



## Eugene Sustainability Commission

### MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission  
Atrium, Saul Room  
Eugene, Oregon

January 21, 2015  
5:30 p.m.

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

**ABSENT:** Steve Newcomb, commissioner.

Mr. Saxion called the January 21, 2015 meeting of the Sustainability Commission to order.

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

Mr. Saxion called for corrections or clarifications to the December 17, 2014 minutes. Commissioner Wolling requested that Chris Henry be listed as present.

Mr. Bonnett, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, moved to approve the December 17, 2014 minutes as corrected. The motion passed 8:0. Commissioner Boles abstained.

#### 2. Public comment

There was no public comment.

#### 3. Sub-committee reports

##### Transportation

Commissioners Bonnett and Wolling attended a recent meeting of the Transportation Community Resource Group (TCRG) and reported that Transportation staff Kurt Yeiter is responsive to comments and revisions of the Transportation System Plan (TSP). The commission's recommendations for the Complete Streets policy have been received and the policy has been tweaked somewhat. The sub-committee is pressing for a provision for someone to be accountable to report on which streets were not complete streets and why. The language in TSP is not as solid as desired and it should have stronger provisions for tracking progress toward goals. As with Envision Eugene, it should also be revisited after 5 years for review and adjustment.

Other notes on the TSP:

- Some transportation related metrics will be part of pillar 7 in Envision Eugene. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) has been suggested.
- Some of the actions listed should be upgraded to policies instead.
- Concerns about the financial element and staff's assessment that funding is adequate/available.

- Commissioners Bonnett and Wolling may meet with staff to discuss additional changes to the plan.

*Action item: The sub-committee will prepare a statement on the Beltline Highway project for the next commission meeting.*

#### Sustainable Economic Development (SED)

The sub-committee is preparing for interviews to explore food policy and how the City of Eugene can help. They've prepared questions and invited groups of local experts/stakeholders in four categories: government, processors, distributors and producers. They will hold their first interviews on Feb 13 with the distribution group. Invitations have been sent for a meeting with the production group. The goal is to identify opportunities for what economic development in the food sector might look like.

Commissioner Gross shared that she had sent an email to Councilors Zelenka and Evans asking about the proposed regional food task force. The motion to create the task force has been indefinitely tabled until further action by the County. She also shared that Beezup's Farm has been active around urban growth boundary issues in the Clear Lake area and may be interested in participating on the task force.

The sub-committee also reported on a meeting with Sustainability staff to review implementation of actions in the Climate and Energy Action Plan for their potential economic development opportunity.

#### Envision Eugene

The sub-committee provided an update later on the agenda (see item 4 below).

#### Carbon Fee

The sub-committee provided several updates including:

- Megan Kemple (with 350.org) provided the sub-committee with a report on activity in the legislature on carbon pricing. Taxes collected on transportation fuel have to go back to the state Highway Fund and this is an issue for advancing legislation to establish a carbon tax. There is also a possibility of a cap and trade approach. The discussion is very fluid right now. Local legislators are not very interested and 350.org is sending out emails about this.
- With regard to the carbon tax resolution drafted by the commission, Councilor Zelenka is trying to move this forward to the full council. He has sent the resolution to the City Attorney and it has been returned in proper format. He is currently sending it around to councilors before bringing forward for introduction.
- Commissioner Boles reported on an upcoming Carbon Summit. Utility leaders are meeting at behest of the Oregon Environmental Council about how to respond to federal regulations (e.g. Clean Power Plan).

#### Adaptation

The sub-committee is in the process of developing a table to coincide with Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP) going to Council in February. The intent is to "connect the dots" between the NHMP and climate adaption opportunities.

*Action item: the sub-committee should have a draft document to review at next commission meeting.*

#### **4. Sub-committee item: Envision Eugene**

The sub-committee submitted a draft memo on UGB expansion for commission review and consideration. At a recent public forum, staff indicated that they're revisiting the residential expansion recommendation after some errors had been discovered in the calculations of buildable land. Further analysis may suggest shrinking or eliminating residential land need. Staff will be consulting with the Technical Resource Group and coming back for a council work session later in January.

