



## Eugene Sustainability Commission

### MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission  
Atrium, Saul Room  
Eugene, Oregon

October 24, 2018  
5:30 p.m.

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

**ABSENT:** Jon Kloor, Kelsey Zlevor

#### Opening

- Vice Chair Wolling called the meeting to order at 5:33pm. She announced she would be filling in as Chair since Commissioner Zlevor could not be in attendance.
- Chris Ramey, the liaison from the Planning Commission was acknowledged.
- Agenda Review. Commissioner Saxion moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner O'Brien. Approved unanimously.
- Commissioner O'Brien moved to approve the September Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Saxion. Approved 10-0-1. Commissioner Hayward abstained.

#### Public Comment

Cindy Matherly and Brennen Matherly spoke about their "Suck Less" campaign that encourages folks not to use single use plastic straws and only offering straws upon request. They thanked the Commission for supporting the stop the Styrofoam initiative. They spoke about their outreach around straws in the community over the past year including showing a movie and talking to local businesses.

Mark Robinowitz spoke about Jan Lundberg. Jan worked on energy issues for over 30 years including working to stop freeway expansions. Mr. Robinowitz spoke about upcoming challenge to transport goods when fossil fuels are gone. He also spoke about the impact of one plane ride and how it exhausts an individual's fossil budget.

Jules Renawd introduced himself as an undergraduate at the University of Oregon Committee for the Responsible Use of Plastics. He thanked the Commission for considering the Committee's recommendations around single use plastics.

Jim Flynn spoke about his response to the news that China stopped taking plastics from the US. He spoke in support of trying to reduce the use of single use packaging and in support of banning Styrofoam from the City of Eugene this year.

Karyn Kaplan is the Zero Waste Program Manager at the University of Oregon. She thanked Councilor Semple for her bold efforts in bringing waste reduction issues to City Council. She said her personal view is that a person who recycles is more likely to take other sustainable actions. She spoke about the need for local action around Polystyrene, plastics, etc. She thanked the Commission for their efforts.

#### Public Comment Response from Commissioners

Councilor Semple loved the Suck Less campaign presented by Brennan and Cindy. She highlighted the good work the Commission is doing around waste reduction and reducing single use plastics.

Commissioner McDonald thanked everyone for coming, particularly Brennan and Cindy. He is encouraged that City can further the cause through an ordinance at City Council. He also thanked the Citizens for the Responsible Use of Plastics.

Commissioner Ringer commended Brennan for coming to testify. He said that it's really important that young people take the lead role.

#### Waste Reduction Committee Proposal

- Commissioner Farley presented the proposal from the Waste Reduction Committee (included at the end of these minutes).
- Commissioners discussed the proposal. They agreed to example the list of items in the first paragraph to straws, bags, and boxes. They also added that the work session should be scheduled by the end of the year to the first paragraph. They added this sentence as the last sentence of the document: "We think this is a time sensitive issue and we would ask that the Mayor and City Manager expedite the work session on this issue."

#### Motion

Commissioner McDonald moved to approve the proposal and send it to City Council. Seconded by Councilor Semple. Approved unanimously (11-0).

Commissioner Farley will present the proposal to City Council on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### CAP Outreach Committee Proposal

- Chelsea summarized the proposal (included at the end of the minutes).

#### Motion

Commissioner Price moved to approve the proposal. Seconded by Commissioner McDonald. Approved unanimously (11-0).

## New Committee Proposals

### Food Waste Reduction Committee

- Commissioner Wolling described the proposal.

#### **Motion**

Commissioner McDonald moved to create the Committee. Seconded by Commissioner Price. Approved unanimously (11-0).

#### Committee Details:

- Chair: Commissioner McDonald
- Members: Commissioners Farley, Ringer, and Wolling\* (Wolling just on email list)
- Meetings: Up to 6 months and up to 6 meetings. Committee will report back to the Commission no later than May 2019.

### Natural Gas Committee

- Commissioner Mulholland described the proposal. He clarified the purpose to be “to identify specific recommendation for a natural gas franchise agreement.”

#### **Motion**

Commissioner McDonald moved to form the Committee. Seconded by Commissioner Price. Approved unanimously (11-0).

