

Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 - 5:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

In attendance: Chair-Kelsey Zlevor, Vice-Chair- Zach Mulholland, Howard Saxion, Ralph McDonald, Art Farley, Laura Allen, Louisa de Heer, Doug Edwards, Greg Ringer, Councilor Emily Semple, Kevin O'Brien

Staff: Chelsea Clinton, Samantha Roberts

Absent: Jon Kloor, Julia Johnson

Call to Order:

Chair Zlevor called the meeting to order.

Kelsey called for a motion to approve the agenda or request for discussion.

Ralph requested 10 minutes to speak on BLM resolution.

Zach requested space in the meeting to propose a subcommittee to review the CAP 2.0 after its release.

Kelsey spoke about when to add these items into the agenda. Zach and Ralph discussed their preferences.

Kelsey requested adjusting agenda to include Zach's proposed addition.

Staff suggested adding BLM resolution to Commissioner Updates given the nature of what that section is about.

Action Item: Approve Agenda

Moved: Ralph McDonald, accept as amended

Seconded: Howard Saxion

Vote: All in favor

Kelsey called for a motion to approve May minutes or request for discussion.

Ralph said that Mark Rabinowitz's name was misspelled and needed to be adjusted.

Action Item: Approved May Minutes

Moved: Zach Mulholland, approve with adjustment

Seconded: Howard Saxion

Vote: All in Favor

Public Comment

Mark Rabinowitz spoke about a book by Laurie Garret in which she predicts the coronavirus. Mark addressed concerns related to fossil fuel use, consumptions and using less. Mark discussed ways to respond to coronavirus in light of climate change and potential actions.

Jim Neu thanked commission regarding CAP 2.0 and NWN franchise gas agreement. Inquired if they received notice to council. Spoke about impact of recent City Council meeting on commission's work and hopes for further work.

Commissioner Response to Public Comment

No comment.

Commissioner Updates

Kelsey addressed the purpose of these updates in light of the Commission's workload, COVID, civil rights protests and requested commissioner thoughts about forward progress. She spoke about her thoughts on the cultural/political moment, thoughts about sustainability as a whole, and how it intersects with equity. She doesn't feel the Commission always meets the mark on those issues and has been thinking about the commission's role in this moving forward.

Louisa spoke about her work learning and making thoughtful donations of funds and time as possible. She has been thinking about history of the environmental movement and current sustainability. She spoke about a webcast about planning and intersectionality of COVID recovery and equity, addressed her thoughts about the filmed actions of EPD, and the role of the Commission to address thoughts on policing in front of council.

Laura agreed with Kelsey and Louisa's thoughts. She looks forward to discussing more about integrating social justice with sustainability. She spoke about her thoughts about sustainability and implementing policy in the future.

Councilor Emily Semple addressed her personal experiences with recent protesting in Eugene and thoughts about what the City is doing currently. She spoke about the crises afoot related to COVID, equity, BLM, climate, and COVID recovery. She talked about opportunities in the moment to affect change and expressed the need to come together in kindness. She is proud of the Commission.

Kelsey echoed comments made by Commissioners. She addressed previous conversations about closing out and thoughts about her last couple of meetings as Chair of the Commission.

Ralph spoke about stepping down from role at the end of his term, and the possible replacement via Councilor Semple. He spoke about the resolution in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. Ralph read through the proposed draft of the resolution.

Kelsey did not see letter in the packet. Ralph addressed that it was sent afternoon of the meeting.

Louisa expressed appreciation to Ralph for bringing the resolution to the Commission. She expressed a desire to see more detail in the content. She spoke about work she believes should be done as well as thoughts about additional items for council to consider within the resolution.

Ralph expressed support for Louisa's points as a friendly amendment and asked for her proposal in writing.

Staff spoke about how to phrase these changes to the proposed resolution and asked the Commission for clarity about what the intent was that evening for the resolution.

Ralph said if the Commission were willing to approve a motion to review the resolution for content they should move forward, otherwise it would not be worth the time to discuss any further until there was more time to do so.

Action Item: Edit Resolution

Moved: Ralph McDonald

Second: Laura Allen

Abstain: Councilor Semple

Vote: 9:1

Louisa requested that the resolution should include a city response related to “8 Can’t Wait” points: Banning shooting in moving vehicle, requiring a use of force continuum (read through statement provided by EPD), immediate end to use of projectiles including tear gas and other chemical weapons on community members. She expressed desire that the City be more restrictive than the state.

Ralph expressed support for the friendly amendment from Louisa.

Staff made live edits to resolution over Zoom platform. Louisa also discussed liability insurance for EPD officers, union negotiations and further considerations to discuss at a later time.

Ralph spoke about Councilor Semple’s point during the previous evening’s Human Rights Commission meeting, about getting too bogged down by details and considerations for working with Council to enact policy change.

Councilor Semple provided a summary of points spoken during the HRC meeting. She expressed the current process of revising the resolution was making her a bit uncomfortable.

