



MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission
Atrium, Saul Room
Eugene, Oregon

September 19, 2018
5:30 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Art Farley and Jennifer Hayward

Opening

- Chair Zlevor called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.
- Commissioner Zlevor declared a potential conflict of interest because she is employed by Cameron McCarthy.
- Commissioner Kloor declared a potential conflict of interest because he is employed by Northwest Natural.
- Chris Ramey introduced himself as a liaison from Planning Commission.
- Chair Zlevor welcomed Commissioner Ringer. Commissioners introduced themselves.
- Agenda Review:
 - o Commissioner McDonald proposed to add the University of Oregon North Campus Riverfront Conditional Use Permit as an item to the agenda.
 - o Chair Zlevor made a statement. She noted that she did not need to do so, but that she was choosing to remove herself from the discussion and vote about whether or not to include the item on the agenda, the vote to approve the agenda, and, if the item was added, the discussion and vote on the item. She also called on the Commission to create a respectful and professional environment.
 - o The motion was seconded by Councilor Semple.
 - o Commissioner McDonald read a statement stating why he thinks he meets the requirements of the working agreements. He stated that the Commission has sent recommendations to bodies other than City Council many times. He spoke to the fact that the request could be sent to the hearings official or City Council.
 - o Commissioner Saxion spoke about Ralph's emails. He expressed frustration that Commissioner McDonald impugned the motives of the Chair, Vice Chair, and staff. He found it extremely troubling. He noted that many folks have concerns about the Riverfront Extremely troubling. To create a conspiracy

that staff are coordinating what's on the agenda is wrong. He also noted the need for the Commission to advise the City Council and City Manager and not other entities.

- Commission Mulholland commented on the Commission process to review the issue. He recognized that normally an issue like this would be addressed through committee work. He accepted responsibility for not convening the Riverfront Committee to address this issue in a timely manner. He understood the impetus for the Commission to weigh in acknowledged the process is flawed. He apologized to those who felt like the Commission had to act in rushed manner.
 - Commissioner Price said the Commission had a duty to comment on the issue.
 - Commissioner Kloor stated that he would not be voting to put the item on agenda. He was disappointed in Commission's inability to stick to working agreements. He noted that disagreements are healthy, but that he was disappointed with how Chair's integrity was attacked.
 - Commissioner Wolling relayed that she spoke as an individual in support of the item and position that Commissioner McDonald was supporting. However, she supported Chair Zlevor's decision not to include it on the Commission agenda and would have done the same thing had she been asked to act as Chair. She also noted that the Hearings Official reviews lists to arguments and weighs the information and makes a decision. The number of people making the argument should not be important. She felt it detracted from the Commission's credibility to put something forward that wasn't well researched.
 - Councilor Semple said the situation was distressing. She noted that the Commission is very strict and makes a good attempt to honor working agreements. She admired and applauded that. Other Commissions are more flexible with their rules when an emergency comes up. While she was not arguing that this was necessarily an emergency, she asked how the Commission would deal with time-sensitive issues in the future. She was very worried about the artificial fields and hoped the Commission would comment when it was appropriate to make a recommendation.
 - Commissioner McDonald noted his suspicion that the decision to take issue off agenda was illegal.
 - Commissioner Price said the working agreements seem to be a little less than friendly. He argued that the Commission needed to have more compassion for the community.
 - Vote failed 4-5-2. In Favor: Price, McDonald, Edwards, Ringer; Opposed: Wolling, Saxion, O'Brien, Semple, Kloor; Abstained: Zlevor, Mulholland.
- The agenda was approved 10-0-1. Commissioner Ringer abstained.
 - Commissioner Wolling moved to approve the July minutes. Seconded by Commissioner O'Brien. The minutes were approved: 10-0-1. Commissioner Ringer abstained.

- Commissioner O'Brien moved to approve the August minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Saxion. The minutes were approved 9-0-2. Commissioner Ringer and Councilor Semple abstained.

Public Comment

John Ammondson from Environment Oregon, a Portland-based organization, spoke about the group's campaign to fight against plastic pollution and polystyrene foam statewide. He noted there are lots of alternatives, particularly for polystyrene foam. He offered to work with the Commission on existing efforts to make progress on the issue.