#### Committee Details:

Chair: Commissioner Mulholland

Members: Commissioners Price, Saxion, Edwards

Meetings: Up to 3 meetings and up to 3 months. Recommendations due back to the Commission in January.

## Break

### Triple Bottom Line Discussion

- Chelsea facilitated a discussion about what should be included in the Triple Bottom Line Analysis in the Sustainability Commission’s proposals. Commissioners agreed to the following expectations around the TBL Analysis, which should be incorporated into the revised Working Agreements.
  - During the first Committee Meeting, the Committee identifies top of mind TBL issues. A Committee member may volunteer to be the “TBL Tracker” and take the lead on tracking and researching these issues.
  - In the final proposal, the Committee will include the identification of TBL issues with as much analysis as the committee expertise allows. This component of the proposal should be voted by the whole committee on like all other parts of the proposal.

## FY2019 Sustainability Commission Liaison Assignments

Commissioners volunteered to take on the following liaison assignments:

- Planning Commission – Commissioner Wolling
- Human Rights Commission – Commissioner Edwards
- Active Transportation Committee – Commissioner Wolling (can't attend meetings, but will track the minutes)
- Housing Policy Board – Commissioner Price
- Budget Committee – Commissioner Mulholland
- Toxics Board – Commissioner McDonald, Commissioner Price (for the next 6 months)
- Envision Eugene Technical Advisory Committee – Commissioner Saxion
- Poverty and Homelessness Board – Commissioner Price

## Council update

- City Council allocated \$8.6 million for community justice initiative. This funding includes funding for homeless initiatives, police officers, jail beds, community service officers.
- Council was presented with a shelter study report that included a list of things the City can do to address the needs of the unhoused. It showed a need for a shelter with 50-75 beds. In addition, more money is needed for transitional housing, healthcare, and helping people stay housed.
- Council also recently discussed transpiration system development charges, Transit Tomorrow, approval of MUPTE for the new Obie Development, increasing the number of affordable apartments to 100 in the Riverfront Development project, and opening a Dusk to Dawn site on the old City Hall lot (initially 38 people).

## Updates from Commissioners and Staff

- Chelsea provided an update on the CAP2.0 including upcoming Large Lever Shareholder meetings.
- Commissioners decided not to have a December meeting.
- Commissioner Price shared details about an upcoming meeting: Transition to Regenerative Local Economy, Garden Club, October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Commissioner Saxion shared that the Envision Eugene Technical Advisory Committee has begun meeting.
- Commissioner McDonald shared an update on the lawsuit being litigated by Our Children's Trust on behalf of 21 youths. The trial date is uncertain, but there will be a march on Monday, October 28.
- Councilor Semple relayed a thank you from City Council to the Commission for doing good work.

Adjourned 8:11pm.

Recorded by Chelsea Clinton

Eugene Mayor and City Council – Draft proposal  
Eugene, OR

The Sustainability Commission hereby lends its wholehearted support to the proposal brought forward by Councilor Emily Semple to ban restaurants and retail food vendors from selling or serving food in single-use plastic/polystyrene containers, including cups, plates, utensils, clamshells, etc. unless those items are compostable or recyclable in Eugene. We applaud the City Council's recent agreement to hold a work session on this topic and urge that this work session be scheduled in the near future.

Background Facts:

Many plastics and polystyrene foam not only do not biodegrade—they break into tiny pieces that persist in the environment, often are swept into waterways, can kill wildlife who ingest them, and enter the food chain when birds and marine mammals mistake them for food. Plastic fragments have been found in hundreds of species, including 86% of sea turtle species and nearly half of all seabird and marine mammal species.

Polystyrene is based on styrene, a known neurotoxin and likely carcinogen (according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer). It can affect both the workers who manufacture the products and consumers who might be exposed to toxins that can leach into foods

There are cost-effective alternatives to plastics and polystyrene foam—in fact, many Eugene restaurants already use them. Nationally, chains from McDonald's to Whole Foods Markets have moved away from polystyrene.

