



## Eugene Sustainability Commission

### MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission  
Atrium, Saul Room  
Eugene, Oregon

December 16, 2015  
5:30 p.m.

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

**ABSENT:** Alexis Biddle, Thomas Pettus-Czar, commissioners.

Mr. Saxion called the December 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 November 18, 2015 minutes.

Mr. Diethelm, seconded by Councilor Zelenka, moved to approve the November 18, 2015 minutes. The motion passed 8:0 with commissioners Stein and O'Brien abstaining.

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

No public comment was provided.

#### **3. Commission updates**

This item was delayed until after the meeting break.

#### **4. Committee reports**

##### Sustainable Economic Development

Committee members reported that they are still honing in on their work plan items and that the topic feels a little abstract. They've identified industries to focus on and now need to determine how they'd like to interact with local businesses. Next steps include:

- Familiarize committee members with the Climate Recovery Ordinance (CRO) and the Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP). Understand how CEAP will effect businesses to inform recommendations to council about supporting business alignment with city climate goals.
- Reach out to businesses, discuss and get feedback on opportunities to align local business with city sustainability policies.
- Explore areas where local businesses could be more sustainable. The ReThink program (offered by Bring Recycling) is one opportunity to support business coalitions that want to get out in front of regulation.

### Transportation and Land Use

The committee met with Kurt Yeiter (Transportation Planning, City of Eugene) and received information about the Transportation System Plan (TSP) similar to what he presented at the full commission meeting in November. Some concerns voiced about the TSP include:

- Big discrepancy remains between the TSP and CRO and the City needs to get serious about aligning them.
- Transportation Demand Management (TDM) needs more attention and should be implemented proactively before street/highway projects are built.
- Parking management needs to give people an incentive to reconsider driving.

The commission discussed how to address the gaps in TSP. Staff is working with Transportation Planning staff to consider some alternatives from other cities with aggressive goals (Copenhagen; Boston; Davis; Vancouver, BC). Other measures are available through the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance, which staff can share. Committee chair Wolling requested suggestions for how policies should change in the TSP.

### Envision Eugene

Committee chair Saxion had a phone conversation with Planning Director Robin Hostick for update on Envision Eugene and the S. Willamette Special Area Zone (SWSAZ). Staff is assessing implications of recent motion by Councilor Evans. There has been no opportunity yet to have one-on-one discussions with councilors and stakeholders on this. Partners/stakeholders have concerns about where Envision Eugene is going to go with density and UGB changes. More developments are expected after the first of the year. Envision Eugene documents are going to the state and the UGB decisions won't be affected by SWSAZ policy as only a few new units would result from the proposed code changes.

Regarding SWSAZ: the city is pursuing 3<sup>rd</sup> party facilitation between staff and neighbors. The state (DLCD) has funded the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of this process to get a better idea of the dynamics of the proposal. Oregon Consensus may be involved in this assessment, including meeting with homeowners and staff. Staff doesn't see this as a mediation process but a process for coming up with a better plan. Staff feel outreach was robust but most observers see shortcomings.

It was noted that 1000 Friends is not confident that growth accommodation will occur under Envision Eugene and they may choose to challenge it. This would cause a shift in the relationship with the City, leading to more oversight than partnership. Challenge from 1000 friends could hold up adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.

The committee is in a wait and see mode until there are more developments and will monitor changes to documents and weigh in from a sustainability perspective. They are also considering the possibility of developing an op-ed article about the higher-level purpose of this work.

### Climate change

The committee is continuing to look at CRO, and internal organizational goals and projects. The committee feels they should continue to provide positive testimony to council, expressing continuing support for the staff effort. Some concern expressed:

- CRO goals are not being used as criteria for city efforts, not advancing the work already underway.
- TSP investments, for example, are not headed in the right direction for meeting targets in coming decades.

The commission discussed the need for accountability with the City Manager and options for including this as item in his performance evaluation by council. Councilor Zelenka clarified that the process is confidential, using a standardized format (including a self-evaluation against goals) and input from a variety of groups.

The commission discussed the possibility of using COP 21 process as a model for advancing community climate goals – have all parties bring climate goals to the table in a cooperative framework for reporting and adjusting over time. Committee chair Diethelm will be asking the commission to discuss this in coming meetings. A cooperative framework might allow grant funding to flow to the process. Councilor Zelenka expressed support for the concept and suggesting that the goal be established first, then invite parties to the table with their pledges.

Ms. Lesley expressed concern that the City isn't making progress with reaching internal goals for the organization and this is a much bigger concern than working on a "fun" community process. She also expressed concern about integration of CRO with other plans. Any delay in moving forward on greenhouse gas reduction has a cost. The commission agreed, expressing a desire to see the City move ahead on both levels: internal and community.

## **5. BREAK**

## **6. Councilor check-in**

Committee reports are scheduled for the January 11 council work session where Councilor Zelenka will provide a quarterly report on the activities of the commission. The Chair and Vice Chair offered to prepare speaking points and share with Councilor Zelenka for use in his report to council.

Councilor Zelenka shared his thoughts on 3 primary topics:

- 1) Climate change – Councilor Zelenka is working with the City Manager to map out a process for bringing the 350 ppm goal forward, starting with educating council. He's also interested in having Angus Duncan (Chair, Global Warming Commission) come to address council and speak to the alignment between the CRO and state goals. Mr. Duncan could share information on actions the state can (and needs to) take such as compliance with the federal Clean Power Plan, establishing statewide carbon pricing, and enforcing CAFÉ standards for cars. This can make local efforts feel less daunting.

The commission discussed the staff presentation at council earlier in the day, noting the absences of Councilor Clark and Mayor Piercy and that some councilors seemed more engaged than others. There were some questions from councilors Taylor, Pryor and Evans with Councilor Pryor asking that staff incorporate some measure of political will into implementation plans and the City's commitment to reaching the CRO goals.

The commission requested that staff share the PowerPoint presentation and Councilor Zelenka suggested that commissioners watch the work session webcast.

2) Transportation System Plan (TSP) – Councilor Zelenka felt that council is not that engaged yet with the TSP and that they still need to do that, especially with the apparent disconnect with the CRO.

3) Sustainable Economic Development - Economic prosperity updates are scheduled at council on January 11, and February 8.

Staff shared that the next council work session on a proposed 350 ppm goal is tentatively scheduled for January 20.

#### **7. Introduction of new commission**

Incoming commissioner Zach Mulholland introduced himself, sharing background and current activities. Each commissioner in turn provided a short introduction. Mr. Mulholland expressed interest in serving on the climate change committee.

Staff was asked to update the commission roster on the city website and to resend a schedule of committee meetings.

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

No items were shared.

#### **9. Closing**

Mr. Saxion adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

*Recorded by Babe O'Sullivan*