



MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission
Atrium, Saul Room
Eugene, Oregon

September 17, 2014
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Shawn Boles, Howard Bonnett, Joanne Gross, Dawn Lesley, Sasha Luftig, Steve Newcomb, Justin Overvest, Howard Saxion, Carolyn Stein, David Tam, Sue Wolling, commissioners. Babe O’Sullivan, City Manager’s Office.

ABSENT: Summer Cox, Alan Zelenka, commissioners.

Mr. Newcomb called the September 17, 2014 meeting of the Sustainability Commission to order.

1. Opening – agenda review, approval of minutes

Mr. Newcomb called for corrections or clarifications to the July 16, 2014 minutes.

Ms. Lesley, seconded by Ms. Stein, moved to approve the July 16, 2014 minutes as submitted. The motion passed, 9:0.

Mr. Newcomb called for corrections or clarifications to the August 26, 2014 minutes. Ms. Lesley pointed out that Mr. Zelenka was incorrectly listed as attending the meeting.

Mr. Bonnett, seconded by Ms. Lesley, moved to approve the August 26, 2014 minutes as corrected. The motion passed, 7:0.

2. Public comment

No members of the public wished to comment.

Mr. Bonnett shared that at a recent public hearing on the Climate Recovery Ordinance, Mark Robinowitz quoted from a draft letter produced by the commission. To protect against any misrepresentation in the future, it was suggested that draft commission documents include a watermark “Draft.”

3. Sub-committee reports

Each sub-committee was asked to lead a discussion of the proposed work plan items, with questions, clarifications and suggested modifications as noted below:

Envision Eugene

- Clarify item 1c: “Have a presence at Envision Eugene meetings” - which meetings are referred to, Council or public? More specificity suggested for “have a presence.”
- Difficult to be proactive on every council decision related to Envision Eugene. Perhaps the commission should focus on pillar 3 and 7 implementation.

- Need staff forecast of Envision Eugene items coming forward (at next commission meeting or sub-committee meeting). Suggestion that Mr. Boles request this at 10/2 Technical Resource Group meeting.
- Sub-committee may need to revise outcomes and planned activities based on the forecast.

Carbon fee/CRO

- Can the commission advise staff on implementation of the Climate Recovery Ordinance (CRO)? Bring this up with City Manager.
- Staff expected to vet CRO planning/strategy with commission.
- Need more description on the carbon offset item. What does it link to in CRO? To carbon neutral goal and purchase of local, verifiable offsets.

Transportation System Plan

- Need to add timeline for planned activities. Some of these include: 10/22 update on TSP at Council; Public forum on 10/13 – could speak to complete streets policy.
- Willamette Street project – communicating with staff is the most effective strategy.
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan (PBMP) open house 10/2.

Adaptation Planning

- EWEB is hosting statewide discussion of adaptation strategies.
- Some word-smithing needed for outcome 1 – currently too wordy.
- Opportunity for supporting regional collaboration, leveraging for other sustainability collaboration.

Sustainable Economic Development

- Wealth gap – how is this addressed in these items?
- Item 2: Sustainable Business Initiative (SBI) – city has done most of the items, how to compel other community partners?
- Item 3: “Address Food and Economic Development relationship” – revisit the pool of folks interviewed 2 years ago with refocus on economic development aspects.
- Item 3a: “Establish a program to create a win/win scenario for the city and county” - change to “explore the possibility of public-non-profit partnership.”
- Item 3b: “Request to be active participants in the city council food task force” - should state this more directly.

Action item: Commissioners to submit revised work plan items by Sept. 24. Staff will standardize topic descriptions for each work plan item.

Action item: Staff to provide an evaluation form to commissioners for feedback on the work planning retreat.

4. Liaison assignments for FY 15

Mr. Newcomb suggested that in the interest of time, this agenda item be carried over to the October meeting.

5. BREAK

6. FY 15 Work Plan next steps

Mr. Newcomb led a discussion of the upcoming consultations with the Mayor and the City Manager on Sept. 29 to get input on the draft FY 15 work plan. Some suggested talking points included:

- Reiterate – we heard what you had to say prior to retreat.
- Take a higher level view and ask the Mayor and City Manager to review and comment.
- Key messages 1) you’ll be hearing from us a lot this year, 2) we’re committed to communicating more frequently and using more points of contact.
- It might be useful to differentiate messages to Mayor vs. City Manager.
- A point to make with the City Manager: stress urgency for taking action on climate change now. Senior staff needs to recognize importance and help council implement climate action goals.
- Another key message: we want to be relevant to Council. We stand ready to work with Council and City Manager on these items and welcome direction for how best to do this.
- In speaking with the City Manager, emphasize that we are trying to help staff with projects that are already moving, helping to achieve goals/outcomes through a support or advocacy role.
- Need to discuss how best to respond to requests from Council – how to take advantage of this for items that come before Council?
- Questions to ask the City Manager: How can we help? What does he suggest for strategy?
- Question to ask the Mayor: What should we ask the City Manager?
- How to stand out among the three commissions presenting work plans on Oct. 13? Suggestion: Ask City Council what actions they have planned to address climate adaptation and mitigation?

There was some discussion about how to vet changes to the work plan suggested from the upcoming consultation meetings. The commission leadership may need to consult with sub-committees about any significant changes under consideration.

Action item: staff to provide a time budget and list of other commissions included in the Oct. 13 council work session.

Action item: Commission leadership to consult with Councilor Zelenka and develop a strategy for addressing Council with goal of sharing this with the commission before Oct. 13.

7. Monthly commission meeting structure

Mr. Saxion presented options for changing the commission meeting structure, particularly to enable sub-committees to work more effectively. After discussing several options, commissioners agreed that the sub-committee meetings should be outside the monthly commission meeting but need to be more regular and predictable. Standing meetings times were discussed with the following schedule of monthly meetings agreed upon:

Sub-committee	Day of the Month	Time	Location
Envision Eugene	3 rd Wednesday	10:00 AM	Theo’s coffee house
Carbon fee/CRO	1 st Wednesday	1:00 PM	Atrium, room 210
Transportation System Plan	2 nd Wednesday	1:00 PM	Atrium (room TBD)
Adaptation	2 nd Tuesday	9:00 AM	Atrium (room TBD)
Sustainable Economic Development	1 st Tuesday	5:00 PM	First National Tap House

Action item: Ms. O'Sullivan will reserve meeting rooms for the entire year and submit required public notice.

8. Closing

The next meeting of the commission is October 15, 2014. Mr. Newcomb adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.

9. Orientation for new commissioners

Mr. Newcomb provided a short orientation for new commissioners Tam and Overdeest to discuss the commission's history, culture and process for conducting its work.

Recorded by Babe O'Sullivan