



MINUTES
Eugene Sustainability Commission
Atrium, Saul Room
Eugene, Oregon

March 21, 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, Kelsey Zlevor, Dana Furgerson, and Chelsea Clinton-staff.

Opening

- Meeting called to order at 5:31 pm by Chair O'Brien.
- **Agenda Review.** Commissioner Saxion moved to approve the agenda as written. Seconded by Commissioner Wolling. Approved unanimously. (11-0).
- Commissioner Mulholland arrived at 5:32 pm.
- **February Minutes Review.** Commissioner Wolling moved to approve the minutes with small edits submitted to Chelsea in advance of the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Kloor. Approved (9-0-3). Commissioners Kloor, Furgerson, and Zlevor abstained.
- Commissioner Farley arrived at 5:34 pm.

Public comment

Barbara Gleason is the co-owner of Wild Birds Unlimited. She spoke about a proposed bird feeding ban. She offered to provide solutions and actions that can be taken to avoid a ban. She said the bird feeding ban would put 8 people out of jobs in her store.

Luanne Koch is the president of the Cat Rescue and Adoption Network. It's a no kill facility. She described how the organization operates. Glad to be of service to the City.

Julie Tammit spoke against the proposed ban on feeding feral cats. She argued that more cats are needed to address the rodent population. She also suggested the City could create habitats for animals that are natural predators for rodents.

Tom Bruno spoke about the Capitol Hill PUD. He provided handouts. He believes the current PUD is unsafe and will result in a landslide.

Jim Neu spoke about the University of Oregon North Campus Planning area. He is concerned about the three artificial turf fields planned within close proximity to the Willamette River. In particular, he spoke about the materials used in the turf fields. He urged keeping the natural habitat in place.

Toni Ray belongs to the Community Cat Advocacy Team in Springfield. She believes community cats are everyone's responsibly. She advocated for trapping and spay/neuter programs.

Misha English belongs to the Willamette Animal Guild (WAG). She is concerned with the ban on feeding feral cats. WAG provides spay/neuter services. Feeding is needed for these programs to be successful. She urged the Commission to get involved in this process.

Nicole West is the Cat Rescue Coordinator from Summit Animal Rescue Association (SARA). SARA runs a trap, neuter, return program. She advocated for this type of program as the humane and fiscally responsible solution.

Inclusive Public Participation Values and Best Practices Presentation

-Lorna Flormoe, Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement Office, City of Eugene

Break at 7:05pm.

Meeting reconvened at 7:15 pm.

Commissioner Kloor declared a potential conflict of interest because he works for Northwest Natural.

Council Update

- Riverfront and wildlife situation are on upcoming Council agendas.
- It looks like the Railroad Quiet Zone will happen.
- The City's Budget process will happen in May. The proposed budget comes out in April. There's a public comment period at the beginning of all the budget meetings.
- Housing will be on the agenda in future.
- Work session polls for Home Energy Score and EV Ready homes were approved.
- Commissioners asked when Brian Obie's proposed 5th Street Market development will come to Council.

Riverfront Development Process

- Commissioner Mulholland summarized his proposal circulated to the Commission with the meeting packet. (Included at the end of these notes.)

Motion

- Commissioner McDonald moved to form a Committee as proposed in the meeting packet. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Approved (11-2)
Commissioners Zlevor and Saxion opposed.
 - Committee Members: Price, Edwards, Mulholland.
 - Committee length: 6 months, 5 meetings.
 - Temporary Chair: Commissioner Mulholland.

- Charge: Learn about the processes necessary to move forward on the EWEB Riverfront Development and the UO North Campus projects and the opportunities for public involvement in these processes and provide recommendations for improvements. Learn about the proposals and any potential concerns with sustainability around the projects and provide recommendations for improvements.

