



Eugene Sustainability Commission

MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission
Atrium, Saul Room
Eugene, Oregon

June 20, 2018
5:30 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Jennifer Hayward

Opening

- Chair O'Brien called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.
- Commissioner Kloor declared a potential conflict of interest because he works for Northwest Natural.
- Review Agenda – Chair O'Brien informed the Commission that the presentation from Our Children's Trust needed to be moved to 7pm. All other items would be moved forward and addressed until 6:45. At that time, there would be a meeting break. The presentation would happen at 7pm. Commissioner McDonald moved to approve the agenda with changes. Seconded by Commissioner Price. Approved unanimously.
- Approve minutes from May meeting. Commissioner Price to moved amend the minutes to reflect a concern by the member of the public. That motion was not seconded because it was not specific. Commissioner Saxion moved to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Commissioner Wolling. Approved (9-2-1). Commissioner Price and Councilor Semple opposed. Commissioner Edwards abstained.

Public Comment

- Cheryl Byer spoke about D-Con poison use around the City to deal with rats. She is concerned that animals other than rats will be poisoned. The poison causes a slow and painful death. She begged the City to not use poison as a deterrent.
- Mark Robinowitz called for auditing of the City's environmental claims. City claims it's going to reach its CRO goals. He spoke about the City spending money on development projects such as the Beltline project. He spoke about the need to stop supporting deforestation. He referenced the website Energyjustice.net. He spoke about the need to address toxins in addition to carbon emissions.
- Linda Heyl handed out a data sheet from Eugene's Community Inventory. She spoke about the emissions levels, comparing emissions between EWEB and Northwest

Natural. She also spoke about the different methodologies used in the inventories. She said it is not right to continue using fossil fuels due to the damage they are causing. It's not accurate to portray natural gas a clean energy source in Eugene.

- Robin Bloomgarten supported what Linda Heyl said. She relayed that it is really important because the City will be renegotiating a 20 year deal with Northwest Gas. She also asked Commissioner Kloor to recuse himself from any decision-making recommendation on the topic.
- Laura Ohanian – thank the city for trying to deal with the rat issue. I find it interesting that the Sustainability Commission is thinking about using poison. The gift that keeps on giving. Poison can get into the soil. The wrong animal could eat the poison and die. All poisons should be illegal. We are poisoning our whole planet. Would like to see the City to do something other than poison. Maybe trapping. Trapping to kill would be better than poison, but not a big fan of killing anything.
- Lisa Arkin presented on behalf of Beyond Toxics to support the ban of the use of anticoagulant rodenticide. She said poisons have collateral damage on other species, including animals and children. She lost a pet who ate rat poison. She also spoke about her own efforts to deter rats at her home. She said the City can't ban the use of pesticides, but the City can set an example and teach people how to prevent attractions.
- Dave Pichoni said that rat poison could also be used by terrorists to create bombs. Poison is also a painful way for rats to die. He said the solution is to get the right sized traps and get them in the neck. He also talked about being in favor of getting rid of natural gas. While transitioning off of fossil fuel, people need help with things like heating water, cooking and heating homes.
- Edi Roberts spoke of her concern about inadequacies of the plan to respond to the CRO and the Climate Action Plan. The City needs a more concerted effort to look at specifics of how it's going to happen. She spoke about the Doppelt column which talks about the need to address consumption-based emissions. Solutions include re-localizing food production regionally and agri-hoods or housing arranged around small farms or gardens. She also said the Commission needs to consider how to interface better with Planning Commission. Big developments around town do not take into account the environment. She also spoke about the Hayward Field design.

Commissioner Comment to Public

- Commissioner Price clarified that the Commission was not encouraging rat bait or any kind of poison.
- Commissioner McDonald thanked folks for coming. He said 15,000 children in America are poisoned annually. He also made remarks about his disappointment in the Hayward Field design and apologized for not being more actively involved in the issue.
- Commissioner Furgerson thanked folks for their comments. She spoke about how much she learns from the public.
- Commissioner Saxion thanked those who spoke and asked about preemption law to ban pesticides.

Councilor Updates

Councilor Semple provided the following information:

- FY19 City Budget -The City budget was passed on Monday, with 5 changes to the City Manager’s original proposed budget. Councilor Semple review each change. They can be found here: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/40801/Approved-Budget-Committee-Motions-5-30-18>.
- Housing - Council is mostly focused on housing issues, including exploring different ways to incentivize housing and keep it fair for everyone. Specific topics included: SDUs, ADUs at churches, C2 zoning, construction excise tax, and system development charges.
- EWEB Riverfront Property - The Riverfront Open House happened today. The City will work up deal points for the sale of the property in July. No design changes have been made at this point.
- Rat Poison/Rats - She clarified that no one ever proposed spreading rat poison around City-wide. It’s used by the Public Works Department, but only in sewer pipes if there’s evidence of a problem found. At this time Councilor Semple is in favor of banning rat poison, but she hasn’t explored what the ramifications of doing that or the alternatives are yet. She mentioned that the Friendly Street Neighbors have done a great job creating materials to educate people about what to do if they have a rat problem.

