



Eugene Sustainability Commission

MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission
Atrium, Saul Room
Eugene, Oregon

September 16, 2015
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Alexis Biddle, Shawn Boles, Jerry Diethelm, Dawn Lesley, Kevin O'Brien, Thomas Price, Brittany Quick-Warner, Howard Saxion, Sue Wolling and Alan Zelenka, commissioners. Babe O'Sullivan and Matt McRae, City Manager's Office.

ABSENT: Carolyn Stein, David Tam, commissioners.

Mr. Saxion called the September 16, 2015 meeting of the Sustainability Commission to order.

1. Opening – agenda review, approval of minutes

Mr. Saxion called for corrections or clarifications to the July 15, 2015 minutes.

Mr. Price, seconded by Ms. Wolling, moved to approve the July 15, 2015 minutes. The motion passed 7:0 with Commissioners Boles and Lesley abstaining.

2. Public comment

No one provided comment.

3. FY 16 work plan

Commissioners discussed feedback received on the FY 16 work plan from Council at the September 14 work session. Generally, council was very complimentary, with Councilor Syrett saying that the commission set the bar high for how commissions should structure their work plans. Councilors inquired whether the commission has looked at several issues including climate-induced migration and sustainable funding for transportation.

The commission discussed their role in research on climate migration and securing funding for PSU to collect data on this. Some pointed out that there is not much research to draw from and there was some disagreement about evidence that it's a problem. One response back to council is to emphasize the importance of urban reserves planning to address any potential migration.

4. Climate Recovery Ordinance

Climate and Energy Analyst Matt McRae gave a presentation on plans to report to City Council on activities under the Climate Recovery Ordinance including:

- Benchmarks and targets for adopted climate action goals. In relation to the goal to make city operations carbon-neutral by 2020, commissioners raised questions about how realistic it is

to expect the City to pay for offsets, what constitutes an offset, strength of offset costs as incentive to make investments, sources of internal emissions and whether future councils can change the ordinance if the City is out of compliance.

- 350 ppm target. Commissioner Boles expressed concern about potential confusion over the “budget” concept versus the more traditional approach to calibrating emission reduction goals. Councilor Zelenka presented results from the Global Warming Commission analysis of related state goals.

Options for commission involvement were discussed including 1) testimony at public forums in support of the 350 ppm approach and 2) testimony at an anticipated public hearing in support of the proposed targets and benchmarks.

Mr. Diethelm reviewed the memo he submitted to the commission with his analysis of the climate action goals. He stressed that his purpose was to understand the necessary emission reductions and how current projects will move the City toward meeting the goals. An emissions “budget” is needed to know which projects will have the greatest impact as well as an intermediate tool to estimate emission reductions per project since the Climate and Energy Action Plan doesn’t. Ms. Wolling pointed out that the comparison to European countries per capita emissions makes it feel more doable.

The commission also flagged this topic for talking with individual councilors and pointed out the need for talking points to support those conversations.

5. BREAK

6. Commission organizational structure

Chair Saxion proposed, and the commission supported, the following committee format reflecting four work plan focus areas (committee leads are noted):

Transportation and Land Use

Recurring meeting time: 1st Wednesday at 3:30 in an Atrium meeting room TBD

Members: Wolling (lead), Biddle, Price and Saxion

Envision Eugene

Recurring meeting time: 2nd Wednesday at 10:00 in an Atrium meeting room TBD

Members: Saxion (lead), Boles, Wolling, O’Brien and Price

Sustainable Economic Development

Recurring meeting time TBD after polling members

Members: Quick-Warner (lead), Lesley, Stein, Tam and Price

Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience

Recurring meeting time: 2nd Thursday at 2:00 in an Atrium meeting room TBD

Members: Diethelm (lead), Lesley, Boles, Saxion, O’Brien and Price

Staff will email this list to commissioners and leads will organize the next meeting and determine regular meeting times.

The commission discussed the practice of establishing liaisons with other community groups and agreed they would not use this approach this year. Instead each committee will inventory their existing connections with related community organizations and stakeholders.

The commission also agreed to establish regular contact between commissioners and their appointing councilors. The commission will develop talking points on a quarterly basis and a standing agenda item to discuss there will be included in the monthly meeting agenda.

7. Items from commissioners and staff

Mr. McRae shared information about a council work session on earthquake preparedness.

It was also announced that there is a Envision Eugene workshop planned for September 17.

8. Closing

Mr. Saxion adjourned the meeting at 7:59 PM.

Recorded by Babe O'Sullivan