Staff provided alternatives to edit the text in a way that would be more comfortable for Commissioners. Ralph agreed.

Laura supported the resolution but expressed desire to make it be more general given the Commission was seeing it for the first time that day. She felt it was fine to voice support generally and not use specific points. She expressed support either way but preferred generality due to time constraints.

Art agreed with Laura and would like to do due diligence to look at the evidence. He expressed support for doing something and appreciated the theme, especially as an advisory body. He expressed support for being vague in the moment, and ask council to look at all appropriate actions, referencing the “8 Can’t Wait”.

Zach addressed additional considerations he wanted to see in the draft of the resolution including removal of school safety officers from 4J and Bethel schools and defunding/reallocation of police funds to CAHOOTS or other community services, in addition to “8 Can’t Wait”. He asked the Commission if they wanted to discuss and potentially add those other items.

Kelsey supported the idea of providing a general statement to Council at first but wanted feedback about how everyone else wanted to proceed. She suggested moving forward with a second statement, with time to discuss at the upcoming August retreat.

Ralph spoke about his thoughts moving forward with the resolution as written given time constraints and additional items to consider.

Staff discussed the opportunity to connect BLM to climate work but doesn't see it in the resolution as written.

Louisa agreed with staff and suggested using August retreat to consider equity and sustainability, though supports moving forward with resolution with further consideration by body later.

Kelsey agreed this isn't the end of the conversation and agreed to adding this to the August retreat.

Zach expressed need to wordsmith resolution in the moment and consider "8 Can't Wait" points. He addressed specific points throughout the document.

Councilor Semple spoke about how it would be to receive this statement as a council member and how appropriate it would be to see how the resolution ties in with sustainability. She expressed belief it would be more powerful to do so.

Ralph suggested edits related to environmental sustainability and marginalized communities.

Zach suggested language from Green New Deal text which could be inserted related to equity and climate change. He spoke about utilizing equity panel to look at implementation of ideas and how the commission could focus in on this for next year's work plan.

Ralph made suggested edits related equity panel recommendations.

Louisa expressed appreciation to Ralph but suggested safer word choices for identifying communities of particular identities.

Kelsey expressed agreement for language spoken by Zach from Green New Deal and expressed desire to include that language, especially with how inclusive the GND is in expressing systemic affects. She asked about how final edits can be made, if every word needs to be edited at the meeting.

Staff explained that there is precedent for a Commissioner to make final edits outside of the meeting as long as content remains the same.

Ralph accepted Zach's language addition as a friendly amendment.

Staff placed changes suggested by Commissioners in the document.

Art asked Ralph to work with staff to finalize text.

Zach suggested edits and Commissioners expressed agreement. He agreed that a Commissioner should do a final revision and move around points as needed.

Kelsey asked Ralph to fine tune resolution with staff.

Action Item: Call to Question Regarding Resolution to BLM Statement of Support

Moved: Ralph McDonald

Second: Louisa de Heer

Abstain: Councilor Emily Semple

Vote: All in Favor

Laura spoke about Fossil Fuel Risk Bond Report sent earlier. She expressed intent to pick up work again.

Louisa spoke about the work of the Air Quality Committee and asked if the report could be brought to body in July or reincorporated at a later date.

Zach addressed intent to continue two committees into July now that small groups can meet.

Kelsey addressed that this is the last meeting for Greg Ringer, Kevin O'Brien, and Ralph McDonald. She thanked them for their time and efforts on the Commission.

Staff expressed appreciation for Kevin's 6 years of service on the Commission and perspective from within the construction community. They expressed appreciation to Greg for joining the Commission and asked if he could share what he was doing outside of the Commission. Staff discussed work done by Ralph McDonald and thanked him for his service.

Ralph expressed appreciation for both Commissioners also leaving and discussed his work.

Zach expressed appreciation for Commissioners that are leaving.

Art expressed appreciation for those Commissioners who are leaving the Commission.

Sustainability Commission Election Process Overview and Conversation

Staff spoke about commissioner concerns related to bylaws and timing of elections. They encouraged Commissioners to form a committee to change bylaws if so desired. They spoke about election process according to bylaws, about timing of June meeting and identifying interest so there are folks to vote for in July.

Ralph asked if staff were seeking nominations at the meeting.

Staff said no, they are looking for identifying interest or asking questions. Staff wanted to provide space for conversation if Commissioners wanted to ask questions before the July meeting.

Zach expressed interest in running in a leadership capacity. He discussed hopes to change the process for the Commission to address recommendations in front of Council. He encouraged Commissioners to step forward to lead the Commission.

Louisa asked if Kelsey and Zach could speak to the estimated time commitment as leadership for Commissioners as compared to Commissioner role, to better understand what these positions entail.

Kelsey spoke about her time commitments as Chair of commission: quarterly meetings with staff, quarterly meeting with mayor and city manager, chair/vice chair meetings, emails, additional meetings, etc. She spoke about experience as Chair.

