



## Eugene Sustainability Commission

### MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission  
Atrium, Saul Room  
Eugene, Oregon

April 17, 2019  
5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Kelsey Zlevor, Sue Wolling, Howard Saxion, Kevin O'Brien, Zach Mulholland, Doug Edwards, Greg Ringer, Ralph McDonald, Jennifer Hayward, Jon Kloor, Art Farley, Thomas Price, Mayor Lucy Vinis (substituting for Councilor Emily Semple), Mark Nystrom – staff, and Elena Domingo-staff

**ABSENT:** Councilor Emily Semple

#### Opening

- Chair Zlevor called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.
- Chair Zlevor asked if anyone would like to declare a conflict of interest. Commissioner Kloor declared a potential conflict of interest because he is currently employed by NW Natural.
- Chair Zlevor asked if any liaisons from other boards and commissions were present, none were present.
- Agenda Review. Commissioner Mulholland asked for an additional 10 minutes during Committee Reports to talk about the NW Natural Gas Franchise Agreement. Commissioner Saxion moved to approve the agenda and Commissioner Wolling seconded. Approved unanimously.
- Minutes Approval. Commissioner O'Brien moved to approve the March meeting minutes and Commissioner Kloor seconded. Approved – Commissioners O'Brien, Farley, and Hayward abstained.

#### Public Comment

Mark Robinowitz talked about individuals who have influenced him and done important sustainability work. He spoke about overpopulation and overconsumption and how we have reached the limit to growth. He challenged the Sustainability Commission to ask City Council to ban fireworks before the start of the fire season.

Jim Ball shared observations from sitting in on the NW Natural Franchise Agreement Committee meetings. He said that he does not think there is enough information for the Sustainability Commission to make a recommendation with confidence. He asked the Commission to make a recommendation to City Council to ask EWEB to do an integrated resource update, specifically addressing the goal of shifting fossil fuel use to electricity.

## Public Comment Response from Commissioners

Commissioner McDonald responded to Mark Robinowitz's suggestion of banning fireworks. He said that Councilor Taylor has introduced a firework ban on many different occasions, but City Council has never passed it. They have reduced the number of days fireworks can be used around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and fireworks can be banned on a temporary basis based on temperatures and humidity. Commissioner McDonald said he would personally like to see a firework ban for our city, like other cities have done.

Commissioner Mulholland responded to Jim Ball and said that the Sustainability Commission will be asking the City to get the costs and real numbers needed to make a final decision about the franchise agreement. He hopes this action will be doing what Jim is recommending.

The presenter for the evening had not yet arrived, so Chair Zlevor jumped forward in the agenda and started committee reports.

## Committee Reports

### Working Agreement Revisions Committee

Chair Zlevor gave the committee update. The committee has met and put together suggested updates to the working agreements. They will send out the updates to the full Commission to be reviewed. The committee will ask for approval of the updates from the Sustainability Commission at May's meeting.

### Food Waste Committee

Commissioner McDonald gave the committee update. The committee met on April 10<sup>th</sup> and draft minutes were emailed out to the Commission. At this meeting, the committee decided that they'd like to draft a letter with general recommendations to City Council. The letter will be drafted and reviewed at the next committee meeting before being presented to the full Commission. The committee needs approval of one more meeting to draft and review a letter.

Commissioner McDonald moved to allot the Food Waste Committee an additional May meeting to wrap up their work. Commissioner Farley seconded. Approved unanimously.

Commissioner Wolling asked a question about submitting a letter on plastics to the City Council, as proposed at the last Sustainability Commission meeting. Commissioner Mulholland said that he forgot to draft the letter. There was discussion about whether a letter can be voted on without being vetted through a subcommittee. It was decided that Commissioner Farley will rewrite the letter and it will go on the agenda for May for the Commission to approve.

The presenter arrived.

## Emergency Management Presentation

Kevin Holman, the City of Eugene's Emergency Management Program Manager, presented information about emergency management and the preparation involved for both natural and human caused disasters. He talked about how the more prepared our community is at an individual level, the less strain there will be on the system and the more time responders will have to bring in food, etc. Kevin spoke about the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program, which educates people about disaster preparedness and basic disaster response skills.

Commissioners asked questions related to emergency communications and information being shared, how and if resources will be available, how many days of food to keep on hand, and how CERT members play a part in a disaster.

## Committee Reports Continued

### Natural Gas Committee

Commissioner Mulholland gave the committee update. In doing research to make recommendations to City Council, the committee realized that there is not enough data available to finalize a recommendation. The committee recommends sending a letter asking City Council to direct staff to perform policy analysis on the proposed natural gas policies, including the benefits to energy savings, cost, scalability, political feasibility, and equity implications before the franchise agreement expires in October. This information would have to get to the PUC by June to inform the franchise agreement negotiations.

Commissioner Farley proposed sending a letter to City Council with the background information the committee has gathered. Commissioner Price added that the committee could ask City Council to dive deeper. Commissioner Mulholland said that it would make sense for EWEB staff and City staff to work together and answer questions for City Council.