Urban Wildlife Proposal

- Commissioner McDonald summarized the proposal circulated to the Commission in the meeting packet. (Included at the end of these notes.)
- Commissioners discussed the proposal. Commissioner refined the proposed charge of the Committee: What's the best way to deal with the rats? What's the interaction between the rat issue and the turkey issue? What's the ramification of a broad feeding ban?

Motion

- Commissioner McDonald moved to form a committee. Seconded by Commissioner Furgerson. (6-6-1). Commissioners Price, McDonald, Edwards, Furgerson, Hayward, Mulholland voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners O'Brien, Wolling, Zlevor, Saxion, Kloor, and Farley opposed the motion. Councilor Semple abstained.

The motion failed to pass.

Banking RFP Fossil Fuel Questionnaire Committee Proposal

- Chelsea presented the committee proposal.

Motion

- Commissioner Saxion moved to form the committee. Commissioner Mulholland seconded the motion. Approved (12-0-1). Commissioner Kloor abstained.
 - Committee Members: Saxion, Mulholland, Price
 - Length: 1 month, no more than 3 meetings
 - Temporary Chair: Saxion
 - Charge: Provide input to staff from the Finance Division on the questionnaire that will be used in the City of Eugene's Banking RFP process to determine the fossil fuel exposure of applicants. Provide input on the evaluation criteria for the banks' responses to this questionnaire.

Waste Reduction Meeting

- Commissioner Furgerson shared an update the Committee's first meeting.
- The Committee will concentrate on waste reduction and improving recycling.
- The Committee will have a research focus to start.

Updates from Commissioners and Staff

- Commissioner O'Brien and Wolling will send out notes from meetings with the City Manager and Mayor. They did mention the focus on resiliency and emergency preparedness in the conversations.

Updates from Chelsea

- Chelsea gave an update on the Climate Action Plan update (CAP) process.
 - Jessica Lisiewski will be the new Climate Recovery Ordinance Analyst. Her first day will be April 2nd.
 - Contracts have been signed with Good Company (technical consultant) and Drawn (a communications and marketing firm) to do work on the CAP.
- Liaison reports are due March 31st. Send them to Chelsea.

Meeting adjourned 8:36.

Recorded by Chelsea Clinton.

Committee for Riverfront Development

Zach Mullholland

Background information

There are two major developments planned for the riverfront, the EWEB Riverfront Development and the UO North Campus project. Each project raises potential sustainability challenges the Commission might want to weigh in on and, with the EWEB project, there are potential public process concerns the Commission may seek to address.

Charge of Committee

Learn about the processes necessary to move forward on the EWEB Riverfront Development and the UO North Campus projects and the opportunities for public involvement in these processes and provide recommendations for improvements. Learn about the proposals and any potential concerns with sustainability around the projects and provide recommendations for improvements.

Intended Product

Recommendations to the Eugene City Council on:

- 1) Ways to improve the planned public processes for the proposed Riverfront Development projects to arrive at better outcomes
- 2) How to address potential sustainability concerns with the projects

Completion Date / Number of Meetings Expected

4 to 6 months – preliminary reporting after 2 months

4-6 meetings total – 2 meetings on process and 2-4 on sustainability concerns

Rough Topic/Agenda Anticipated for Meetings

Background research on process for riverfront developments

Process Recommendations

Background research on Sustainability Issues related to projects

Policy Recommendations

Schedule of Meetings

To be determined

List of Resources Needed

Information from staff on the processes necessary to move forward on the riverfront projects and the opportunities for public involvement

Information about the proposed projects from staff and other stakeholders (e.g. the “Riverguides”)

March 4, 2018

To: Kevin O'Brien
Sue Wolling

From: Ralph McDonald

Cc: Emily Semple

Re: New Proposal for Sustainability Commission Short Term Committee Looking at Eugene Urban Wildlife Policy

Hi Kevin & Sue:

Thanks for facilitating our February meeting. I found content of presentations informative, and I enjoyed seeing the new *PeaceHealth Rides* bicycle program.

