



## Eugene Sustainability Commission

### MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission  
Atrium, Saul Room  
Eugene, Oregon

April 15, 2015  
5:30 p.m.

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

Mr. Newcomb called the April 15, 2015 meeting of the Sustainability Commission to order.

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

Mr. Newcomb called for corrections or clarifications to the March 18, 2015 minutes.

Ms. Lesley, seconded by Mr. Bonnett, moved to approve the March 18, 2015 minutes as submitted. The motion passed 10:0.

#### 2. Public comment

Mike Setto shared his concerns about climate change and LTD bus operations.

Alexis Biddle provided comments in support of a local resolution on carbon pricing and action needed to lobby related bills pending before the state legislature.

#### 3. Sub-committee reports

##### Envision Eugene

The sub-committee did not meet this month. Commissioner Saxion attended a committee meeting on developing an overlay zone for the Clear Lake Rd. expansion area for industrial uses. Staff presented a preliminary overlay but Mr. Saxion feels it needs work. The overlay is intended to guide light-to-moderate industry in this area. Staff will revise and return with a new version, with the overlay to be completed in May-June.

Additional discussion highlighted the following:

- Buffer zones seem arbitrary. It's important to know what impacts (noise, air quality) that we're trying to buffer.
- Current City process requires a pre-application meeting that addresses site planning details. There is not really a good process to vet an industry to see if it's a good fit for this location.

- There are currently no large (50-80 acre) tracts of land available for industrial development except for the Clear Lake area. Need to be sure to retain unbroken, large plots for specific industrial uses.
- We commonly look at rules as being *either* exclusionary *or* permitting (prescriptive). May want to have guidance that includes both.
- May want to provide transition zones within the industrial expansion area from light/moderate and moving across the landscape to become more intensive industrial use.
- How do we ensure permanence of these properties for their intended use? There needs to be a method to be sure lands zoned industrial *remain* industrial.
- Has there been discussion about current agricultural use of those properties and the related employment?
- Noise and cumulative air-shed emissions analysis would be helpful.
- Oregon Toxics Alliance has filed a complaint against LRAPA about inequitable enforcement of air quality regulations.

#### Adaptation

The sub-committee will discuss its draft memo later in this meeting's agenda.

#### Carbon Fee

The sub-committee met April 1<sup>st</sup>. They've developed a draft letter urging the Council to adopt a resolution endorsing a price on carbon, which will be discussed later in this meeting's agenda.

#### Transportation

The sub-committee did not meet. They are waiting to bring city Transportation staff Kurt Yeiter back when he is ready to discuss the Transportation System Plan.

#### Sustainable Economic Development (SED)

The sub-committee met April 7<sup>th</sup>. Several recommendations are coming from the work on food-related interests encouraging the City to 1) take action and not wait for the county and 2) coordinate with the Chamber which is doing research with food-related businesses.

#### **4. Sub-committee item: carbon fee**

Mr. Saxion provided background on a draft letter that urges Council to adopt a resolution on carbon pricing policy. The sub-committee requested the commission to approve the letter and submit to Council. The commission discussed the process for city support of bills in the legislature and the concern about expending political capital on carbon pricing bills that are not going anywhere.

Councilor Zelenka suggested several edits to the letter to update the information it contains and modify the tone.

Mr. Boles, seconded by Ms. Luftig, moved to approve the letter with changes discussed by the commission. The motion passed 10:0.

Staff will format the letter and submit to Council in its packet tomorrow.

#### **5. Sub-committee item: adaptation**

Mr. O'Brien presented a revised draft memo on climate adaptation and the connection to various city policies and planning efforts, requesting commission approval. Feedback raised in the commission discussion included:

- Is it clear enough to be a useful tool? The text is pretty dense.
- Under other factors for waste water, mention impact of intrusion and infiltration (I&I) and the energy used to treat higher volumes, and release of untreated water.
- Suggest changing the title to "connecting the dots."

The commission discussed various options for using the memo including 1) submitting to City Council and the City Manager, 2) discussing in individual liaison meetings with city councilors, 3) using the content to submit an op-ed piece to the Register Guard and 4) discussing with the City Manager in a quarterly meeting with commission leadership.

Concerns were raised about how to use the information in the memo:

- How does this get integrated in other documents/policy and decisions made?
- Will Council or the City Manager know how to use it?
- Can this serve as a script to guide discussion with council and staff?

Mr. Boles, seconded by Ms. Luftig, moved to adopt the memo as submitted (with correction of typos and the title) and ask the sub-committee to begin working on an op-ed piece that incorporates this and other work of the commission. The motion passed 10:0.

Mr. McRae suggested using the summary from City's recent vulnerability assessment that points out key lessons about important systems.

## **6. BREAK**

## **7. Micro-housing**

Chair Newcomb asked the commission to consider next steps on the topic of micro-housing following the presentation on housing at the last meeting. With City council taking this up on the 27<sup>th</sup>, there may be an opportunity to look at the issue in more in depth. Should this be on the work plan? The commission agreed to reconsider the topic in May or June and potentially for the upcoming FY 16 work plan.

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

Ms. Luftig reminded the commission that commissioners Wolling and Stein volunteered to serve on the sounding board for the Moving Ahead initiative. That effort will launch corridor-specific workshops in May. Information is available on [Movingahead.org](http://Movingahead.org). She encouraged commissioners to engage and mentioned a May 11 joint work session of Council and LTD.

Mr. Boles shared that the Our Children's Trust lawsuit was remanded to circuit court. Neither the judge nor the state council understood the 350 ppm target and where it came from. Our Children's Trust also created a pledge for local leaders to sign onto.

Mr. Boles also shared that commissioner Lesley will be attending a meeting of the Technical Resources Group on April 23 to discuss Pillar 7 related work for Envision Eugene.

Ms. Wolling announced that Eugene received funding for a bike share program. Next steps are to determine sponsorship levels for raising revenue as the program will need to be subsidized. Also need to create new non-profit to administer.

Councilor Zelenka mentioned the new city hall, marveling at the success in recycling and reuse during the demolition phase. He also announced several meetings coming up at Council: micro housing 4/27, also EWEB riverfront on that date; disadvantaged and minority contracting on 4/29; LTD meeting on the 5/11; LRAPA partnership on 5/20; and public smoking downtown on 5/20.

He also shared a report on attending the Oregon House hearing on carbon pricing bills. The head of CalEPA attended the hearing to discuss the California cap and trade program. The hearing room with filled, with people in overflow areas as well. He felt there was not a lot of passion for moving it forward as compared to the clean fuels program.

## **9. Closing**

Mr. Newcomb adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM.

*Recorded by Babe O'Sullivan*