Many other communities have already banned polystyrene. At least 65 communities in California, as well as cities in Maine, Washington, Massachusetts, Florida, New York and New Jersey have polystyrene ordinances in effect. Here in Oregon, Portland banned polystyrene in 1989, and Florence and Medford have more recently adopted ordinances. We attach the Florence ordinance for your information.

Triple Bottom Line Considerations:

**Environment:** As described above, plastics and polystyrene have environmental consequences for human health, wildlife, oceans and waterways. A reduction in use also lowers associated greenhouse gas emissions.

**Economy:** Since plastics and polystyrene is typically less expensive than alternative products, there is the potential for increased cost that might disproportionately affect small businesses. However, other cities that have enacted bans have found that any economic hardships can be mitigated by (1) allowing a transition period long enough for businesses to identify sources of alternative products (2) phasing in the ban (for instance, Seattle first banned expanded polystyrene, then extended the ban to include all single-use food packaging that was not recyclable or compostable) (3) offering services to small business to assist in the transition (4) offering an economic hardship exemption in certain cases. We would expect these impacts to be minimal as other cities have been successful.

**Social Equity:** Cities that have enacted polystyrene bans report minimal price increases that are passed on to consumers. Meanwhile, since many high-end "green" brands have already moved away from polystyrene, enacting a ban might help "level the playing field" so that low-income consumers are not disproportionately exposed to potential toxins. Purchasing alternative products would likely be more difficult for very small businesses than for large or national chains, so assistance to small businesses might be necessary to help them remain competitive.

Sincerely,  
Sustainability Commission

## **Climate Action Plan Neighborhood Outreach Committee Proposal to the Sustainability Commission**

Proposal: The Sustainability Commission will divide up all the neighborhood associations that have a point of contact. Sustainability Commissioners will contact the neighborhood associations and act as a liaison between the CAP2.0 process and the neighborhood association.

### **Issue Summary:**

The CAP2.0 project team intends to conduct two rounds of outreach. The first round of outreach is underway now and has the goal of informing the public about the CAP2.0 planning process. The second round of outreach will provide the community with the opportunity to review the Draft CAP2.0 document.

### **Upcoming Outreach events include:**

- North Eugene CAP2.0 open house. Dates TBD in early November
- South Eugene CAP2.0 open house. Dates TBD in early November
- Peterson Barn Family Fun Night, December 7, 2018.

In addition, project information is available at <https://www.eugene-or.gov/3936/Climate-Action-Plan-20> and provide input here <https://www.eugene-or.gov/FormCenter/Central-Services-38/CAP20-Public-Feedback-Form-400>.

### **Upcoming Large Lever Shareholder Meetings, locations TBD**

- November 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (10am)
  - Land Use and Transportation Planning (1pm)
- November 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Buildings and Energy (10am)
  - Vehicles and Fuels (1pm)
- November 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Urban Natural Resources and Emergency Preparedness (10am)
  - Community Health and Social Services (1pm)

### **TBL Analysis**

**Environment:** CAP 2.0 is the implementation of Eugene's Climate Recovery Ordinance, through which Eugene will seek to address climate change

**Equity:** The CAP Outreach Plan will contact all active neighborhood associations throughout Eugene, ensuring some geographic equity. The membership of neighborhood associations does not represent a cross-section of the community, so this outreach plan is only one part of a much larger and comprehensive equity strategy that will strive to engage all demographic groups in the community.

**Economy:** There is no particular economic impact associated with this outreach proposal.

## **Sustainability Commission New Committee Proposals October 2018**

### **City Actions to Reduce Food Waste (Commissioner Wolling)**

Rationale: According to the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization, the production, processing and consumption of food accounts for 19% of Eugene-Springfield's greenhouse gas emissions. While Eugene is moving toward offering composting to homes and businesses throughout the community, the EPA's Food Waste Reduction Hierarchy prioritizes food waste prevention, and food rescue and donation, over composting. The committee will build upon the work done by the Waste Reduction Committee and consult local experts to study Best Practices in Food Waste Reduction and make recommendations for reducing food waste in Eugene.

Estimated Number of Meetings Required: 4

### **Natural Gas Committee (Commissioner Mulholland)**

Purpose: To react to the results of the work session poll and discuss next steps with the franchise agreement.

Estimated Number of Meetings: TBD