Prior to our February 28 Sustainability Commission meeting I had sent out a proposal on the carry of loaded guns in public areas of Eugene.

In subsequent discussions, including discussions with Adam Skaggs of the *Giffords Law Center* in San Francisco, I'm going to back off on asking the commission to take up this matter at this time. There are several reasons for this – including wanting more input from other cities and also a more tractable area I'm going to propose that the Sustainability Commission take up in the form of an investigating committee – urban wildlife policy.

An article in the Register Guard on Friday, March 2 suggested that the City Council is looking at Eugene wildlife and feral domestic animal policy, including but perhaps not limited to rats, turkeys and other birds, and stray and feral cats. An RG editorial today (March 4) also addresses this issue.

I had corresponded by email with Councilor Semple prior to the breaking of this story, and wish to thank Councilor Semple for additional information she has provided me.

One of the pillars of the mission of our Sustainability Commission from inception in 2007 is environmental health. This has always included the physical and natural environment in terms of urban forest and urban wildlife, park, garden, and vegetative open space.

Eugene wildlife policy is a charge of the Sustainability Commission, certainly as much if not more so than any other commission. As to our current work plan, wildlife policy "fits in" specifically in two regards.

1. Category No. 3 of our 2018 work plan core priorities asks that we identify barriers to sustainable housing. Increased rodent population in homes in several neighborhoods, including south Eugene neighborhoods, has been reported this year. Residents are concerned about disease prevention. Certainly disease vector free neighborhoods is paramount to residential housing sustainability. House intrusion by rodents is of course not a "new housing" aspect of sustainable housing – its important visa-ve housing for the many thousands of Eugene citizens already living here.

2. Category No. 6 of our 2018 work plan : to address unforeseen, but important sustainability-related items presented by the Mayor, City Council, City Manager, Commissioners, or the public, in accordance with the Commission's adopted operating procedures. Eugene resident concern on this issue has been expressed in a variety of media. I've had one-on-one discussions with Mayor Vinis and a few city councilors expressing concern on this issue. I'm personally concerned about this issue and the effectiveness and/or impact of some of the policy suggestions I've heard put forward.

This weekend I attended more than a dozen hours of workshops, presentations, and informal gatherings at the 36th Annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (P.I.E.L.C.) held here in Eugene, including a workshop Saturday morning specifically on feral animal and wildlife in urban settings – strategies for coexistence and reduced conflict with human residents. This workshop academically explored many sides of urban wildlife management as well as “best practices” relevant to Eugene.

These workshops on urban wildlife co-existence brought up many additional questions that a Sustainability Commission Committee might look into in its charge as trusted advisor to the city council :

1. There is close ecosystem connection impacting the health of the Eugene urban forest , parks, gardens, and urban landscape with zoological populations including bees, other insects, gastropods, birds, and mammals. What is the impact (deemed positive or negative) of population growth of specific species due to access to human provided (intentionally or unintentionally) food sources?
2. What public outreach, administrative, or juridical measures might Eugene take to minimize conflict visa-ve humans and wildlife and provide for human and wildlife co-existence in a dynamic but sustainable state. (One recent public opinion survey found the 86% of respondents believe wildlife including large mammals can with minimal conflict share urban space).
3. What is the dynamic regarding habitat and food sources in Eugenearea between *Meleagris Gallopavo* (wild turkey) and *Ratus Norvegicus* (Norway Rat). It has been reported that as turkey rafter sightings have declined in some neighborhoods during the last 5 years, populations of rats have increased. Conversely, do neighborhoods with increased turkey population have fewer rat sightings? Information from the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Audubon Society supports habitat competition between these species. Also, wild turkey eggs are subject to depredation by rats and other rodents.
4. How can the Sustainability Commission and the City of Eugene get a sense of local public opinion regarding co-existing with urban wildlife? On the intentional or un-intentional feeding of urban wildlife? Species that might be considered in this regard include song birds, deer, raccoons, quail, squirrels, bats, owls, chipmunks, feral and stray cats and dogs. A “blanket” prohibition on feeding non-domestic pets would have much to consider. As one example, many backyard gardeners feed food scraps to earthworms.
5. Does government taking of specific wildlife species reduce social tolerance to wildlife. For example does killing a species (turkeys, for example) increase public belief that the species is dangerous? What are the known disease or other dangers of specific wildlife species, and are some commonly held perceived dangers unfounded?
6. Can an intrinsic value to urban wildlife (as opposed to economic value to humans in terms of cost/benefit) be recognized in public opinion? Example: many Eugene residents have