Committee Proposals, Updates and Recommendations

Northwest Natural Franchise Agreement Review Committee

- Commissioner Saxion reviewed Committee process and findings. He then reviewed the recommendation.
- Commissioners discussed the proposal.
- Commissioner Mulholland asked to add the following items to the proposal.
 1. Expand core request to City Council to include looking at ORS 221.420 to evaluate the City’s ability to regulate natural gas both inside and outside of the franchise agreement.
 2. Can the City require Northwest Natural to fuel switch to the extent possible to biofuel and renewable hydrogen?
 3. City attorney office to provide a legal opinion as soon as possible to inform not only the Franchise Agreement Contract Negotiations, but also the Climate Action Plan update project.
- Commissioner Edwards noted that Portland’s Natural Gas agreement includes a broad statement about climate change.

Motion

- Commissioner Saxion moved that the Commission endorse the Committee’s proposal including the edits submitted by Commissioner Mulholland. Commissioner Farley seconded the motion. Motion passed (11-0-1). Commissioner Kloor abstained.

- Commissioner Saxion will present the proposal on July 9th to City Council.

Urban Wildlife Feeding Ban Committee

- Commissioner McDonald gave an overview of the Committee process and research.
- Commissioner McDonald read the proposal. Commissioners Furgerson and Price gave updates on the committee

Motion

- Commissioner Kloor moved to approve the proposal as written. Commissioner Furgerson seconded the motion.
 - Commissioner Mulholland suggests rewording of fact sheet to “items to consider”. Also asked for clarification under number 5. Commissioner McDonald clarified that the product referenced was essentially birth control for rats.
 - Commissioner Zlevor noted the proposal was worded as if all residents are home owners. Information on what renters can do in addition to landlords would be helpful.
 - Commissioner discussion continued.
 - **Chair O’Brien called for the vote. Motion passed (11-0-1) Commissioner O’Brien abstained.**
-
- Commissioner McDonald asked to put another motion on the table. Chair O’Brien would not allow it because the working agreements had not been followed.

Presentation from our Children’s Trust

- Coreal Riday-White, Community Engagement Manager and Matt McRae, Climate Policy Strategist gave a presentation on the Juliana v. US lawsuit.

Motion

- Commissioner McDonald moved to approve a Resolution Honoring Our Children’s Trust. Seconded by Councilor Semple.
- Several Commissioners noted there are typos. Friendly amendment to accept typo corrections.
- **Motion passed (11-0-1).** Commissioner Kloor abstained.

Commissioner Kloor left the meeting.

Updates from Commissioners and Staff

- Chelsea gave an overview of the Envision Eugene Technical Advisory Committee. Commissioner Saxion and Mulholland will both apply. There is at least one seat for a Sustainability Commissioner.
- Commissioner Price volunteered to be on the Envision Eugene Triple Bottom Line Sounding Board.

- Commissioner Saxion asked for an update on the Banking RFP work. Chelsea will check on this.
- Commissioner McDonald spoke about recycling packaging and associated waste. Commissioner Furgerson announced recommendations from the Waste Reduction Committee would be coming to the Commission next month.
- Commissioner Mulholland gave updates about the EWEB Riverfront Development. When he went to City Council last month to present recommendations, staff had just presented a public process that largely met the process changes the Commission planned to request.

Motion

- Commissioner McDonald moved to resubmit the Commission’s letter to City Council on Monday, 6/25. Commissioner Saxion seconded the motion. Commissioner Wolling asked that Commissioner Mulholland include a thank you to City Council. **Approved unanimously (11-0).**
- Commissioner Mulholland will resubmit the letter.
- Commissioner Price handed out documents for NEPA process for Moving Ahead.
- Chair O’Brien announced he and Vice Chair Wolling will be meeting with the Mayor and City Manager on Friday, 6/22. He asked the Commissioners for input on what to discuss. Input included:
 - o Bring their attention to the recently passed Commission proposals including the wildlife feeding proposal, legal research on Northwest Natural franchise agreement, Riverfront Committee work.
 - o Give an overview of what the Commission has been working on as of late.
 - o Highlight collaborative efforts like the Banking RFP work and the Riverfront Committee
 - o Get updates on the EV Ready Homes and Home Energy Score Work Session
 - o Let them know we are engaged in the CAP update.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.