



## Eugene Sustainability Commission

### MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission  
Atrium, Saul Room  
Eugene, Oregon

July 15, 2015  
5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Alexis Biddle, Jerry Diethelm, Kevin O'Brien, Thomas Price, Howard Saxion, Carolyn Stein, David Tam, Sue Wolling and Alan Zelenka, commissioners. Babe O'Sullivan, City Manager's Office.

**ABSENT:** Dawn Lesley, Shawn Boles, commissioners

Mr. Saxion called the July 15, 2015 meeting of the Sustainability Commission to order.

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

Mr. Saxion called for corrections or clarifications to the June 17, 2015 minutes. Commissioner O'Brien raised concerns about how the public comments from Mark Robinowitz were characterized and suggested changes.

Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Diethelm, moved to approve the June 17, 2015 minutes as corrected. The motion passed 8:0.

#### **2. Public comment**

No members of the public made comment.

#### **3. Welcome new commissioners**

Chair Saxion welcomed new commissioners Thomas Price, Jerry Diethelm and Alexis Biddle followed by introductions from all commissioners.

#### **4. Elections**

Elections for the Chair and Vice Chair positions were held.

Ms. Wolling nominated Commissioner Howard Saxion for the position of chair for the year beginning July 2015. Mr. Saxion was elected on a vote of 7:0.

Ms. Stein nominated Commissioner Dawn Lesley for the position of vice chair for the year beginning July 2016. Ms. Lesley was elected on a vote of 8:0.

#### **5. FY 16 work planning – feedback from City Manager and Mayor**

Commissioner Saxion reported on meetings with the City Manager and the Mayor to gather input for the commission's FY 16 work plan. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the upcoming work plan, progress on the FY 15 work plan and get a forecast of upcoming issues. It was also an opportunity to look for alignment with Council and City Manager priorities.

Staff was asked to share notes from these meetings with the commission. Some highlights from the commission discussion include:

#### Feedback from the City Manager

- Several related issues including homelessness, housing, affordable housing, micro-housing and work-force housing. These are important from a social equity perspective, and good opportunities to work with the Human rights Commission.
- On Sustainable Economic Development, Councilor Zelenka pointed to upcoming council discussions including 1) review of all economic development activities (7/29), 2) series of panels on key sectors (food, advanced manufacturing, edu-tech and clean/green tech). Council will then regroup to determine next steps.
- The 2021 track and field championships are an opportunity for work force development.

#### Feedback from the Mayor:

Staff was asked to get clarification about the new policy allowing commissioners to speak first at public forums – do they move to the head of the line only if they are representing the commission?

Discussion highlights:

- Many of the items suggested by the Mayor seem long-term, what about short term? This will depend on the issue – the commission needs to look for both. The commission is often judged for what is achieved in one year. Some short term items include: Transportation System Plan, Climate Recovery Ordinance, and Clear Lake Rd.
- Councilor Syrett suggested in a meeting with Commissioner Wolling that the commission review the update of the Parks and Open Space plan and consider a TBL analysis especially looking at social equity. Staff will investigate timeline and next steps for the work planning forecast.
- There is a mix of items that are sustainability related and those that are more topical.
- Other commissioners were encouraged to meet with their appointing councilor before the upcoming work planning retreat and to take advantage of it for feedback.
- Commissioner Price reported that he sits on a local work force development board and that the community needs to invest in local employment.

#### **6. BREAK**

#### **7. Sub-committee reports**

Leads from each of the commission's sub-committees reviewed their accomplishments and recommendations for the next work plan.

#### Envision Eugene

Growth Monitoring Program – staff need to develop qualitative measures. The commission can have a role in reviewing and informing this. The commission can help to translate the myriad metrics. It could

also have a role in providing input in the S. Willamette area plan and how it implements 7 pillars of Envision Eugene.

#### Adaptation

Staff suggested that if the Mayor calls for a work session on natural hazards, it would be an opportunity to bring forward findings in the commission's "connecting the dots" memo.

Councilor Zelenka shared that he is calling for the new city hall to be a net-zero building. Issue is ripe for keeping sustainability aspects in front of council as the project moves forward. Mr. Diethelm responded that EWEB needs to update the downtown grid to support micro-grids and net-zero buildings.

#### Carbon Fee

The commission will need to weigh in on targets and benchmarks and the proposed 350 ppm goal before September 30 when it will be discussed with council.

#### Transportation

Beltline Highway: Councilor Zelenka noted that this project really needs to be done in phases. The cost is huge and it needs to be done this way and allows for smaller projects. Oregon Department of Transportation is open to this approach.

S. Willamette trial: this is a transportation and land use issue particularly with the proposed higher density in the area plan.

Moving Ahead: Mr. Biddle is involved in this project, which has an indefinite deadline. They are currently selecting which projects should be considered for the environmental review process. A public input session is planned for September.

Street repair bond measure: quiet zones costs will be wrapped into next measure expected in 2017.

#### Sustainable Economic Development (SED)

Recent meeting of food industry representatives and elected official indicated an immediate need for expansion of a couple of large companies that can't be met in the Clear Lake Rd. area; the companies are therefore likely to leave the area. The area will take 7-10 years to complete the planning and rezoning. For the next work plan, the commission needs both short-term and long-term objectives and should look at how to get city support to make the process more nimble and responsive to industry needs.

### **8. FY 16 work planning (potential topics and information needs)**

Suggestions from commissioners:

Mr. Price was concerned about ongoing education for new members, including presentations from experts, to help inform discussions and work planning. For example an overview of the environmental review process would be useful for projects that involve federal money (Beltline, transit, etc.)

Mr. Diethelm stated that the commission needs to articulate what the sustainability perspective has to say about any topic.

Other suggestions:

- Build an understanding for how City Council works (e.g. work sessions, public hearings, etc. and points of leverage).
- Encourage new members to meet with sub-committee leads.
- Parking should be considered as a transportation issue: policies around pricing and supply.
- Leave some space for new issues/opportunities (e.g. CRO).
- Need to preserve time on agendas for commission conversations (limit presentations).

Staff was asked to prepare a compilation of the sub-committee recommendations.

## **9. Closing**

Mr. Saxion adjourned the meeting at 8:28 PM.

*Recorded by Babe O'Sullivan*