



## Eugene Sustainability Commission

### MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission  
Atrium, Saul Room  
Eugene, Oregon

November 19, 2014  
5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Shawn Boles, Howard Bonnett, Dawn Lesley, Sasha Luftig, Steve Newcomb, Kevin O'Brien, Howard Saxion, David Tam, Justin Overdevest, Carolyn Stein, Sue Wolling and Alan Zelenka, commissioners. Babe O'Sullivan, City Manager's Office.

**ABSENT:** Joanne Gross, commissioner.

Mr. Newcomb called the November 19, 2014 meeting of the Sustainability Commission to order.

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

Mr. Newcomb called for corrections or clarifications to the October 15, 2014 minutes.

Ms. Lesley, seconded by Mr. Saxion, moved to approve the October 15, 2014 minutes as submitted. The motion passed, 6:0.

#### 2. Public comment

Mark Robinowitz provided comments regarding his concerns with the Beltline Highway expansion and the commission's role in speaking about it. He pointed out that the Scenario Planning documents for this meeting don't address this or peak oil, peak traffic.

Commissioner Boles reminded the commission that he has pushed for a policy recommendation on new transportation related investments. He suggested the commission make a recommendation even if it's an ODOT project.

Carlos Barrera addressed the commission about several topics including:

- The importance of trainings with Risk/Emergency Management on disaster preparedness.
- Concern about highway bridges and access to food and supplies in the case of a major event.
- Concern about Urban Growth Boundary expansion into Russell Creek Basin near Lane Community College. Sewer line expansion will put development pressure on farm land in this area, land that may be needed for food production. He suggested the commission discourage this expansion in its comments to City Council.

#### 3. Items from commissioners and staff

Councilor Zelenka provided an update on City Council items including:

- 1) Regional Food System: at the City Council meeting on Nov. 10, the motion introduced by Councilors Evans and Zelenka calling for the establishment of a regional food task force was

side-tracked by Lane County presentation on economic development aspects. The motion is still tabled at this point and it's not clear when it will come up again for discussion. Commissioners are encouraged to talk to their appointing councilor about bringing it back.

- 2) Micro-housing: a work session on micro housing has been approved for next year (date to be determined). The discussion will focus on how to promote more of this housing type and what needs to be done to create micro-housing villages. While there's a lot that can be done within existing city, some changes are needed, particularly to address land use and allowed density. This strategy could support homeless and low income residents.

Commissioner Saxion mentioned that in a recent meeting with the leadership of the Human Rights Commission this was identified as an area for joint work.

- 3) Economic development: the City will review economic development activities and hold 4 panels to discuss what the City can do to promote priority industries including edu-tech, food, advanced manufacturing and clean/green tech.
- 4) Beltline Highway project: Councilor Zelenka shared a memo from ODOT with assumptions about future traffic conditions that indicate big increase in traffic volumes mostly due to population growth. Fixing safety problems can be phased in before additional lanes are developed. The upcoming meeting with ODOT and the commission's Transportation sub-committee is a chance to ask questions about the justification for proposed expansion.

#### **4. TBL memo**

Mr. Bonnett led a discussion of a draft memo reporting on the results of the Triple Bottom Line sub-committee project looking at the use of TBL in several City decisions and projects. He reviewed the findings, stating that the sub-committee was interested in discovering what prompts use of the TBL. The recommendations in the memo call on the City to address short-comings and ensure more consistent use of the decision tool.

Mr. Bonnett, seconded by Ms. Luftig, moved to advance the draft memo to the City Manager with changes as discussed. The motion passed 12:0.

The commission discussed next steps for discussing the memo with the City Manager, making revisions and bringing it back to Council in mid-January 2015. It was suggested that the City Manager be asked how to operationalize the recommendations and put TBL results in Agenda Item Summaries (AIS) for Council. It was concluded that the memo needs to come back to the commission after feedback from the City Manager.

#### **5. Scenario Planning**

Ryan Farncomb with CH<sub>2</sub>MHill provided an overview of the Scenario Planning project for developing a regional strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light duty vehicles. He presented key findings from the analysis and next steps for selecting a preferred regional scenario. The discussion with the commission focused on the relationship of the project to the goals codified in the Climate Recovery Ordinance and the update of the Transportation System Plan. Mr. Farncomb agreed to provide some follow-up information about the project including:

- Policy assumptions that went into each of the three scenarios;
- More detail on the relationship between the scenario planning process and Eugene’s Climate Recovery Ordinance; and
- A more detailed explanation of what is included in the “cost savings due to reduced disease burden” metric.

**6. BREAK**

**7. Envision Eugene**

Commissioner Lesley provided an update on the City’s process for reviewing Urban Growth Boundary expansion areas.

- 1) Industrial lands (job/parks/schools): Focus is on Clear Lake Rd. study area. Staff is ready to present analysis to City Council along with a recommendation. She suggested that the commission’s role should be to look out for mitigating impacts to the community and the environment.
- 2) Residential (single family housing): Commissioners participated in a TBL review of the 3 areas under study and a summary of those results is being developed. The overall conclusion was that all three options have negative impacts on the environment, don’t enhance social equity, and that the cost to provide services is incomplete but very high per house built. There was also discussion of the housing mix and its bearing on the analysis and the possibility of revisiting this.

Some suggestions were made for commission action including:

- Speak with appointing City Councilor about the costs to serve the residential areas and it’s relation to historic System Development Charges (SDCs).
- Talk also with Ed McMahon of Home Builders.

Ms. Lesley will forward to commissioners a compilation of upcoming Planning Commission and City Council meetings dealing with Envision Eugene issues. She also suggested circulating the staff PowerPoint presentation used in the TBL review of residential areas.

**8. Closing**

Mr. Newcomb adjourned the meeting at 8:31 PM.

*Recorded by Babe O’Sullivan*