

# Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

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

**Staff:** Chelsea Clinton, Samantha Roberts

## Call to Order:

Chair Mulholland called the meeting to order.

Chair Mulholland requested replacing the FY21 Work Plan Update with the Sustainability Commission Resolution in Support of Sunrise Eugene Recommendations on the agenda.

## Action Item: Approve Agenda replacing FY21 Work Plan Update with Sustainability Commission Resolution in Support of Sunrise Eugene Recommendations

Moved: Zach Mulholland

Seconded: Howard Saxion

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

Opposed: Art Farley

Abstain:

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

## Action Item: Approved December Minutes

Moved: Laura Allen

Seconded: Mtima Richardson

Vote: All in favor

Abstain:

## Public Comment

Selena Blick, with 350Eugene, supports the resolution put forward by Zach Mulholland.

David Gardiepy, EcoGeneration, spoke about the work of the organization. Expressed desire to build relationship with the City of Eugene and its groups.

Dillan Plummer, Cascadia Wildlands, added a comment about the resolution put forward by Zach Mulholland and added additional thoughts about items to add to the resolution. Expressed work being done on behalf of the Fossil Free Eugene Coalition.

David Monk, with the Neighborhood Leader Council, spoke about the new Wildfire Preparedness Coalition, and addressed staff and the Commission about efforts to engage the City of Eugene moving forward.

Aimee Okotie-Oyekan, spoke to examples of how land use decisions have hurt people in communities, especially people of color. They requested support for upcoming legislative efforts to support underserved communities in the face of climate change.

### **Commissioner Response to Public Comment**

Councilor Semple said that David Monk should contact her, and expressed in putting together a work session on urban wildfire prevention and support of the commission working on the issue also.

Commissioner Farley addressed David Gardiepy and inquired what a future relationship would look like and requested a follow up email.

Commissioner Zlevor expressed appreciation for comments, especially Dylan Plummer and work around NWN Franchise Agreement, as well as affirming comments from Aimee Okotie-Oyekan and the Commission's efforts towards equitable climate action planning. Expressed support in being good partners with topics moving forward.

Chair Mulholland said he would try to get Fire updates to the Commission in the near future.

Commissioner Kaplan inquired of Aimee what environmental justice looks like to them, requesting a follow up email. Chair Mulholland reminded the Commission that they will be given time to discuss the legislation mentioned by Aimee later on in the meeting.

### **Presentation: City of Eugene, Urban Forestry**

Carrie Peterson, Green Infrastructure Maintenance Manager, and Scott Altenhoff, Management Analyst, presented to the Commission what the Urban Forestry workgroup is, what they do, what they don't do, how they are improving livability in the community and how the Commission and UF could work together.

Commissioner Farley inquired what loss of canopy means. Staff provided clarifications.

Commissioner de Heer discussed personal experience with urban tree canopy and inquired how urban tree canopy is calculated, and how do staff work to preserve trees on private property, especially legacy trees. Staff provided clarification for her questions. Commissioner de Heer inquired what ecosystems and climates were considered for future-proof trees. Staff provided clarification.

Commissioner Johnson inquired of staff when canopy is calculated and how staff assess fire risk among coniferous and deciduous trees. He spoke about previous thoughts around urban fire risk and what staff have done to consider risks. Staff provided clarification.

Commissioner Saxion asked staff if the city has a tree ordinance related to development, reflecting on seeing big trees removed for housing development wondering if there were related ordinances which may affect that. He inquired about budget considerations. Commissioner Saxion inquired who takes initiative on further ordinance planning and related dynamics between stakeholders. Staff provided further clarification.

Chair Mulholland inquired about how trees are distributed equitably within the city and how inequitable canopy cover is being addressed. Staff provided clarification.

Commissioner Johnson, related to fire risks, inquired about whether City staff speak with EWEB about burying power lines. Staff provided clarification.

### **Committee Updates**

Commissioner Kaplan introduced and discussed proposal to approve work product of the Waste Reduction Committee.

Commissioner Saxion inquired about differences in metric tons between emissions related to the landfill. Commissioner Kaplan affirmed the number can be changed using information from page 6, Sector Based Emissions from the Eugene Community Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory. Staff will follow up with the question and follow up with commissioners.

Commissioner Johnson made a comment regarding Short Mountain strategy to manage methane and related tradeoffs with how the landfill is managed. Commissioner Kaplan provided follow up comment. The two commissioners discussed tradeoffs of waste management.

