

Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 - 5:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

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

Chair Commissioner de Heer arrived at 5:38 after the agenda and minutes approval.

Staff: Chelsea Clinton, Samantha Roberts

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: Howard Saxion

Seconded: Doug Edwards

Vote: All in favor

Abstain: Emily Semple

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

Action Item: Approved November Minutes

Moved: Art Farley

Seconded: Laura Allen

Vote: All in favor

Abstain: Emily Semple, Kelsey Zlevor

Public Comment

Avery Temple spoke about support to the resolution provided by Dylan Plummer. She discussed specific demands made through the resolution.

Dylan Plummer with Cascadia Wildlands spoke about a draft resolution given to the commission and the resolutions' plan for equitable and just climate action planning. Dylan also addressed a records request made to the City of Eugene.

Jim Neu addressed the natural gas franchise agreement, transparency and thoughts about open conversations regarding natural gas.

Selena Blick spoke to support for the resolution proposed by Dylan Plummer. She spoke about her history working with climate action planning and reducing natural gas infrastructure.

Nick Caleb offered support from the Breach Collective in support of the 100% renewable energy and related policy. Nick discussed work being done at the moment by the Breach Collective and offered further conversation about that work and in support of the Commission.

Tyee Williams spoke about work with the Eugene Sunrise Movement, and support for the Fossil Free Eugene Coalition and dislike of nature of conversation regarding natural gas franchise agreement. Expressed support for previous policies discussed by public commenters.

Commissioner Response to Public Comment

Commissioner Allen spoke about support for the Fossil Free Eugene Coalition and inquired how the commission could utilize the resolution proposed by Dylan Plummer. Staff provided clarification.

Commissioner Saxion discussed Energy in Buildings committee work in relation to infrastructure and work of natural gas franchise agreement in the City. Expressed concern about transparency and time for public input. Expressed agreement with comments from members of the public and discussed upcoming committee meeting.

Commissioner de Heer inquired what leverage points the city has in franchise agreement in negotiations and what can we draw on to support the City's case. She spoke about her thoughts about natural gas infrastructure and how there might be more public input in the negotiations with Northwest Natural.

Commissioner Zlevor reiterated comments by other Commissioners. Discussed thoughts about continuing the points brought to the Commission by speakers and expressed support for furthering conversation about the topic of natural gas in Eugene.

Commissioner Farley appreciated comments brought by the public and discussed history of the Commission's work trying to provide feedback about negotiations. He discussed thoughts about the Commission's role advising City Council and the Commissions work with

Commissioner Ball discussed meeting of the Energy in Buildings Committee meeting. He discussed process of electrification of buildings and related costs of conversion, as well as cost of natural gas in comparison. Expressed interest in talking about the barriers of conversion and process in the future.

Chair Mulholland discussed use of the resolution moving forward. He inquired about process related to the franchise agreement and opportunity for public input. Staff provided clarification.

Councilor Semple appreciated comments made about transparency and negotiations process. She spoke about what Council knows. Expressed desire to be more forthcoming.

Chair Mulholland inquired about Councilor Semple's role with the Council's subgroup for the NWN Franchise Agreement negotiations. Councilor Semple provided clarification.

Commissioner Farley inquired of staff if there is a legal non-disclosure agreement. Staff provided clarification about how negotiations are conducted.

Chair Mulholland inquired about the role of the Commission requesting records. Staff provided clarification that the Commission could use up to two hours of staff time to obtain materials.

Commissioner de Heer agreed with using the Commission's platform to request records using staff time and sharing with others, as well as considerations for conversations with local groups and staff about natural gas.

Presentation: City of Eugene, Transportation

Reed Dunbar, Transportation Planner, spoke to the Commission about bike and pedestrian infrastructure within the several policy guides including the Climate Recovery Ordinance/CAP2.0, the Eugene 2035 Transportation System Plan, Vision Zero, Envision Eugene and the Eugene Downtown Plan.

Commissioner de Heer appreciated the presentation and spoke about bus transit district in the Santa Clara neighborhood and how the City's planning efforts might intersect with neighborhoods that are mixed county and city. Staff provided clarification about the city's and county's process around interventions.

Commissioner Allen expressed appreciation for the staff presentation.

Commissioner Ball inquired if staff have any data can be used to apply to the CAP2.0 Dashboard regarding GHG goal tracking. Staff provided clarification and spoke about work on the active transportation committee. Staff inquired of the Commission how is the city telling its story.

Chair Mulholland inquired of staff how the City tracks bike/ped/transit rates and if they are increasing or decreasing. Staff provided clarification about where the goals came from the TSP and how data is collected. Staff shared the bike rates have decreased primarily due to safety concerns.

Chair Mulholland inquired if the City has the money currently to fund the project estimates for the next 20 years. Staff provided clarification about what that estimate is for and how the City spends money on projects.

Committee Updates

Commissioner Allen shared a proposal created by the Fossil Fuel Risk Bond Committee.

Chair Mulholland inquired when the committee would like to hold the presentation. Commissioners Allen suggested the preference to hold the presentation in a Commission meeting, but if meetings are full that an outside meeting would be helpful.

Commissioner de Heer inquired what the next steps will be after the presentation is made by subject matter experts. Commissioner Allen provided clarification.

Commissioner Ball shared thoughts about ideas for what moving forward would look like after the presentation. He suggested he did not want to send a recommendation to City Council immediately after the presentation. Suggested changing the name to Environmental Risk Bonds rather than just Fossil Fuel Risk Bond.

Commissioner Farley discussed thoughts about the presentation and what steps looking forward would look like.

Commissioner Saxion expressed interest in learning more about the topic.

Commissioners decided they would want to hear the presentation during a regular commission meeting.

Commissioner Allen inquired if the Committee can invite those that are on the list.

Staff Updates

Staff provided an update for Commissioners regarding the recently released GHG inventories, and an interesting resource for Commissioners when thinking about the impacts of climate change on health and safety.

Commissioner Updates

Chair Mulholland expressed appreciation for the Belonging Training he recently attended.

Chair Mulholland inquired if the presentations are working for Commissioners and discussed upcoming presentations.

Council Communications and Updates

Councilor Semple and staff discussed community engagement efforts with the CAP2.0, what is due in 2021, the city's recent score through the CDP, 2019 GHG inventories and the motions discussed at the

Closing

Commissioner Mulholland provided closing remarks and adjourned the meeting.