There was discussion about changes to the sub-committee memo in light of these developments.

- This creates an opportunity to re-look at the single family/multi-family (SF/MF) housing mix ratio from more of a technical standpoint. New data/analysis will change the housing mix.
- The commission may want to hold off sending the memo but there is concern that the commission needs to remind council that the staff recommendation was not in line with Envision Eugene pillars and that's of concern even if the calculation error eliminates the land need.
- There was also frustration that the staff recommendation did not focus on urban reserves.
- Issues in the memo regarding expansion in the Clear Lake Rd. area are still relevant. This is a good opportunity to weigh in on mitigation efforts, preferably before the next council work session.
- There was mixed opinion on the outcomes of the related Triple Bottom Line analysis of the residential expansion areas, whether a "least bad" option could have been identified. TBL results would indicate adjusting the housing mix but that was not under consideration.

The commission concluded that the memo should be submitted with revisions to 1) bolster the argument to re-look at SF/MF housing mix and 2) revisit approach to urban reserves.

## **5. BREAK**

The commission continued with crafting edits to the draft memo on Envision Eugene and expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary.

Ms. Luftig, seconded by Ms. Stein, moved to approve the memo with the changes drafted by the commission and to include it in the next Council packet. The motion passed 12:0.

## **6. Carbon fee**

The Carbon Fee sub-committee provided a draft memo for discussion that summarizes key points from the Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report by the International Panel of Climate Change (IPCC). Some changes and edits were suggested by commissioners.

Ms. Luftig, seconded by Ms. Lesley, moved to approve the memo with the changes discussed and submit to City Council. The motion passed 12:0

*Action item: Include this memo with dissemination of draft carbon fee resolution, perhaps with the Agenda Item Summary for Council.*

*Action item: Commissioners to consider reading the memo into the record at a public forum. Forums are scheduled with City Council for Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Carbon Fee sub-committee will discuss who will participate.*

## **7. NHMP update**

Matt McRae gave a presentation on the update of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP). Some highlights from the presentation include:

- The plan update includes the vulnerability assessment discussed a year ago. The plan includes mitigation actions to address some, but not all, of the concerns from that assessment.
- Many of the solutions to reduce carbon emissions also help to reduce risk of flood, wildfire, etc.
- All systems were shown to be dependent on electricity and transportation so many of the mitigation measures address these.
- The plan calls for increased local generation (currently generating 20% of local electricity use) but also more distributed generation to reduce dependence on single consolidated sources.
- Winter storms and earthquakes have the potential to topple power lines and block roadways. The plan update calls out the need to move power lines underground.
- The Draft NHMP is currently at the Federal Emergency Management Agency for review and is due at Council on February 9.
- The commission's adaptation sub-committee is working on a document that will help to connect all these dots between climate change, natural hazards and mitigation efforts.
- Also has to be adopted by Springfield. No commitment to do actions in the plan but Matt's responsible for moving these forward. If approved, Eugene is eligible for pre-disaster mitigation funds to underground power lines.

*Action item: Councilor Zelenka can pull this item off the consent agenda when it comes to council and make a statement about it.*

*Action item: Mr. McRae will provide a link to the draft NHMP update.*

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

Councilor Zelenka shared that the City's supplemental budget included an item about energy efficiency in city facilities. He's also asked the City Manager to work with Bob Doppelt in conducting a resiliency workshop in Eugene and include commissioners.

Commissioner Boles announced a presentation on Slow Money on Thursday 1/29 at Red Wagon, in support of local food. This will highlight opportunities for investment in the local food system.

Matt McRae shared information on the Economics of Happiness conference coming up in February in Portland.

Commissioner O'Brien announced a Lane Preparedness Coalition meeting on dam inundation February 11 from 2:30-4 at EWEB.

Commissioner Tam announced a Clean Tech event in Portland hosted by the Department of Labor and Department of Energy.

## **9. Closing**

Mr. Saxion adjourned meeting at 8:01 p.m.

*Recorded by Babe O'Sullivan*