Commissioner Kloor said that the Commission has a duty to do its due diligence and it has not done that in this case. After the NW Natural City Council work session on May 22, more information will be available including viable solutions.

Commissioner Mulholland responded that if these questions are answered from NW Natural at that work session, that would be great, but the Sustainability Commission should still be asking for this information. Commissioner Edwards said that this ask wouldn't preclude NW Natural providing more information at the City Council meeting.

Mark Nystrom asked a clarifying question, making sure that "proposed policies" to be analyzed were those policies provided to City Council in a grid at their January work session.

After further discussion, Commissioner Mulholland clarified that the Commission is asking for costs and benefits to EWEB and NW Natural customers –i.e., the public cost-benefit. The point is that they want to look at this holistically.

Commissioner Saxion moved that the Sustainability Commission send the NW Natural Franchise Agreement letter to the City and direct minor wordsmithing to reflect that the Commission is asking for a cost-benefit analysis. Commission Edwards seconded.

Commissioner O'Brien asked if the Sustainability Commission will see a final copy before it is sent to the City. The answer was no.

Approved. Commissioners Ringer and Kloor – abstained.

#### CAP 2.0 Review Committee

Commissioner Mulholland reported that once the CAP 2.0 comes out, the committee plans to have a short timeframe to have a series of meetings to prepare questions and recommendations for the Eugene Climate Collaborate (ECC) (formerly known as Large Lever Shareholders or LLS). They are assuming that the review process will be long enough to submit recommendations.

Commissioner Saxion talked about the Transportation System Plan (TSP) Implementation Strategy Committee. City Council directed the City Manager and staff to create implementation strategies for the TSP, including CRO, Vision Zero, and others. In September 2018 at a City Council work session, staff briefed City Council on the TSP implementation and committed to having a draft of the strategy by January. Commissioners have met with Public Works, but it appears they have done little on TSP implementation strategy. The Committee would like to work collaboratively with City staff on the TSP Implementation plan, similar to when the Commission worked with staff on the TSP itself. The transportation sector accounts for a large part of ghg emissions and it's frustrating that the TSP implementation hasn't been a priority and won't come out at the same time as the CAP 2.0 update. The City Council should inquire of the City Manager about why they haven't seen a draft of the TSP implementation plan. The committee will continue to reach out and see if there's a way to work on this.

#### Council Update

Mark Nystrom shared that Sustainability Manager Chelsea Clinton will be back from maternity leave on Monday. He highlighted a few things, including an updated fossil fuel and greenhouse gas reduction forecast memo that is posted on the City's website. The CAP 2.0 update is not complete because we are learning that this is a very iterative process. Additionally, the City has not received a 2017 consumption-based inventory from DEQ. The gaps analysis is also posted on our webpage. Staff continue to meet with ECC members.

Commissioner Price asked questions about the funding set aside for marketing in the CAP 2.0 process and how that will be used. Mark responded that the City is currently working on a draft of a marketing platform.

Commissioner Mulholland asked about the planning process for the CAP 2.0 update. As previously envisioned, there would be a draft, community review, then ECC response to the community review process.

Mark said there will be a process for the LSS to respond to public comments. The CAP 2.0 will include plans the ECC have already committed to, it won't be directing other entities to take action.

Commissioner Mulholland would like to see the ECC respond to public comments and potentially do more than they've committed to. He wants the public comment to be taken seriously and potentially affect change in the final document.

Commissioner McDonald asked about any legislative updates related to single-use plastics. City Council is scheduled to have a public hearing on May 20<sup>th</sup> regarding plastics, informed by actions taken at the state level. He asked for an update about which bills have gone forward or died in session.

Mark said that he did not have the update but would ask Ethan Nelson, the City's Intergovernmental Relations director for an update about these bills and send it out to the Commission.

#### Updates from Commissioners and Staff

Commissioner McDonald said that Michael Wisth from the City's Waste Prevention and Green Building department spoke to the Food Waste Committee. Based on the letter the Commission sent to City Council, Commissioner McDonald would like to see a robust ordinance covering single-use plastics. He would like to see the City address anything not addressed by the state. He said we should be using this window to act before we're preempted. We need people to go to City Council meetings and ask them to do something about plastics.

Mayor Vinis said that City Council had deferred making a decision about single-use plastics until they saw what was happening in the state legislature. They didn't want to move forward on policy that would then be preempted by the state. Instead, the City has focused its efforts lobbying at the state level in opposition to preemption on these issues.

Chair Zlevor announced that she will not be present at next month's meeting. Also, her office is starting a redevelopment project of the park blocks and will be doing a town square innovation lab at Whirled Pies on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30-8:30pm. She would love for people to attend and give feedback. She will abstain from any Commission action related to the Town Square project going forward.

Commissioner Saxion asked if it would be possible to ask Ethan Nelson to provide an update on the status of the plastics related bills to the commissioners.

Mayor Vinis replied that that information should be accessible, and that Ethan meets with the Intergovernmental Relations Committee on regular basis. She thanked the commissioners for the work they are doing. She said the NW Natural conversation is hard,

but essential and she appreciates the Sustainability Commission’s devotion to doing this work.

Adjourned 7:50pm

Recorded by Elena Domingo

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