

Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 - 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, Mike McFarlane, Doug Edwards, Councilor Emily Semple and Kelsey Zlevor

Absent: Drew Johnson

Commissioner Zlevor left the meeting at 7:30 but expressed approval for the Sustainability Funding Letter Committee and Communications Recommendation to City Councilor letter.

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.

Action Item: Approve Agenda

Moved: Art Farley

Seconded: Laura Allen

Vote: All in favor

Opposed:

Abstain:

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

Action Item: Approved February Minutes

Moved: Louisa de Heer

Seconded: Mike McFarlane

Vote: All in favor

Abstain:

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Response to Public Comment

There was no response to public comment.

Chair Mulholland discussed conversation with members of Active Transportation Committee and forthcoming letter from the ATC to City Council in support of Commission recommendations. He discussed the possibility of a quarterly meeting with ATC leadership.

Councilor Semple provided a brief update about the work of the City Council related to the Northwest Natural Franchise Agreement, current conversation points related to homelessness and lack of climate talks because of pressing needs.

Chair Mulholland reminded about City Council's upcoming process conversation in April.

Councilor Semple mentioned placing a work session poll to discuss large event waste.

Haley Case-Scott of NAACP/Beyond Toxics told the Commission about an upcoming Environmental Justice Pathways Summit & Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples Lecture, April 9 and 10. More information will be sent to the Commission in a separate email.

Staff provided updates ahead of presentation as staff and presenters worked out technical logistics of presentation.

Presentation: Fossil Fuel Risk Bonds

John Talberth, Center for Sustainable Economy, presented Fossil Fuel Risk Bonds Program: Safeguarding public finances from product life cycle risks of oil, gas and coal.

Councilor Groves asked John about cities of Eugene's size experience with these programs and its impact on local economies. John provided an answer. Councilor Groves followed up with a question effect of one local city using a program and not another. John provided an answer. Councilor Groves inquired about the legal precedent of establishing a trust fund. John provided an answer.

Daphne Wysham discussed seismic risk concerns in addition to climate risks and the role of Fossil Fuel Risk Bonds on producers to pay for social cost of product.

John discussed role of risk assessments. Daphne clarified that the role of the program is to ensure producers and distributors are insured for their real level of risk.

Councilor Syrett requested the report and PowerPoint presentation mentioned in the presentation. She inquired what role the Public Utility Commission (PUC) plays in using these kinds of risk bonds, especially related to the risk of passing on cost to consumers. John provided clarification including the role of gap analysis. Councilor Syrett followed up, inquiring about the role of the program as a mechanism to address risk of oil spills from trains in municipalities. John confirmed yes, and acknowledged legal considerations.

Councilor Groves discussed seismic concerns of bulk fuel storage in Eugene, as well as work with oil train spill considerations.

Commissioner de Heer discussed fossil fuel transactions versus movements, and inquired what the cut off point of fossil fuel transactions would look like, and how does conversation of scale happen. John provided clarification. Daphne clarified with examples from Portland, Multnomah County and King County. Daphne mentioned an available listserv in an effort to collaborate across jurisdiction.

Commissioner Farley inquired what recommendations John and Daphne believe the Commission should recommend to City Council. John provided a few examples. Daphne made additional comments about considerations for Council. Councilor Groves provided additional comment.

Chair Mulholland inquired about details related to major risks are for Eugene as well as scale of potential cost if Eugene doesn't utilize Fossil Fuel Risk Bonds. John provided clarification. Daphne provided further clarification.

Haley Case-Scott inquired how risk assessments are done in an equitable manner so that risks are accounted for across entire communities. John clarified and discussed that risk assessments should be made to neighborhood levels. Daphne added that health impacts are added to phase 2.

Commissioner de Heer asked Councilors and staff how much work is already done around risk assessments. Staff clarified.

Jim Neu expressed appreciation for the presentation. Jim Neu discussed role of business licensing in providing information for risk assessments. Jim inquired about insurance requirements of potential events. John provided clarification.

Councilor Syrett discussed role of business licenses in Eugene and role of business permits in finding information, and possible role of disclosure requirements.

Councilor Groves asked Jim Neu to clarify his comments about taxation related to volume. Jim provided clarification. Councilor Groves and Jim Neu discussed this further.

Commissioner Allen discussed role of city staff in finding information related to producer and distributor insurance coverage.

Commissioner Allen called for John or Daphne to provide closing thoughts.

Committee Updates

Chair Mulholland introduced proposal to approve recommendation by Education and Outreach Committee.

Commissioner Zlevor discussed the proposal. Commissioners and Councilor Semple discussed this proposal.

Action Item: Approve Education and Outreach Proposal

Moved: Kelsey Zlevor

Seconded: Laura Allen

Vote: All in favor

Opposed:

Abstain:

Chair Mulholland introduced proposal to approve Food Security Committee Proposal.

