



Eugene Sustainability Commission

MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission
Atrium, Saul Room
Eugene, Oregon

October 15, 2014
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Shawn Boles, Howard Bonnett, Joanne Gross, Dawn Lesley, Sasha Luftig, Steve Newcomb, Howard Saxion, David Tam, commissioners. Babe O’Sullivan, Matt McRae, City Manager’s Office.

ABSENT: Justin Overdevest, Carolyn Stein, Sue Wolling, commissioners.

Mr.Saxion called the October 15, 2014 meeting of the Sustainability Commission to order.

1. Opening – agenda review, approval of minutes

Mr. Saxion announced that Summer Cox has resigned. Councilor Poling will be making another appointment to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Saxion called for corrections or clarifications to the September 17, 2014 minutes.

Ms. Lesley, seconded by Ms. Luftig, moved to approve the September 17, 2014 minutes as submitted. The motion passed, 7:0.

2. Public comment

Mark Robinowitz provided comments regarding his concerns with the way state and local governments in Texas have responded to Ebola cases. The Community Climate and Energy Action Plan includes a section on public health – Eugene needs to make sure there are appropriate measures for a public health emergency like this. Such an emergency will cause major disruptions to global energy and other systems. Mr. Robinowitz called on the Sustainability Commission to take up the issue with Peace Health and other public health officials.

Commissioner Boles suggested that this issue is more closely related to the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. Lane County has authority over this type of hazard.

3. Sub-committee reports

Envision Eugene

Carolyn Burke, Interim Planning Director, provided the sub-committee at its recent meeting with an update on the formal adoption process for UGB expansion. There are two components:

1. Clear Lake/Jobs, Parks and Schools: still in the analysis phase. The Planning Commission will have a discussion of staff recommendations at a meeting on 10/27.

2. Residential: A Triple Bottom Line analysis is planned for reviewing three potential expansion areas. Staff is forming a task group for this and it will include 2-3 Sustainability Commission members.

There was discussion about how to participate to get the best TBL-based results/recommendations. The sub-committee suggested to Planning staff that the TBL analysis incorporate questions about the Envision Eugene “pillars.” This is also seen as an opportunity to provide input on mitigating impacts in Clear Lake area neighborhoods.

Action item: Mr. Bonnett volunteered for the TBL task team. Commissioners Newcomb and Lesley are interested in participating as well, given time limitations. Commissioners Saxion and Gross will try to attend the Planning Commission meeting on 10/27 and bring back suggestions for full commission response.

Transportation System Plan

The sub-committee continues to discuss its work plan items:

- Complete Streets policy: Transportation staff Kurt Yeiter has been receptive to improving the Transportation System Plan (TSP) policies.
- Staff provided a TSP update to City Council on 10/22. Mr. Bonnett spoke to Council at a public forum on 10/13. He suggested that if council wants the Sustainability Commission to look at policies, to please ask for that. He also suggested council consider how the TSP complies with the Climate Recovery Ordinance.
- ODOT and alternatives for Beltline Hwy: Need to find opportunities for commission input about how ODOT has considered alternatives. Councilor Zelenka reported that at the last MPC meeting there was discussion about alternative transportation modes. Data shows steady declines in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and car ownership and licenses among young drivers. He asked ODOT for projected future conditions that were the basis for the Beltline project. The Beltline project modeling is based on TSP modeling. This calls into question the assumptions in TSP modeling about future conditions. He recommended that the sub-committee look at the memo from ODOT.

Action item: Councilor Zelenka will forward ODOT memo on future conditions to staff to share with the commission.

Adaptation Planning

The sub-committee discussed the Oct. 8th staff presentation on the Climate and Hazards Vulnerability Assessment, including the climate implications and the proposed changes to the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The sub-committee is considering the process, what role they will play and looking at any gaps to address. One gap they’ve identified is community preparedness. They want to work with other organizations (CERT, Map Your Neighborhood, etc.) and plan to meet with staff to discuss further.

The commission had more discussion about dealing with disease outbreaks and the ability of the County to address public health needs.

Carbon Fee

The sub-committee is looking at next steps with regard to the anticipated report on a statewide carbon fee. They plan to communicate with Representative Phil Barhardt about what the legislative delegation is doing and how the Sustainability Commission and the City of Eugene can provide support. It was

shared that Benton County has passed a carbon fee resolution. Councilor Zelenka predicted that the PSU study will likely say that the impact of the fee is slightly economically beneficial or neutral. There was interest among commissioners in planning for messaging to Council in advance of a possible January 2015 council work session on the topic. Councilor Zelenka seeks both a resolution and a work session.