Commissioner Ball commented further on Commissioner Johnson's comments, reflecting on the presentation from Lane County to the Commission regarding topics related to landfill waste management. Commissioner Kaplan provided follow up comments.

Commissioner Kaplan commented further about Oregon's waste management methods compared to other municipalities and countries.

Chair Mulholland inquired if proposal determined total number of people numbered for large events or if this would be left to City Council to determine. Commissioner Kaplan responded.

### **Action Item: Approve Waste Reduction Committee Proposal, as corrected**

Moved: Art Farley

Seconded: Laura Allen

Vote: All in favor

Abstain:

Chair Mulholland introduced proposal to approve updated bylaws produced by the Rules Revision Committee.

Commissioner Allen inquired if the committee decided to include language interpretation in addition to sign language as related to ADA accessibility. Chair Mulholland provided clarification.

Councilor Semple inquired about language around event frequency, rate of community versus community events, etc. Committee leadership provided clarification.

Commissioner Ball expressed that "shall" may be too harsh of a word related to commissioner event participation. Commissioner Allen provided clarification.

Commissioner de Heer discussed thoughts on participation in grant events.

Commissioner Ball expressed concern about COVID concerns related to public events related to changing the language.

Staff expressed concern about an example of what the commission would use funds for, expressing concern about making sure messaging is in alignment with Council's expectations about what funds are to be used for. Commissioners discussed relevance and necessity of line item.

The document will was not voted on given concerns from staff and commissioners regarding language.

Chair Mulholland introduced and discussed the Sustainability Commission Resolution in Support of Sunrise Eugene Recommendations.

Commissioner Ball expressed this resolution may be too big to discuss this evening given substantial impact on the community.

Commissioner Allen expressed support for the resolution and collaboration with community groups. Agreed that if other Commissioners would like time to work on it, to hold off on the resolution until later.

Commissioner Zlevor expressed support to move forward the resolution but agree to wait if that's desired.

Commissioner Kaplan expressed support and support for doing so sooner rather than later.

Commissioner de Heer discussed definition of importance of a definition for 'renewable', as well as what the emitter fee would be. She discussed concepts related to a ban of natural gas infrastructure, and what regulatory authority the city has for this effort. Chair Mulholland provided clarifications.

Commissioner Saxion discussed thoughts about what was included in the resolution based on committee's discussion. He talked about discussions held in the Energy in Building Committee.

Commissioner Farley discussed thoughts about timing of the resolution as well as the Northwest Natural franchise agreement and engagement within the community.

Commissioner Ball reiterated that city staff, Ethan Nelson would provide a short update regarding natural gas work.

Commissioner Johnson discussed thoughts related to EWEB and Seneca contract and relation to the Northwest Natural Gas franchise agreement. Discussed thoughts related to the resolution.

Commissioner Allen expressed support moving forward now given timing of the work.

Commissioner Ball discussed equity impacts of reducing rates of natural gas use.

**Action Item: Approved Sustainability Commission Resolution in Support of Sunrise Eugene Recommendations**

Moved: Laura Allen

Seconded: Howard Saxion

Vote: 8:2 **passed**,  
Opposed: Art Farley, Jim Ball  
Abstain: Louisa de Heer, Emily Semple

### **Staff Updates**

Staff requested if Commissioners would like a template for Committee reports. Commissioners responded affirmatively.

### **Commissioner Updates**

Commissioner Allen explained request for the Commission to approve a proposal to support LC 1894/2902 - Environmental Justice for Oregon and HB 2488 - Equity and Climate in Land Use and request for the Eugene City Council to endorse and support the bills through the city's lobbying efforts. Commissioner Allen spoke to this effort.

Commissioners discussed approving support for both the bills and a request to City Council to support the bills as well.

**Action Item: Approved Proposal to Support LC 1894/2902 - Environmental Justice for Oregon and HB 2488 - Equity and Climate In Land Use and request for the Eugene City Council to endorse and support the bills through the city's lobbying efforts**

Moved: Louisa de Heer  
Seconded: Drew Johnson  
Vote: 11:1, **passed**  
Opposed: Jim Ball  
Abstain:

### **Council Communications and Updates**

Councilor Semple discussed upcoming work of the City Council.

### **Closing**

Commissioner Mulholland provided closing remarks and adjourned the meeting.