



Eugene Sustainability Commission

MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission
Atrium, Saul Room
Eugene, Oregon

May 15, 2019
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Sue Wolling, Howard Saxion, Doug Edwards, Ralph McDonald, Jennifer Hayward, Jon Kloor, Art Farley, Thomas Price, Chelsea Clinton – staff, Mark Nystrom – staff, and Elena Domingo-staff

ABSENT: Councilor Emily Semple, Kelsey Zlevor, Greg Ringer, Zach Mulholland, Kevin O'Brien

Opening

- Vice Chair Wolling called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.
- Vice Chair Wolling asked if any liaisons from other boards and commissions were present – Chris Ramey from the Planning Commission was present.
- Agenda Review. Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the agenda and Commissioner Kloor seconded. Approved unanimously.
- Minutes Approval. Commissioner Saxion moved to approve the April meeting minutes and Commissioner Price seconded. Approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Mark Robinowitz talked about the Eugene Weekly article claiming that Ya-Po-Ah Terrace will be free of fossil fuels after reconstruction they are undergoing, however making these changes to the building requires using fossil fuels for materials. He talked about how people have a naïve view that electricity doesn't take effort to manufacture and that people talk about renewables without factoring in depletion. He said that there will be economic shifts as natural gas goes away.

Brad Foster said he has been going to many meetings where people are excited about electric vehicles, but that we need to shift gears on that because the CO₂ produced to build electric vehicles is a big price to pay. He handed out a graphic that shows that Eugene cycling trends have gone down in our community. He said that if we're going to be sustainable, we need to turn that line around.

Sabrina Siegel talked about the 5G infrastructure going up in Eugene right now. She shared concerns that this is very dangerous to the environment and our health. She is a representative from Families for Safe Technology. She has been working to educate City Council about this issue and asked the Sustainability Commission to take up this cause because it is a danger to our community.

Public Comment Response from Commissioners

Commissioner McDonald thanked the individuals who spoke during public comment. He said that he has heard concerns from others related to 5G and doesn't know a lot of the technical arguments, but it seems like an issue the Sustainability Commission should consider. He would like to see studies that include embodied energy, for example, he would like to see the embodied energy of the proposed county courthouse.

Commissioner Farley asked Brad Foster where the cycling data came from on the sheet he handed out. Brad answered that it was from the American Community Survey. Commissioner Farley said that it is a challenge to get people to come to the biking infrastructure we are building.

Commissioner Saxion made a comment that the American Community Survey is a small survey in terms of number of individuals surveyed and that there may be better data out there.

Commissioner Farley suggested asking staff about local bike ridership data.

Commissioner Wolling said that more bike and pedestrian counters are going in throughout the city but is not sure how accurate they are or when they will start counting. She recognized that it is hard to get ridership data but hopes that counts will be able to happen locally.

Transit Tomorrow Presentation

Tom Schwetz, Lane Transit District's Director of Planning and Development presented information about the foundational framing for Transit Tomorrow, the public engagement process and system design work, and the process and schedule for the remaining work. The Transit Tomorrow process looks at how to develop a more useful fixed route system for the community and how the current network gets updated to achieve this goal.

Commissioners asked questions and made comments related to low-income and disabled individuals, park and rides, walking distances to bus stops, bus fleet electrification, free bus ridership, and outreach. They shared concerns about the transit ridership goals of the Transportation System Plan (TSP) not being met. They also talked about how the transit system works within a multi-modal system and the need for LTD to develop partnerships because they are focused on a fixed-route system.

Tom concluded by saying that he would be happy to come back and talk to the Sustainability Commission again when the Transit Tomorrow outcomes are put together.

Committee Reports

Working Agreement Revisions Committee

Vice Chair Wolling gave the committee update. The committee submitted changes to the Working Agreement, included in the Sustainability Commission meeting materials for this

meeting. There were a number of small changes proposed, including designating committees to do TBL analysis, a strategy for taking committee proposals to City Council, and adding a process for time-sensitive information when there isn't time for information to go through the Sustainability Commission's normal process. These additions clarify how things move through the Sustainability Commission.

Commissioner McDonald said he liked the provision for time-sensitive discussions. If Sustainability Commission recommendations are going to be relevant, the Commission needs to act before City Council acts. He shared that this week during Public Forum people spoke about needing more bathrooms available and that this concerns the health of our community. He thinks opening more public bathrooms would be a good idea.

Commissioner Wolling said that she hopes that the time-sensitive proposals are framed in such a way that the Commission could say yes, we approve this letter or recommendation without having to go into too much discussion about it as a full commission.

Commissioner Price said that requirements still need to be met in some form, though they don't specifically say a proposal can't come forward the night before.

Commissioner Wolling said that the recommendation for time-sensitive information includes discussing why the issue is time sensitive and what negative outcomes would result if the Sustainability Commission did not act quicker than their normal process.