bird feeders and/or a hobby of observing birds. No economic benefit to public is normally established for bird watching.

7. What is the experience of cities that have enacted ordinances regarding urban wildlife, successfully or un-successfully? Among Oregon cities specifically? For example: some urban wildlife feeding ordinances have been ruled un-constitutional, and some have been voted down in public referendums.

8. What specific secondary policy measures might be taken by Eugene to curb overpopulation by some urban wildlife species? Examples: feral cats are attracted by food provided by humans, but for cat activists food is a means of access for spay and neuter reduction of cat population. Would better enclosure of backyard chicken coops reduce rat population? Would more certain covering of curbside food waste and garbage (for example, spring activated garbage lids from city garbage haulers) reduce rodent population?

TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE CONDERATIONS FOR PROPOSED URBAN WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

Environmental Health

Paramount to livability in Eugene is the health of our encompassing biota. Vegetative landscape removes pollutants and makes the air breathable. Conversely, zoological species have been called mobile carbon dioxide canisters which circulate to provide this essential gas to plants for photosynthesis. A “dynamic but sustainable” state of urban wildlife population is essential to environmental health.

Social Equity

Rodent species are reported with far greater impact among lower socio-economic households, though not exclusively so. On the positive side, nature observance and interaction with wild species in our shared urban landscape is a low cost recreation for thousands of Eugene citizens, from watching squirrels in a city park, birding tours in wetlands, or nature field trips among school classrooms.

Economic Prosperity

A variety of “stakeholders” are identified in the urban wildlife economy in Eugene, from businesses which cater to urban wildlife enjoyment (Wild Birds Unlimited, Down to Earth and other garden stores, sporting goods stores, farm supply stores, “nature” stores) to wildlife environmental organizations (For example, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, National Wild Turkey Federation, Oregon Wild, Cascadia Wildlands) to pest exterminators. Government wildlife agencies including the ODFW and Eugene Parks personnel are also stakeholders to be consulted regarding economic considerations. In a larger view, the health or un-health of Eugene’s urban landmass and wildlife has foundational impact of the livability of the city.

Banking RFP Fossil Fuel Exposure Questionnaire Development Committee

1. Committee Name:

Banking RFP Fossil Fuel Exposure Questionnaire Development Committee

2. Charge of Committee (as provided by Commission):

Provide input to staff from the Finance Division on the questionnaire that will be used in the City of Eugene's Banking RFP process to determine the fossil fuel exposure of applicants. Provide input on the evaluation criteria of this questionnaire.

3. Intended Product (usually a document that will be submitted to Commission):

The Committee will produce recommendations that will be reviewed by the full Commission before being sent to the Finance Division.

4. Completion Date/Number of Meetings Expected:

This Committee will meet between March 28 and April 11th. The Committee may meet up to three times, although it is expected to meet only twice. The Final Commission recommendations must be made to the Finance Division by the end of April to meet the project timeline for the RFP process.

5. Rough Topic/Agenda Anticipated for Each Meeting

Meeting 1: Review material from Finance Division about similar processes in other communities. Identify areas where more information is needed and initial ideas.

Meeting 2: Review any research completed between meetings. Discuss recommendations and prepare the proposal for the Commission.