



## Eugene Sustainability Commission

### MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission  
Atrium, Saul Room  
Eugene, Oregon

June 17, 2015  
5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Joanne Gross, Dawn Lesley, Sasha Luftig, Kevin O'Brien, Howard Saxion, Sue Wolling and Alan Zelenka, commissioners. Babe O'Sullivan and Matt McRae, City Manager's Office; Heather O'Donnell, Planning Department.

**ABSENT:** Justin Overdevest, Howie Bonnett, Carolyn Stein, David Tam and Steve Newcomb, commissioners.

Mr. Saxion called the June 17, 2015 meeting of the Sustainability Commission to order.

#### **1. Envision Eugene Growth Monitoring Program**

City of Eugene Planner Heather O'Donnell provided a presentation about the Growth Monitoring Program proposed for meeting Pillar 7 of Envision Eugene which calls for adaptable, flexible and collaborative implementation.

Discussion with the commission included the following

- Commissioner supported staff in looking at similar work from other cities such as Portland.
- Commission Boles recommended establishing design review to ensure the desired outcomes in urban form.
- Commissioners were interested in how the Climate Recovery Ordinance was addressed in the program. Staff pointed to measures for 20-minute neighborhoods, vehicle miles traveled, mode split and other related measures that reflect changes in carbon emissions.
- Staff were encouraged to consult with neighborhood associations on the issue of measuring neighborhood livability.
- Commissioner Gross suggested using the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) as a way of measuring actual success and progress toward meeting many of the Envision Eugene goals instead of just Gross Domestic Product for example.
- Commissioners were also interested in pillar-specific strategies. Staff indicated that these were still under development and that additional information was available from the Technical Resources Group (TRG) webpage.

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

Mr. Saxion called for corrections or clarifications to the May 20 and February 18, 2015 minutes.

Ms. Luftig, seconded by Ms. Lesley, moved to approve the February 18, 2015 minutes as submitted. The motion passed 7:0.

Ms. Lesley, seconded by Ms. Wolling, moved to approve the May 20, 2015 minutes as submitted. The motion passed 5:0. Commissioner Boles and Luftig abstained.

### **3. Public comment**

Evangelina Sundgrenz, representing the group Our Oregon, spoke about the organization's efforts to address inequality and state services including proposing a ballot measure to address Oregon economy, education and services. Petitions will be circulating in September for the 2016 ballot. Ms. Sundgrenz also indicated she would share resources and handouts.

Peter Reppe spoke to the commission regarding concerns with the implementation of the Climate Recovery Ordinance, that in his view, progress to date is sub-optimal. Mr. Reppe had questions about the commission's oversight and awareness of what progress has been made. He also reported that a small group of community members were considering filing suit against the City for failure to take action. Chair Saxion responded that the commission has no formal oversight role but has a carbon fee committee that is monitoring this issue and the commission has received progress reports from staff. Commissioner Boles suggested that Mr. Reppe put his concerns in writing to the City Manager.

Mark Robinowitz reminded the commission that he asked in the past that the commission take a position in opposition to the proposed Beltline Hwy project. He also discussed "carbon rationing," indicating that, in his view the fracking bubble is bursting

### **4. Northwest Permaculture Convergence**

Jan Spencer provided a presentation about the upcoming Northwest Permaculture Convergence, including a history of convergence events. He shared three core ideas that are informing this year's event: 1) what are humans capable of? 2) evidence of a preferred future and 3) allies and assets. The event in Eugene will feature a variety of tours, activities, and planned presentations. He extended an invitation for commissioners to attend.

### **5. Sub-committee reports**

#### Envision Eugene

The sub-committee met with City Planner Heather O'Donnell who provided a presentation about the proposed Growth Monitoring Program. Members provided input on qualitative measurement and expressed concern about the complexity of process and how to keep community involved and aware of what's happening.

#### Adaptation

No meeting was held.

#### Carbon Fee

No meeting was held.

## Transportation

No meeting was held.

## Sustainable Economic Development (SED)

Members attended a meeting hosted by Willamette Farm & Food Coalition with representatives from the food industry and local government (mayors and staff). It was a very useful conversation, with some key points of clarification of 1) there is no interest in attracting large processing firms, 2) there is a desire for co-packing/value added (i.e. shared production capacity) 3) the value of land banking. Food producers discussed needs over a short time horizon (next 2 years) but the Clear Lake Rd. employment area is on a 7-year timeline. No county staff or elected officials were present because of a conflicting meeting on the farmers' market.

### **6. Outgoing commissioners**

Chair Saxion provided an update of outgoing commissions including commissioners Overdevest, Newcomb, and Gross. He also reported that commissioner Bonnett had announced his resignation effective July 23. Commissioner Luftig is also resigning this month. Chair Saxion shared Statements of Appreciation with the outgoing commissions.

### **7. Break**

### **8. Work planning retreat**

Ms. O'Sullivan provided an overview of the commission's upcoming FY 16 work planning process. Two meetings are scheduled for the work planning retreat including Tuesday July 28 and Wednesday August 19. A year-end review will be done during the regular July commission meeting on July 15 and commission leadership will meet with the Mayor and City Manager to obtain input prior to the retreat.

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

Councilor Zelenka shared that while visiting Washington DC, he had the opportunity to use the city's great bike share program.

Chair Saxion requested that Councilor Zelenka think about upcoming topics and approaches for the commission. In response, Councilor Zelenka reported that City Council has identified several priorities including homeless, revenue and Sustainable Economic Development.

Commission Gross said goodbye, saying that her time on the commission had provided a good learning experience.

Mr. McRae provided a Climate Recovery Ordinance update: staff are completing a community emissions inventory, updating the actions in the Internal Climate Action Plan, and conducting a peer review of a new community target for achieving 350 parts per million CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.

Commissioner Luftig shared that her time on the commission was both a pleasure and a huge growing experience. She plans to be back in front of the commission with MovingAhead and other projects. She also encouraged commissions to please call for questions about these projects.

Commissioner Wolling reported that she and Ms. Luftig attended a tour of the new Northwest Community Credit Union. The design includes lots of interesting features to support bike commuters as well as nap rooms, a great solar system, a healthy work environment and flexible meeting spaces.

#### **10. Closing**

Mr. Saxion adjourned the meeting at 7:47 PM.

*Recorded by Babe O'Sullivan*