



Eugene Sustainability Commission

MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission
Atrium, Saul Room
Eugene, Oregon

February 28, 2018
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Howard Saxion, Kevin O'Brien, Thomas Price, Ralph McDonald, Art Farley, Sue Wolling, Doug Edwards, Councilor Emily Semple, Zach Mulholland, Jon Kloor, Jennifer Hayward, and Chelsea Clinton-staff.

ABSENT: Kelsey Zlevor, Dana Furgerson

Opening

- Meeting called to order at 5:37 pm.
- Commission reviewed January minutes. Commissioner Wolling asked to specifically reference SB 1051 in the update from Council. Commissioner Price moved to approve with the amendment, seconded by Commissioner Farley. Passed 10-0-1. Commissioner Hayward abstained because she was not present at January meeting.
- Agenda Review.

Motion

Commissioner Mulholland moved to add item to end of agenda (15 minutes) regarding the EWEB Riverfront Project. Seconded by Councilor Semple. Discussion followed including several Commissioners voicing the need to follow the Working Agreements. Commissioner Mulholland clarified he will not push for any action at this meeting. Commissioner McDonald called the question.

The motion passed (6-5-0).

Public Comment

Harvey Ginsburg from the Citizens' Climate Lobby asked the Commission to support federal climate action including putting a price on carbon. He provided a letter that Portland sent to federal congressional leaders.

Commissioner Saxion informed the room that the City Council passed a resolution in support of placing a price on carbon.

Charles Salumono from the Citizens Climate Lobby spoke about a proposal that promotes a federal revenue-neutral federal carbon solution. He spoke about current political climate. He asked the Commission to urge City Council to push for action.

David Hazen, a member of the First Congregational Church, spoke about the Church's desire to place housing on their property and inability to do so because of zoning obstacles. He showed a series of aerial pictures of church properties that appeared to have open land. He encouraged the Commission to recommend that City Council change the code to allow the church to provide housing on their lot.

Mark Robinowitz noted that he wasn't surprised to read the City will not be carbon neutral in 22 months. He also spoke about deforestation in western Oregon and the fact that traffic has peaked in Lane County. He provided handouts with data from ODOT regarding traffic.

Laurie Hauber from the First Congregational Church came in support of the same topic David spoke about. She came to support recommendations from the Housing Committee. She thanked the Commission for its consideration.

Transportation System Plan Implementation Plan

Rob Inerfeld presented on the Transportation System Plan (TSP) and progress on the TSP Implementation Plan. Discussion and questions followed.

Eugene Bike Share: PeaceHealth Rides

Lindsey Hayward presented on PeaceHealth Rides Bike Share program. She brought a demonstration bike for Commissioners to test.

Announcements

- Commissioner O'Brien introduced Jon Kloor, who was appointed to the Commission by Councilor Clark in late January 2018.
- Commissioner Kloor declared a potential conflict of interest due to the fact that he works for Northwest Natural, which is referenced on the agenda.

Break

Northwest Natural Franchise Agreement Review Committee Update

Commissioner Saxion reported the Committee was working with staff to understand what the City can require in a franchise agreement.

Housing Committee Report

Commissioner Wolling summarized the Housing Committee's report and recommendation. Councilor Semple gave an update on recent Council action on the issue, and recommended emphasizing the committee's recommendation involving Places of Worship.

Motion

Commissioner McDonald moved that the Sustainability Commission send the recommendations in the report to Council. Commissioner Price seconded the motion. Friendly amendments were accepted to alter the letter so that it thanks the Council for recent action, takes out requests for actions already taken by Council, and emphasizes the recommendation on places of worship.

The motion passed 9-0-2. Commissioner Kloor and Councilor Semple abstained.

Committee for Eugene Waste Reduction and Recycling

Commissioner Farley presented the proposal circulated in the meeting packet. Commissioners discussed how the Commission could add value.

Motion

Commissioner Farley moved to establish a recycling committee. Commissioner Wolling seconded the motion. The charge of the committee was clarified to be: Research the local waste management system and make recommendations to reduce waste and increase recycling. The Commissioners discussed the fact that City staff are already working on this issue.

The motion passed: 9-2-0. Commissioner O'Brien and Councilor Semple were opposed.

Committee members will include Commissioners Furgerson, Farley, Mulholland, and Wolling. Commissioner Farley will act as the temporary Chair. The Committee will report back to the Commission by July and will have no more than 5 meetings.

Update from Council

Council Semple has submitted Work Session polls for Council to discuss the Commission's Home Energy Score and EV-Ready Homes proposals. Council adopted the Declaration on Human Rights and Climate Change. Council has recently discussed the following topics: housing, transportation system development charges, railroad quiet zone, Riverfront Development Project. Upcoming discussions include a construction excise tax and the budget process. Council allocated funds to the railroad quiet zone that could be used for other items.

Commissioner Mulholland asked all Commissioners to contact their City Councilors and ask them to vote for work session polls.

Staff updates

- Finance Staff presented a plan for the new banking RFP. They would like the Sustainability Commission to provide input into questions regarding banks' exposure to fossil fuel. A Sustainability Commissioner will also be asked to sit on a panel that reviews banks' responses to those questions. Chelsea will bring a Committee proposal forward at the next meeting for this work.

- Interviews for the CRO Analyst are scheduled and the City is working on finalizing contracts with consultants to work on the CEAP.
- Chelsea reminded Commissioners to fill out the survey included with their meeting packet.
- Chelsea passed out the Biennial Waste Prevention and Green Building Report.

Updates from Commissioners

- Commissioner O'Brien asked Commissioners what he and Commissioner Wolling should discuss with the Mayor and City Manager at their March 7th meeting. Ideas included topics from the work session polls, Commission efforts to work to meet City's climate and equity goals, the need for action around Commission requests, gun violence and gun labeling, work plan and progress in completing it, feedback on Commission effectiveness and progress, and what topics the Commission should work on to be helpful to Council.
- Commissioner O'Brien reminded the Commissioners that liaison reports are due on March 31st.
- Commissioner McDonald brought up his request to discuss gun control at a future meeting. He also announced a March 1st forum at the Southeast Neighbors meeting around missing middle housing.
- Commissioner Saxion brought up his concern around the process used to get the EWEB Riverfront Project on the agenda.
- Commissioner Saxion will start attending Budget Committee meetings next week.

EWEB Riverfront Project

Commissioner Mulholland handed out a packet of diagrams and walked the Commissioners through them. He sent a draft proposal to Commissioners prior to the meeting. His concerns include reduction in green space, reduction in public space and the public process.

There was no time for discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm.

Recorded by Chelsea Clinton.