Carol Scherer from 350Oregon spoke about the University of Oregon Riverfront Development project. She read from a December 2, 2017 article published by Ed Whitelaw. The article asks - If UO builds on Riverfront, who will benefit? She called for the need for accountability for the Willamette River and its ecosystem.

Lee DeVea from 350Eugene spoke about the University of Oregon proposed Riverfront Development. She asked the Sustainability Commission to recommend that the permit be denied until there is a full public process to examine the proposal. She said the proposed development was squarely in the Sustainability Commission's purview of work due to its connection to health of river. She also noted the economic interest in the way the riverfront is development. She stated that not commenting on the permit was negligent of the Commission.

Jim Neu from 350Eugene said that, in 1985, the City of Eugene passed a code that said the City needed a committee to review riverfront development. He cited code Eugene City Code No. 19366 (provisions 2-220 to 2-226). He noted the Riverfront Research Park Committee had not met in over a decade in 2010. He argued the Committee was needed to meet the law. He questioned why Commissioner Kloor participated in the discussion around the Riverfront agenda item after declaring a conflict of interest. He also noted his disappointment that he has not seen an outreach plan for the Climate Action Plan.

Mark Robinowitz from Sustain Eugene.org spoke about the research around the need to use solar power that existed 30 years ago. He also spoke about the need to cut demand for energy and the changes that living on a solar budget will require. He said that we generate more electricity with natural gas than from renewables. He also spoke about the need to ban polystyrene food containers.

Deb McGee said she has lived in county for 35 years. She spoke about the 20 or so Eugeneans that attended the Global Action Climate Summit last week in San Francisco. She noted the work of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network. She spoke about Oslow's accomplishments, the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance. She also said that community organizations need to help to write the Climate Action Plan (CAP). She said that the Eugene Climate Collation will continue to monitor the CAP process. She said the City cannot meet CRO goals alone.

Paul Ceico spoke about the University of Oregon Riverfront proposal. He has been working with faculty and students trying to provide input on the North Campus plan. He thought the plan was not what many would consider a sustainable choice. He appreciated the Commission's adherence to their rules and spoke about the University's failure to follow their own public process. He stated that the public had been excluded from the process.

Bart Johnson, a professor at the University of Oregon in the Landscape Architecture program stated that institutions need to serve people and the public, not the other way around. He said the University of Oregon is a public institution needs to be held to high standards, especially on riverfront which serves the community. He noted that the University hasn't done any cost benefit analysis on the impacts of the development. He said the permit for development south of the railroad tracks should be approved, but the others denied.

Bitty Roy, a professor at the University of Oregon in the Biology Department and a member of the University Planning Committee, was concerned that all planning for this was done in summer, when faculty are unpaid and not around. Meetings were also held in first and last week of terms. It seemed like every move was made to prevent public input. She said that noise, lights, and fields will destroy area forever and that the whole development was inappropriate.

Commissioner Response to Public Comment

Commissioner McDonald thanked everyone for coming out in support of Riverfront Park. He apologize that the Commission was unable to take up the issue at the meeting and that it would hopefully in the future.

Commissioner Kloor clarified for the Commission that conflict his conflict of interest was regarding the Work Plan, not the University Riverfront North Campus discussion.

Commissioner Mulholland noted the Waste Reduction Committee had drafted a proposal and would be moving forward with it soon. He hoped that the Commission could connect with John Ammondson soon.

Commissioner Edwards noted he was disappointed the Commission wasn't going to discuss the riverfront development issue. He said the Commission had heard from the public many nights about the issue. He said it doesn't hurts to discuss the issue. He hoped the Commission wasn't focusing too much on process to avoid discussing issues on the edge.

Commissioner Wolling said she didn't think the Commission knows nearly as much as folks who commented on the riverfront development issue. She didn't think that by throwing together comments the Commission would be adding value to the public discussion.

