

Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 18, 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, Jim Ball, Doug Edwards and Councilor Emily Semple, Drew Johnson

Staff: Chelsea Clinton, Samantha Roberts

Absent: Kelsey Zlevor

Call to Order:

Chair Mulholland called the meeting to order.

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

Action Item: Approve Agenda

Moved: Julia Johnson

Seconded: Doug Edwards

Vote: All in favor

Abstain:

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

Action Item: Approved October Minutes

Moved: Julia Johnson

Seconded: Laura Allen

Vote: All in favor

Abstain:

Public Comment

Jim Neu congratulated Councilor Semple on reappointment as City Councilor. Addressed recommendations to City Council regarding Community Recommended Actions and future infrastructure of natural gas. Requested Commissioners consider this in recommendations and conversations with Council moving forward.

Commissioner Response to Public Comment

Commissioner Allen thanked Jim for his comment and wondered if Councilor Semple had any updates regarding Riverfront Development regarding a natural gas infrastructure build out on the development.

Councilor Semple said that with the Riverfront Development going in, the infrastructure needs and movement have been decided. She spoke about the Northwest Natural gas franchise agreement negotiation. Discussed achievement of Green Space at Riverfront Project.

Chair Mulholland addressed Jim's comments with personal experience with the topic, including Clear Lake Expansion.

Election Vice Chair Nominations

Vice Chair J. Johnson addressed need to step down from the Commission and encouragement for folks to step into the role of Vice Chair in her stead. Commissioner J. Johnson addressed commissioners in nominations that she could help with the transition.

Commissioner Allen said that she would be willing but wondered if Commissioner de Heer would be interested. Commissioner de Heer respectfully declined due to prior commitments.

Commissioner Richardson nominated herself for Vice Chair.

Action Item: Move to Close the Nominations

Motion: Louisa de Heer

Second: Howard Saxion

Vote: All in favor

Vote for Commission Vice Chair

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

Absent: Kelsey Zlevor

Presentation: City of Eugene, Transportation

Logan Telles, City of Eugene Public Works Transportation EV Analyst, spoke about the city's electric vehicle (EV) strategies and policies. He spoke about the City's EV Strategy, work completed in 2020 and working for upcoming year, equity in implementation, challenges in EV adoption rates, and current EV data from Lane County and City of Eugene.

Commissioner de Heer spoke about previous Commission conversation about charging stations with large companies in Eugene and inquired if staff had considered the question yet. Staff specified that the City is in the initial year of implementation and haven't yet gotten to addressing this question specifically but would benefit hear from Commission about that consideration. Commissioner de Heer inquired how staff will consider cheapening rates of fuel when deciding between choices and economic impacts. Staff addressed the question related to current data trends in data sales and implementation of EV strategy implementation.

Commissioner Ball inquired about specifications of the 50% by 2030 goal. Commissioner Ball noted discrepancies between EWEB and City of Eugene (COE) adoption rates of electric vehicles and suggested staff consider language within the community. Staff addressed the discrepancy.

Commissioner Edwards inquired of staff what the EV adoption (including EV versus car registration) is at the current moment and staff provided the most recent data available for this figure.

Commissioner Farley discussed charging considerations and inquired if the City is working with other jurisdictions on coordinating efforts to charging. Staff discussed work within some jurisdictions including the West Coast Electric Highway.

Chair Mulholland inquired of staff about two programs with EWEB: "Electrifies" and their work with car dealerships to train staff to sell EV's. Staff addressed these programs, including EWEB's work with Forth in Portland, OR.

Chair Mulholland inquired City's CAP2.0 EV Strategy implementation dates and if there are question marks about when the strategy will be implemented. Staff discussed considerations around future funding, community behaviors and partnerships especially in light of changing community landscapes.

Chair Mulholland expressed interested in learning more about potential funding strategies in the future to support the work being done.

Chair Mulholland inquired about City's consideration in financing EV adoption to overcome high cost of purchasing EV's. Staff discussed work on this so far.

Commissioner Farley inquired about considerations related to EV Ready Homes and status of that work. Staff discussed recent state legislation related to building codes requirement updates, including requirements for building of residential units.

Commissioner de Heer inquired about other micromobility plug in accessibility for affordable housing units, besides just for EV's. Staff concurred and discussed this topic further including a 2020 grant application for an affordable car-share program for affordable housing.

Staff spoke about what they are most excited about regarding the EV strategy moving forward.

Committee Updates

Commissioner Allen proposed a committee to create a Commission Outreach Strategy.

Commissioner J. Johnson discussed previous year's work with special consideration to equity and inclusion. She discussed grant opportunity based on funds provided by the City.

Chair Mulholland discussed priorities of City Council as discussed within presentation to Council in previous month. He reiterated need to be inclusive of perspectives and voices.

Action Item: Proposal to Create Commission Outreach Strategy Committee

Motion: Art Farley

Second: Jim Ball

Vote: All in favor

Abstain:

Commissioner Zlevor will initiate first committee meeting as Chair. Commissioner Louisa de Heer would be available after January if the committee could delay begin date. Commissioner Allen and Johnson will remain on committee.

Chair Mulholland discussed work on bylaws by the Rules Revision Committee and timing of having monies available to apply for grants.

Chair Mulholland proposed a committee to study work around natural gas and NWN Franchise Agreement in order for the Commission to respond when appropriate to policy decisions in the future. This committee was improperly labeled at submission and is called the Building Energy committee.

Commissioner Ball inquired about the scope of the committee and suggested looking at natural gas more broadly including what fraction of natural gas use would be considered industrial, residential or commercial. Discussed implications of changing energy sources based on type.

Chair Saxion clarified the intent of the committee based on mislabeling.

Chair Mulholland addressed comments made by Chair Ball and discussed historical related work of the commission.

Chair de Heer inquired about an item within the proposal description regarding renewable natural gas. Chair Mulholland provided clarification.

Action item: Proposal to create Building Energy Committee

Motion: Zach Mulholland

Second: Howard Saxion

Vote: All in favor

Abstain:

Chair Mulholland will initiate the first committee meeting and will be meeting with Commissioner Ball and Commissioner Saxion.

Staff Updates

Staff provided the Commission an update about a forthcoming presentation to City Council regarding 2 motions produced by the 2020 Summer's work session and progress towards the Community Recommended Actions.

Commissioner de Heer expressed thoughts Motion 2 and hopes moving forward.

Chair Mulholland suggested this could be used as an internal tool to better understand what is being done or not done related to implementation. He suggested that this be used as a tool for staff rather than education tool. Staff provided feedback about the discrepancy between using this for public education versus an internal tool. Staff and Chair Mulholland discussed this further.

Commissioner Ball requested clarity about what staff will be requesting from City Council at December 9th work session. Staff provided clarity about that topic.

Commissioner Updates

Commissioner de Heer provided an update about the Air Quality Committee and hopes to bring a report the December commission meeting.

Commissioner Allen provided an update about the CAP2.0 Funding Strategies Committee and work towards report. She also provided an update about the work of the Fossil Fuel Risk Bond Committee.

Chair Mulholland discussed work of the Rules Revision Committee and hopes for December committee meeting. He also discussed work of the CAP2.0 Oversight Committee including work on the CAP2.0 Dashboard and outreach and education work.

Staff provided a reminder of the upcoming Belonging Training being conducted by the Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement Office for Boards and Commissions members in November and December.

Council Communications and Updates

Councilor Semple discussed upcoming events and topics Council will consider in the near future.

Closing

Commissioner Mulholland provided closing remarks and adjourned the meeting.