Commissioner Farley discussed the purpose of this committee.

Councilor Semple expressed appreciation for the proposal and discussed ideas related to the work.

Commissioner Richardson inquired how the committee plans to address what parts of Eugene related to food security. Commissioner Farley provided clarification.

Chair Mulholland expressed support for committee.

Action Item: Approve Food Security Committee Proposal

Moved: Art Farley
Seconded: Laura Allen
Vote: All in favor
Opposed:
Abstain:

Commissioner Farley will initiate first meeting. Commissioner Edwards and Chair Mulholland expressed interest in joining the committee.

Chair Mulholland introduced proposal to approve Urban Canopy committee.

Commissioner McFarlane discussed the purpose of this committee.

Commissioner de Heer discussed work about urban canopy work in the River Road/Santa Clara planning and expressed interest in support the committee.

Councilor Semple expressed concern about duplicating work of staff but supports work focused on private land rather than public land.

Action Item: Approve Urban Canopy Committee Proposal

Moved: Louisa de Heer
Seconded: Karyn Kaplan
Vote: All in favor
Opposed:
Abstain:

Commissioner McFarlane will initiate first meeting. Commissioner de Heer and Chair Mulholland volunteered for this committee.

Chair Mulholland introduced proposal to approve Citizen Involvement in Waste Management committee.

Chair Mulholland discussed the purpose of this committee.

Commissioner Kaplan discussed thoughts about related work and interest in serving on the committee.

Commissioner de Heer requested an example of Chair Mulholland's motivation to begin committee. Chair Mulholland provided clarification. Commissioner de Heer inquired about the role of the City versus sanitation haulers.

Commissioner Kaplan provided another example.

Chair Mulholland clarified purpose of the committee.

Action Item: Approve Citizen Involvement in Waste Management Committee Proposal

Moved: Zach Mulholland

Seconded: Karyn Kaplan

Vote: All in favor

Opposed:

Abstain:

Chair Mulholland will initiate the first meeting. Commissioner Kaplan expressed interest in volunteering.

Chair Mulholland introduced proposal to approve Sustainability Funding Letter committee.

Chair Mulholland discussed the purpose of this committee.

Staff requested the committee send over a final draft of recommendations before going to the Commission to vote for approval for final edits.

Commissioner Allen expressed interest in volunteering for the committee.

Commissioner Farley expressed interest in volunteering for the committee.

Action Item: Approve Sustainability Funding Letter Committee Proposal

Moved: Zach Mulholland

Seconded: Laura Allen

Vote: All in favor

Opposed:

Abstain:

Chair Mulholland will initiate first meeting. Commissioners Allen and Farley will also serve on the committee.

Chair Mulholland introduced proposal to approve communication recommendations to City Council.

Chair Mulholland discussed the purpose of the proposal.

Commissioner de Heer requested changes in order of recommendations.

Commissioner Allen provided suggested changes.

Commissioner McFarlane requested if Councilor Semple had any points of clarification to offer the Commission about this process. Councilor Semple provided clarification.

Commissioner Farley expressed appreciation for the recommendations.

Chair Mulholland clarified potential changes with the Commission.

Action Item: Approve communication recommendations to City Council, with recommended changes

Moved: Mike McFarlane

Seconded: Karyn Kaplan
Vote: All in favor
Opposed:
Abstain:

Staff Updates

Staff provided updates ahead of presentation.

reminded commissioners of another round of Belonging Training happening for Boards and Commissions on Monday March 22 at 5:30 PM. A registration link is to be sent out in the weekly reminders.

Staff updated the Commission about the end of Boards and Commission recruitment and reminded Commissioners and the public the videos are also available on the City's Public Meetings YouTube channel.

Staff also provided an update regarding feedback about the Commission's funding proposal.

Commissioner Updates

Commissioner's provided updates ahead of presentation.

Commissioner Farley inquired of Commissioner Allen how the Fossil Fuel Risk Bond Committee wants to debrief the presentation. Commissioner Allen provided clarification about what is next. Commissioner's discussed possible recommendations to develop for City Council.

Council Communications and Updates

Councilor Semple provided updates ahead of the presentation.

Chair Mulholland inquired if Councilor Semple will move forward with a work session poll regarding prior Commission recommendations, especially waste management at larger events. Councilor Semple provided clarification. Chair Mulholland inquired if Councilor Semple should put in a work session poll on waste management at large event sooner or wait until Council has an update on process and put forward other recommendations. The Commission expressed support for moving forward with a work session poll for waste management at large events.

Commissioner Kaplan expressed appreciation to Councilor Semple for her work and discussed possible steps forward.

Closing

Commissioner Mulholland provided closing remarks and adjourned the meeting.