for action. Other actions: 1) explore work with neighborhood associations to reduce fear about infill, 2) opportunity to work with Planning Commission.

#### **4. Liaison reports**

- Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee: Members of BPAC are concerned that funds for bike/ped projects will be used for a trial on S. Willamette Street.
- Councilor Evans: Council discussing Multi-Unit Property Tax Exemption (MUPTE) areas - and looking out Hwy 99, Trainsong, and W. 11th. MUPTE provides incentive to move in, clean up, and build infill within these areas. MUPTE could be used for cleaning up brownfields. Some other neighborhood leaders are concerned about MUPTE use of any kind.
- NE Neighbors: interest in MUPTE.
- NEDCO: Doing plan for neighborhood development. There's not a lot of funding for affordable housing in Eugene. NEDCO wanting to do more work in Eugene but opportunities are limited. Maybe more targeting for acquisition and rehab. The group is also doing food system work.
  - Downtown Neighborhood Association: The group is getting a presentation on bike share and considering the impacts of bike/ped improvements and new commercial uses and redevelopment.
- Good time to check in with liaisons to inform work planning this summer.

#### **5. Commission leadership changes**

New commissioners coming on board soon:

- Paul Nielson will step down creating a vacancy that will need to be filled.
- Bob Denouden has stepped down. His position is the subject of current recruitment efforts by Council.
- If Dawn Lesley becomes a County Commissioner, she would step down from the commission.
- Kathi Jaworski will be stepping down this summer, announcing her resignation as of June 30.

Leadership changes:

- Ms. Jaworski's appointment as Chair will end June 30.
- Mr. Newcomb can continue as Chair or Vice Chair.

- New leadership will be elected at July meeting. Another member is needed to fill the vacant Chair/Vice-Chair.

## **6. Break**

## **7. Commission policy development**

Follow up on communication and concerns about decision making and dissenting opinions. There may be two policies to develop:

- a. How to address dissenting opinions
- b. Working agreements

An example of a working agreement was shared from the Human Rights Commission. Sample language is also found in the city's manual for advisory committee members. Staff was asked to check with the Planning Commission about working agreements and dissenting opinions. Mr. Saxion, Mr. Newcomb and Ms. Gross Joanne will work on developing draft policies and bring back proposals in June.

## **8. Climate Action Planning**

The action item on materials to submit to Council on climate recovery was taken up again.

Ms. Luftig, seconded by Ms. Wolling, moved to change the last paragraph of the draft letter to include language from the March memo in support of the development of an ordinance, to allow the sub-committee to make edits, and then adopt, approve, and send to City Council to be included in Council packet for the next council meeting. The motion passed, 8:0.

Councilor Zelenka reported:

- A majority of Council would like to see the climate recovery proposal become an ordinance. He expects the Council to direct staff to come back with an ordinance for discussion at a Public Hearing.
- The issue of fossil fuel divestment is coming back to Council soon. Staff will bring back language to send to PERS board and other fund managers urging them to divest.

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

Staff reported on current projects funded through grants from the Urban Sustainability Director's Network. Staff was asked to share 1) information about the current USDN funding opportunity and 2) USDN resources to help with doing GPI in cities.

## **10. Closing**

The next meeting of the commission is June 18, 2014. Ms. Jaworski adjourned the meeting at 7:54 PM.

(recorded by Babe O'Sullivan)