Zach said he estimated about 5 hours extra a month beyond work as a Commissioner, or a total of about 15 hours a month. He spoke about the importance of planning to accomplish desired outcomes, and about his desire to plan agenda three weeks in advance.

Kelsey added thoughts about what being a Chair represents: coalescing agendas without pushing personal agenda forward and facilitating meetings rather than using meetings to meet a personal agenda. She suggested additional questions be emailed to her directly if there is interest in running for Chair. She expressed appreciation for Commission as she has filled the position of Chair.

Committee Updates

Zach spoke about his subcommittee proposal to review the CAP 2.0 draft as presented to City Council. He discussed his intent to review the Mayor's CRO Ad Hoc Workgroup efforts, outcomes and recommendations related to passage of CAP 2.0. He addressed potential changes and next steps to be taken after approval of the Plan by Council. He spoke about how this subcommittee work could inform next year's Commission workplan. He said subcommittee could meet 2-3 times prior to July 15 meeting, and spend following 2 weeks to send thoughts to Council prior to voting on the 27th of July.

Art inquired of Zach or staff what the major changes in the new draft would be.

Zach said he has not seen the second draft and addressed what he hopes to see in the second draft, to include community actions. He expressed anticipating a lot of work to be done to close the gap between adopted actions and where city hopes to go. He discussed possible work of the Commission related to the Plan and posed questions around natural gas regulation.

Staff spoke about the work around the 12 themes identified by the Mayor's CRO Ad Hoc Workgroup, to include feedback adding granularity to actions, consumption, housing, transportation and urban forestry; added more graphs that are available on the Ad Hoc website.

Zach asked where new graphs are located.

Staff said they are on the Ad Hoc Work group site in the presentation materials.

Zach spoke about the process for identifying subcommittee and process moving forward.

Laura expressed interest in being on the subcommittee.

Howard expressed interest in being on the subcommittee.

Action item: Approve committee to review the new CAP 2.0 draft

Move: Ralph McDonald

Second: Howard Saxion

Vote: All in Favor

Louisa shared a conflict of interest.

Art requested information about what times the newly formed subcommittee would meet.

Zach said he would send a doodle poll to the Commissioners for meeting dates.

Howard asked how these meetings would convene.

Zach said as much as he wishes to meet in person, online is currently the only option.

Staff said city policy requires online meetings currently and not meeting in person. They requested Commissioners reach out to Staff who can set up meetings as needed.

Council communications and upcoming items

Councilor Semple spoke about City Council's hire of Sarah Medary as City Manager. She discussed thoughts about and appreciation for Sarah and hopes for future opportunities. Council Semple addressed camping spots at Amazon, Hilyard and Petersen Barn and relocation of residents to other safe locations. She spoke about the need to find locations and support for smaller groups of unhoused individuals. She talked about the County shutting down fairgrounds and the reinstatement of camping ban. Councilor Semple addressed concerns about police interactions with the unhoused and spoke about the Black Lives Matter movement and current constituent interactions. Council Semple said STAR voting is now on the ballot in November, as well as the Library Levy and Parks Bond. She addressed an upcoming work session about Eugene Police and potential changes.

Items from commissioners and staff

Staff updated the Commission about work related to wrapping up the CAP 2.0 draft and work within the Mayor's CRO Ad Hoc Workgroup. They spoke about the work session earlier that day and discussed addressing the Council about the topic of the Eugene Sustainability Commission as means for community engagement moving forward. Staff asked commissioners to think about how they could meet with neighborhood associations and engage geographic diversity within the grant program. Staff did not make any particular commitments on the Commission's behalf at Council that day. They spoke about the potential of a Community Climate Advisory Committee to identify CAP 2.0 implementation steps and accountability and using the Commission to vet considerations as they arise as a starting point. Staff addressed upcoming work sessions related to CAP 2.0 process and when Council will vote on approval of CAP 2.0.

Kelsey spoke about the quarterly meeting with Mayor Vinis and a conversation about CAP 2.0, including thoughts about figuring out future tasks and outcomes of the Commission. She said the Commissioners are stewards of the new grant program and what the commission does with that, how it will be supported, how are they supported, and to these topics in mind for the August retreat.

Howard spoke about his appointment by Council to the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency and future hopes for LRAPA and the response to the community on air quality.

Zach spoke about the conversation with the Mayor and Kelsey about his recommendations regarding the workflow in making recommendations to Council and process for recommendations. He would like a longer time to present to Council, or to present more often. He discussed the conversation around the CAP 2.0 and potential engagement. He asked the Commission if there is a committee that needs to be created to update bylaws to move forward on grant program.

Kelsey mentioned Julia did a lot of work on the grant program and that the Commission should wait to talk about until she can be on the meeting.

Zach offered to move item forward in June if Julia does not want to or cannot.

Ralph inquired if staff could email amended resolution and send back to him.

Staff mentioned they have already sent item over email.

Closing: next meeting, another follow-up

Kelsey provided closing remarks.

Meeting adjourned