Items from commissioners and staff

- Chelsea gave an update on the CAP2.0 process. She introduced a new staff member, Mark Nystrom. She also talked about upcoming Large Lever Shareholder Meetings, the CAP Equity Panel and that plans for outreach were in progress. She said that Sustainability Commission recommendations about additional LLS were evaluated by the project team. They do not meet the definition of LLS, however, staff were going to do outreach and try to get those organizations at the table for the subsequent LLS meetings to participate in the conversation.
- Chelsea handed out flyers for the 2018 Service Academy, a training for Eugene Board and Commission members on October 1st.
- Chelsea asked Commissioners to send edits to the Annual Report to her by October 1st.
- Chair Zlevor facilitated a conversation around upcoming meeting dates. The Commission decided the following:
 - o The October meeting is tentatively scheduled for Oct 24th.
 - o The November meeting is scheduled for November 14th.
 - o The December meeting is TBD. It may be canceled or moved from the third Wednesday (December 19). This decision will be made at a later meeting.
- The Chair and Vice Chair are meeting with the City Manager and Mayor next week. Chair Zlevor asked for input about what to discuss. Suggestions included:
 - o The Commission's Natural Gas proposal.
 - o Scheduling of the Home Energy Score Work Session. Becky DeWitt, City Manager's Office Division Manager was present in the audience. She said the work session would likely be scheduled in the New Year.
 - o Whether or not the Joint University of Oregon/ City Commission is necessary and constituted under Eugene City Code No. 19366 (provisions 2-220 to 2-226).
- Commissioner Saxion participated in City of Eugene Banking Proposal Review. A bank was selected through that process, and the City is moving forward with finalizing that contract.
- Commissioner Saxion also reported that the City Manager selected members for the Technical Advisory Committee for Envision Eugene. Commissioner Saxion was appointed. The first meeting is next Thursday. There will be about 4-5 meetings between September and December.
- Commissioner McDonald noted that the Citizens for Responsible Use of Plastics group has been meeting for several months on waste management. They have an ordinance drafted around banning Styrofoam (polystyrene). It is modeled after other northwest cities.
- Commissioner McDonald also asked to be added to the Waste Reduction Committee
- Commissioner Mulholland summarized the key points from the Transportation System Plan (TSP) Work Session. As the implementation plan is now, The City will reach a 40% reduction by 2035 if hit 24% mode share of bike. He also spoke about Electric Vehicle research.

Council update

- Councilor Semple noted that Council recently heard presentations about the TSP and Moving Ahead.
- She noted the following upcoming work sessions: Transit Tomorrow (October 15), Climate Action Plan update (October 31), Sustainability Commission Work Plan (November 19).
- She noted that she planned to put forth work session polls for single use plastics and around Northwest Natural.
- Councilor Semple left the meeting.

FY19 Work Plan Development

- The Commission discussed the draft Work Plan and provided very minor edits. The final Work Plan is included at the end of this document.

Motion

- Commissioner Mulholland moved to approve the FY19 Sustainability Commission Work Plan. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. Approved unanimously (10-0).
- The Commission worked on assigning components of the Work Plan for individual Commissions to lead on and/or track. Commissions are allowed to push the work forward, but not to go beyond what the Commission agreed to. New work means a new committee must be formed.
 - o Section 2: Climate Change Policy
 - Point A – A committee already exists to address part of this item. The Commission needs to track policy.
 - Point B – A committee already exists to address this item.
 - Point C (TSP) – Commissioners Mulholland, Saxion, and Wolling
 - Point D – Biophilic Design – not ready at this time. Commissioner Price.
 - Point E (Neighborhood preparedness) – not ready at this time. Commissioner McDonald with support from Commissioners Kloor and Price
 - Point F – Waiting for work session poll response.
 - o Section 3: FY18 Follow-Up of Proposals Sent to City Council
 - Point A: Commissioner Mulholland
 - Point B: Commissioner Mulholland
 - Point C: Commissioner Wolling
 - Point D: Commissioner McDonald
 - Point E: Commissioner Saxion
 - Point F: Commissioner Zlevor
 - Point G: Commissioner McDonald
 - o Section 4 and liaisons will be addressed at the next Commission meeting.
- Adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Work Plan-Fiscal Year 2019