Sustainable Economic Development

The sub-committee is planning its next steps which include starting review of the Sustainable Business Initiative. They are also focusing on the economic development aspects of the food system and have begun planning an interview process as part of their research. They also plan to 1) assess the Sustainable Economic Development toolkit when that project has been completed and 2) review the Climate and Energy Action Plan for implementation status and barriers.

There was discussion about the status of the proposed task force for a regional food strategy. Commissioners felt it is important to continue to advocate for establishing the task force.

Councilor Zelenka provided an update on the new City Hall: Council recently voted overwhelmingly to support going forward with the project. They also voted for LEED Gold as a green building goal, including making the building net-zero energy and water ready. Efforts are underway to achieve 90% waste diversion during the demolition of the existing structure.

3. FY 15 Work Plan next steps

Chair Steve Newcomb and Vice Chair Howard Saxion provided an update on the commission's FY 15 work plan. At its Oct. 13 work session, City Council voted unanimously to approve the commission's work plan. Commissioners Newcomb and Saxion provided a presentation on the work plan elements. During the council discussion, Councilor Syrett expressed concern that the commission should put more effort on social equity, including collaborating with the Human Rights Commission (HRC). Commissioners Newcomb and Saxion reported that they intend to meet with HRC leadership to explore synergies and cross walk the commissions' respective work plans. They also reported that the commission's effort to align its work plan with what council will be acting on resonated with the Mayor and council.

Action item: Staff will circulate HRC work plan.

In other news about the work plan Ms. Gross shared that former commissioner Kathi Jaworski has finished the Triple Bottom Line report as developed under the FY 14 work plan. Commissioner Gross will bring the report to the next commission meeting for review.

4. BREAK

5. Liaison assignments for FY 15

Commissioners were assigned to community groups as detailed in the attached summary.

6. Envision Eugene

This topic was discussed earlier in the meeting during the sub-committee reports. It was shared that City Manager Jon Ruiz has called a meeting of the Community Resource Group on Nov. 3.

7. Items from commissioners and staff

- Ms. Gross: she is participating in meetings aimed at a 5-year economic development plan for the Bethel area. One focus area is the food industry. This is an opportunity to bring the results forward from the May 2012 commission memo on food strategy.
- Mr. Boles: A Greenlane event is planned for next Wednesday evening at Sprout in Springfield. He also noted an article about collapsing roads from 4 to 3 lanes and the benefits of doing so in Portland.
- Councilor Zelenka: Beyond Toxics is holding a forum on herbicides and pesticides. University of Oregon is hosting a presentation by Tyrone Hayes, integrated biologist.
- Mr. Tam: Cornerstone Community Housing is hosting an event Nov. 12 with Green Energy Corp. for networking and fundraising.

8. Closing

Mr. Saxion adjourned the meeting at 7:26 PM.

Recorded by Babe O'Sullivan

Sustainability Commission Community Liaisons FY 2015

What is the job of a community liaison?

- Share our work plan, look for connections
- Hear what they are interested in and carry back to Commission
- Strive for informal/frequent check-ins vs. formal/infrequent check-ins
- Fill in as a speaker on SC work and history as needed
- Share what other groups are doing of common interest, and surface opportunities to engage
- Meet at least quarterly and report out to the commission

Organization and contacts	Commissioner contact(s)
Bethel school districts (ad hoc with 4J)	Joanne Gross
Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)	Sasha Luftig, Howie Bonnett
BRING Recycling	Carolyn Stein
City of Springfield	Steve Newcomb
Eugene Chamber of Commerce	Carolyn Stein, David Tam
Eugene City Council: George Poling George Brown Betty Taylor Alan Zelenka Mike Clark Claire Syrett Chris Pryor Greg Evans	Kevin O'Brien Shawn Boles Howie Bonnett Dawn Lesley Steve Newcomb Sue Wolling Justin Overdevest Joanne Gross
EWEB	Steve Newcomb, Shawn Boles, Carolyn Stein
GreenLane Network	Carolyn Stein, Shawn Boles, David Tam
Lane County (Administrator)	Dawn Lesley
Lane Transit District	Sasha Luftig, Justin Overdevest
NEDCO	Shawn Boles, Dawn Lesley
Neighborhood associations: Downtown Bethel Santa Clara Fairmount	Sue Wolling Joanne Gross Dawn Lesley Alan Zelenka

Northeast Southeast Whitaker Churchill	Sasha Luftig Howard Saxion
Street Repair Review Panel	Sue Wolling
University of Oregon: SCI, law school, 3PM dept. Sustainability Office and ENVS dept. Multicultural Center	Justin Overdevest, Howard Saxion, Shawn Boles, David Tam, Steve Newcomb
Regional Food Task Force (if formed)	Dawn Lesley, Shawn Boles