Commissioner Edwards gave an example of a night before situation. The Sustainability Commission learned of a Human Rights Commission letter to City Council at the last minute that they wanted to add their support to.

Commissioner Wolling asked if there was a motion. Mark said that in order to meet the current working agreements, this item needs to be voted on next month.

Food Waste Committee

Commissioner McDonald gave the committee update. He spoke about the draft letter the committee included in the Sustainability Commission meeting materials for this meeting. The letter asks City Council to consider the impact of food waste under the goals of the Climate Recovery Ordinance (CRO). He said that Eugene sends more than 40 million pounds of food to the landfill each year. The letter passed unanimously out of the committee by Commissioners Farley, McDonald, Price, Ringer, and Wolling.

Commissioner Farley moved to approve the letter as submitted. Commissioner Price seconded. Approved unanimously. Commissioner McDonald will bring the letter to City Council to read at the Public Forum on May 28th.

Natural Gas Committee

Commissioner Wolling talked about the cosmetic changes Commissioner Mullholland had made to the natural gas letter. Mark said that as discussed, Commissioner Mullholland distributed the letter to the Mayor, City Manager, and City Councilors and the final letter was put in the Sustainability Commission meeting materials for this meeting for everyone to read.

Commissioner Price said that the committee is currently in monitoring mode until needed.

CAP 2.0 Review Committee

Mark said that Commissioner Mullholland has checked in with him about this committee. The committee has not met since the last Sustainability Commission meeting.

Chelsea talked about a new timeline for CAP 2.0, including Eugene Climate Collaborative (ECC) and Equity Panel work, and how that work will likely wrap up in the fall.

Commissioner Saxion asked if the delay was due to waiting on data from the state. Mark responded that the City has not yet received the consumption data from the Department of Environmental Quality yet, but the lack of that data is just one of the factors of why the CAP 2.0 process has been delayed.

Commissioner Price said that the Sustainability Commission has been in waiting mode to get a draft of the CAP 2.0 to review and comment on. He said that it would be nice to not get all the information at once and to be able to review and give feedback on pieces at a time.

Commissioner Saxion asked if the Sustainability Commission would be seen as just another stakeholder seeing the document at the same time as everyone else or if they'd be able to give feedback on the CAP 2.0 document before it's released. He said that there has not been much of an update on where things are or where they are headed. He talked about how the Sustainability Commission is a trusted advisor to City Council, but they need information to be able to fill that role.

Chelsea responded by saying that a plan for the gap strategies will be where the Sustainability Commission can have the most influence. The Sustainability Commission will be able to comment on the ECC actions but working on the gap strategies is where the Commission can have the most impact.

Commissioner Saxion shared frustration about the lack of information or implementation of the Transportation System Plan (TSP). He said that commissioners have tried to meet with City staff, but it has not gone anywhere and he stressed that the TSP needs to be an integral piece of the CAP 2.0.

Commissioner Kloor talked about the gap analysis and shared agreement that this is where the Sustainability Commission can help influence City Council. He talked about how HB

2020, the cap-and-trade bill, is still pending in the legislature and whether this passes or not will have an impact on what the gap looks like.

Commissioner Wolling said that hopefully the cap and trade bill passes in a strong form, but she is concerned that the gap analysis assumes that we will meet our TSP goals, which she doesn't believe will happen.

Chelsea said that she will try and work with other City staff to get an update on TSP progress.

Council Update

Mark said that although Councilor Semple is not here, she wanted to pass along her happy dance because City Council passed an ordinance putting restrictions on single-use plastics.

Commissioner McDonald asked staff if City Council was considering acting on polystyrene in addition to the single-use plastics ordinance. He said many people talked during Public Forum about wanting the City Council to consider a ban that would go further than the ordinance they passed.

Mark and Chelsea did not have information about if City Council is considering any additional bans related to plastics or polystyrene.

Updates from Commissioners and Staff

Mark talked about how a few commissioners will be rotating off the Sustainability Commission with their final meeting in June. In July, the commission will have elections for chair and vice-chair, this is something commissioners should start thinking about. He shared that current Chair Zlevor had expressed an interest in continuing to serve. Mark also mentioned that everyone should plan for an August retreat that will likely be an extended meeting.

Commissioner Price said that he is still willing to do a presentation to the Sustainability Commission about biophilic design at a future meeting.

Mark gave an update about upcoming City Council related items. The City Council will have a Northwest Natural Gas work session next Wednesday and the Equity Panel will be presenting to them in June.

Chelsea said that she is now back in her role and gave thanks to Mark for covering for her while she was out. She said that Elena will be transitioning off of the team. She asked for commissioners to copy both her and Mark on emails related to the Sustainability Commission.

Commissioner Wolling encouraged people to go ride their bikes because May is bike month. Commissioner Price encouraged people to participate in LTD's business commute challenge.

Adjourned 7:30pm

Recorded by Elena Domingo

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