

Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 21, 2020 - 5:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

In attendance: Chair-Zach Mulholland, Vice-Chair- Julia Johnson, Howard Saxion, Art Farley, Laura Allen, Louisa de Heer, Karyn Kaplan, Mtima Richardson, Kelsey Zlevor, Jim Ball, Doug Edwards and Councilor Emily Semple

Staff: Chelsea Clinton, Samantha Roberts

Absent: Drew Johnson

Call to Order:

Chair Mulholland called the meeting to order.

Chair Mulholland introduced new Commissioner, Jim Ball. Commissioner's welcomed Commissioner Ball who also provided comments.

Chair Mulholland suggested changes to the agenda regarding returning a meeting of the rules revision committee rather than putting forward a vote, a proposal to extend the Fossil Fuel Risk Bond Committee and call for new vice-chair given that Commissioner J. Johnson will be stepping down in November.

Chair Mulholland called for a motion to approve the agenda or request for discussion with changes aforementioned.

Action Item: Approve Agenda

Moved: Howard Saxion

Seconded: Art Farley

Vote: All in Favor

Abstain:

Chair Mulholland called for a motion to approve September minutes or request for discussion.

Action Item: Approved September Minutes

Moved: Julia Johnson

Seconded: Art Farley

Vote: All in Favor

Abstain: Councilor Emily Semple

Public Comment

Pierce Glover from Electric Lettuce spoke about replacing No. 5 plastic, plastic tops with hemp plastic containers. Expressed interest in adding to single-use plastic ordinances to include the cannabis industry.

Jim Neu spoke about a flyer from the downtown riverfront group regarding infrastructure being put into the project. He spoke about the placement of Northwest Natural Gas infrastructure near riverfront

project, including thoughts about the impacts of putting this kind of infrastructure in place considering the goals of the City's Climate Recovery Ordinance.

Commissioner Response to Public Comment

Councilor Semple expressed appreciation for Pierce Glover's comments regarding hemp plastics containers for the cannabis industry.

Commissioner de Heer expressed interest as well, including what OLCC would think about using that type of plastic. She expressed thoughts about the high prices of hemp plastics as a potential barrier to using the technology. She also addressed Jim Neu's comments around NWN Gas infrastructure, wishing the commission had known sooner.

Commissioner Kaplan discussed hemp plastics containers for the cannabis industry, addressing city efforts related to food container opportunities and sensibly reduce that waste and find alternatives. She discussed waste roundups by a local company. Commissioner Kaplan discussed thoughts about cost and ways of moving forward within the industry.

Presentation: Lane County

Mark Nystrom, Lane County Climate Strategist, spoke about the County's Climate Action Planning process, county survey analysis and about a new group called the Climate Advisory Committee meeting shortly.

Commissioner Allen expressed appreciation for the presentation. Inquired of Lane County Staff how this CAP interacts with the city's CAP2.0 and if the County's CAP will help the city meet its ordinance goals. Lane County Staff clarified that those actions happening in the Eugene community boundaries will help the city's CAP2.0, however the County does not have any jurisdiction over any city's plans.

Commissioner de Heer inquired about the role of the Climate Advisory Committee (CAC) and its goals, especially how the CAC intersects with the county's internal and external CAP. Lane County Staff clarified the CAC will provide insight to the County Commissioners much like the ESC does for the City Council. Lane County Staff discussed special efforts in engaging equity with Committee member from Beyond Toxics/NAACP.

Commissioner Ball inquired if the methane capture at Short Mountain was insufficient. Lane County staff said yes and discussed the landfill and methane capture technologies and related efficiencies. Lane County staff discussed thoughts behind methane capture and related investments.

Commissioner Ball inquired as well about if city food waste collection update impact Short Mountain's methane release. Lane County Staff discussed food waste collection methods impacting Eugene and related impacts to the County's landfill.

Commissioner Farley inquired how the County is hiring contractors, and what the contractors role with the CAC will be. Lane County Staff said that how contractors interact with the CAC is to be determined, and expressed thoughts about how the work could work. Commissioner Farley and Lane County Staff discussed implications of staff capacity at the County and related work of contractors as result.

Chair Mulholland inquired about work with NAACP and Beyond Toxics and how that relates to creating an equitable CAP that is inclusive in community engagement. Lane County Staff discussed presence of Haley Case-Scott of Beyond Toxics/NAACP on the CAC and discussions with County Staff about equity and forward progress. Lane County Staff discussed other areas of challenges and concerns related to learning more about moving forward equitably, including looking at hiring a third party to assist with this work.

Chair Mulholland further inquired about the County using a similar model as the City's Equity Panel to engage equity in CAP creation. Lane County Staff discussed the role of the Lane County Equity and Access Coordinator in this work and challenges in moving forward due to COVID.

Chair Mulholland expressed gratitude to Lane County Staff for presenting to the Commission.

Lane County Staff provided closing remarks including how the CAC and ESC can develop a relationship moving forward, as well as how this would assist a relationship in climate action planning between the County and City.

Committee Updates

Chair Mulholland proposed a committee to create a 100% Renewable Energy Ballot Measure.

Commissioners made inquiries of Chair Mulholland and provided comments. Commissioners engaged in conversation about the logistics, timing and nature of the committee proposal.

Action item: Approval of proposal to create 100% Renewable Energy Ballot Measure Committee

Motion: Laura Allen

Second: Doug Edwards

Vote: 4: 7 **opposed, motion fails**

Abstain: Karyn Kaplan

Commissioner Allen provided an update of the previous work of the FY20 Fossil Fuel Risk Bonds Committee and requested a 3 month extension to complete the work.

Action item: Approval to extend the work of the Fossil Fuel Risk Bond Committee by 3 months

Motion: Howard Saxion

Second: Jim Ball

Vote: All in favor

Abstain:

Commissioner Allen will initiate the first meeting of this committee including Commissioners Farley and Ball.

Council Communications and Updates

Councilor Semple discussed her absence due to a car accident previously.

Councilor Semple also provided the Commission with an update of sustainability related Council decisions recently as well as those that are forthcoming.

Councilor Semple expressed excitement of the ESC's presentation to Council on the 26th and upcoming CAP2.0 conversation with Council in December.

Staff and Commissioner Updates

Commissioner J. Johnson discussed stepping down from the commission due to an upcoming move outside of the Eugene area. Commissioners expressed gratitude for Commissioner J. Johnson's service.

Commissioner Saxion discussed Urban Reserves decision by City Council and upcoming process, as a member of the Urban Reserves Technical Advisory Committee.

Chair Mulholland discussed the need to elect a new vice-chair at the November meeting. Inquired if anyone wanted to express interest at this time. No one did.

Closing

Commissioner Mulholland adjourned the meeting.