

Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 21, 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, Doug Edwards, Councilor Emily Semple, Kelsey Zlevor, Mike McFarlane, Drew Johnson.

Absent: Karyn Kaplan

Staff: Chelsea Clinton

Call to Order:

Chair Mulholland called the meeting to order at 5:30.

Chair Mulholland called for a motion to approve the April Agenda

Action Item: Approved April Agenda

Moved: Louisa de Heer

Seconded: Art Farley

Vote: All in favor

Abstain:

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

Action Item: Approved March Minutes

Moved: Councilor Emily Semple

Seconded: Howard Saxion

Vote: All in favor

Abstain:

Public Comment

No public comment provided.

Commissioners McFarlane and Johnson joined the meeting.

Parks and Open Space Presentation

Carolyn Burke and Shelly Miller provided an overview of the Parks System, the development of the Parks System Plan. Other topics included equity, camping, park placement goals, upcoming park projects funded by the bond measure (Berkley Park and Echo Hollow Pool), the role parks play in addressing climate change, and the Rivers to Ridges Partnership.

Committee Updates

Active Bethel Citizens have meeting tonight. Commissioner de Heer left the meeting to present the Commission's work there.

Sustainability Funding Letter Committee

Commissioner Mulholland presented the letter to the group. Councilor Semple suggested folks present at public forum as well as budget committee. Zach or Art will coordinate who will take it to forum.

Action Item: Approved Sustainability Funding Letter to City Council and Budget Committee

Moved: Art Farley
Seconded: Kelsey Zlevor
Vote: All in favor
Abstain:

Energy in Buildings Committee Recommendations

Commissioner Mulholland gave an overview of the proposal which focused on finding ways to cut emissions and reduce use of natural gas. Commissioner Allen asked if staff thought it would be effective. Chelsea shared she thought it was a good way to continue to draw attention and urgency to the issue.

Action Item: Approved Energy in Buildings Committee Recommendations

Moved: Howard
Seconded: Mike
Vote: All in favor
Abstain:

Extend Fossil Fuel Risk Bond Committee

Commissioner Allen shared the group needs about one more meeting to finish their proposal.

Action Item: Approved Extending Fossil Fuel Risk Bond Committee

Moved: Zach Mulholland
Seconded: Councilor Emily Semple
Vote: All in favor
Abstain:

Extend CAP 2.0 Oversight Committee

Commissioner Mulholland shared that the goal in extending the Committee is to support CAP2.0 outreach moving forward.

Action Item: Approved Extending CAP2.0 Oversight Committee

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

Updates from Councilor Semple

Councilor Semple provided updates on the following:

- Parks Bond and Levy Presentation to Council

- Budget process. The City Manager’s proposed Budget was released last week.
- Sustainability Commission Proposal Regarding Waste at Large Events. The work session poll passed. Timing is uncertain.
- City Council discussion regarding Commissions sharing their work more frequently. There’s no consensus of what it will look like yet, but Council is working on a process. It will focus on the Human Rights Commission and Sustainability Commission.
- Board and Commission interviews were held on Monday (4/19). Four new Commissioners will be appointed.
- City Council Discussion about how to create more options for camping sites, including possible code changes.

Updates from staff and commissioners

Staff Updates

Chelsea provided updates on the following:

1. Reminder of the process to provide comment at the State Legislator. Commissioners need approval from the City’s Intergovernmental Relations Committee to do so.
2. Commissioner can sign up for the Upstander/Bystander Training taking place on April 22 and 29.
3. The City launched The Shift Campaign Eco Challenges to celebrate Earth Day. Visit Engage Eugene to learn more.
4. New appointments to Boards and Commission will be announced around June 14th.
5. Applications for the City’s Equity Panel are now open. There’s an opportunity for one Commissioner to be on the application review committee. Laura has volunteered (thanks Laura!).
6. City Council discussed more frequent meetings with Sustainability Commission. More information to come on what that will look like.
7. Budget Process and the Sustainability Program budget. The proposed budget includes one-time funding to continue current staffing levels. All other program funding will come from savings this year.

Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Mulholland spoke about the Council Work Session regarding Commissions sharing their work with Council more frequently. He wishes the process could move faster, but he felt hopeful based on the discussion.

Commissioner Zlevor spoke about the Green Fund Committee. The Committee is finalizing the website and things are going well. The grants process will open very soon, probably in early May. Commissioner Allen spoke about presenting the grant opportunity to groups Commissioners already attend. The Committee will also send out an email to share the grants are open.

Commissioner Farley shared that the Food Resiliency Committee has met several times in the last month. They are doing a lot of community outreach and learning where there are gaps and opportunities.

Commissioner Allen attended a meeting of elected officials and community members – a coalition to phase out fossil fuels. It was a national meeting. It was inspiring with a lot of good information being shared.

Commission McFarlane gave an update about the Urban Canopy Committee. The Committee is preparing to meet with Urban Forestry work group. They will look for how they can supplement that work groups efforts.

Councilor Semple shared that she is impressed with how much work the Commission is doing. She expressed her gratitude.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:40.

Summary notes recorded by Chelsea Clinton, Sustainability Manager.