Overview

The Commission serves as an advisory body to the City Council and City Manager in the development or initiation of programs or actions that will enhance and create sustainable practices within the City and the community. The Commission focuses on the Triple Bottom Line aspects of sustainability - social equity, environmental health and economic prosperity, and advises on policy matters related to:

- a) sustainable practices
- b) businesses that produce sustainable products and services
- c) City building design and infrastructure
- d) related issues that directly affect sustainability efforts considered by the council

Core Priorities/Work Items

This Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) work plan emphasizes core priorities, flexibility, and engagement. The core priorities guide the Commissions focal areas for on-going policy discussion, analysis, and ultimately recommendations to the City Council.

The proposed core priorities and specific policy issues for the Commission in FY19 are the following.

1. City Council Engagement

- a. Develop a strategy to increase engagement with City Council. The development of the strategy should include interviews with City Councilors learn what engagement strategies work best for them.

2. Climate Change Policy

- a. **CAP2.0 Outreach and Policy Input.** Plan and carry out strategies to educate the community, including neighborhood associations, about the CAP 2.0 Project and solicit community input and involvement. Review the content of the CAP 2.0 process, policies, actions and projected outcomes, and provide feedback to Sustainability staff and/or City Council.
- b. **Waste Reduction Policy.** Research policy options to restrict non-reusable fast food packaging such as straws, cups, clamshell packaging, Styrofoam packaging; prohibit some items or require surcharge, encourage re-usable service ware, packaging. Review Eugene's food waste initiatives and explore ways to extend and enhance them.
- c. **Transportation System Plan (TSP) Implementation.** Proactively seek opportunities to collaboratively assist City staff as it develops implementation strategies for the TSP that will align proposed projects with the Climate Recovery Ordinance.

- d. **Biophilic Design.** Explore ways to integrate biophilic design, the practice of connecting people and nature within our build environments and communities, into building practices.
- e. **Neighborhood Preparedness.** Review Eugene wildfire and smoke inundation preparedness and mitigation measures. Review City action to foster general neighborhood disaster preparedness, neighborhood organization and communication and collaborate with staff to further these actions.
- f. **Natural Gas.** Research ways to reduce natural gas use through the City's franchise agreement and other avenues.

3. **FY18 Follow-Up of Proposals Sent to City Council**

- a. **Electric Vehicle Ready Homes.** Monitor Action at State Level to ensure appropriate progress is made to address the issue.
- b. **Home Energy Scoring Requirement for Home Sales and Rentals.** Work with staff to identify a work session date.
- c. **Tiny and small houses.** Monitor Council action to address housing issues including the need for tiny and small houses.
- d. **Riverfront Property.** Continue to monitor the Riverfront property development and advocate for adequate greenspace and a robust public process.
- e. **Northwest Natural Franchise Agreement Legal Research.** Request a work session to discuss upcoming Northwest Natural Franchise Agreement renewal conditions and other considerations to curb natural gas use.
- f. **Resolution Honoring Our Children's Trust.** Work with City Council to pass a similar resolution at the Council level.
- g. **Wildlife Feeding Ordinance.** Research and propose actions that can reduce populations of rodents using ecological principles.

4. **Monitor**

- a. **Envision Eugene.** Keep informed on the progress made by the Envision Eugene Technical Advisory Committee (EETAC) and City staff in the development of the Envision Eugene Growth Monitoring Program. Particular attention will focus on Pillar 3 (Plan for Climate Change and Energy Resiliency). As appropriate, the Commission will review and provide input on Growth Monitoring Program metrics and implementation strategies.
- b. **Housing.** Monitor public and private efforts to address Eugene's housing situation, evaluating their consistency with Envision Eugene pillars, the Transportation System Plan, the Climate Action Plan and Triple-Bottom-Line principles. Become engaged in housing issues as appropriate, guided by the Filters of the Commission's Working Agreements.

- 5. **Emerging Issues.** 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.

Outcomes

- Provide policy recommendations to Eugene City Council.
- Provide a forum for addressing public concerns related to sustainable policies and practices.
- Provide input to City Council and City Manager on sustainability policies and practices that reflect community values.

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