

# Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 21, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

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**In attendance:** Mtima Richardson, Art Farley, Laura Allen, Louisa de Heer, Mike McFarlane, Karyn Kaplan, Councilor Semple, Jan Bohman, Dennis Reynolds, Hannah Schafer, Mitra Gruwell

**Absent:** Drew Johnson

**Staff:** Samantha Roberts, Chelsea Clinton

## Call to Order:

Staff called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Staff called for a motion to approve the July agenda.

## Action Item: Approved July Agenda

Moved: Laura

Seconded: Mtima

Vote: All in favor

Abstain:

Staff called for a motion to approve June minutes or request for discussion. Staff highlighted that Commissioner Farley is listed twice in attendance and absent, and will make that adjustment.

## Action Item: Approved June Minutes with changes

Moved: Emily

Seconded: Art

Vote: All in favor

Abstain:

Commissioners conducted an introduction of each Commissioner to introduce new appointees: Hannah Shafer, Dennis Reynolds, Jan Bohman and Mitra Gruwell.

## Public Comment

No public comment.

## Elections

Staff provided the Commission an introduction to the election process according to the Commission's bylaws. Staff clarified why elections are done at this meeting, so soon after their appointment.

Staff requested interested Commissioners raise their hands to express interest at the given time and to take a brief opportunity to discuss their interest ahead of voting.

## Chair Nominations

Laura Allen nominates Mtima Richardson  
Louisa de Heer nominates Laura Allen, Laura Allen would prefer Vice Chair

**Action Item: Move to Close the Nominations**

Motion: Louisa de Heer  
Second: Mike McFarlane  
Vote: All in favor, save Karyn Kaplan  
Abstain:

Mtima Richardson provided a brief statement about her interest in serving as Commission chair.

Laura Allen withdrew her interest in this position.

**Vote for Commission Chair**

Commissioner Mtima Richardson - Mtima Richardson, Art Farley, Laura Allen, Louisa de Heer, Mike McFarlane, Karyn Kaplan, Councilor Semple, Jan Bohman, Dennis Reynolds, Hannah Schafer, Mitra Gruwell

**Vice Chair Nominations**

Louisa de Heer nominates Laura Allen.

**Action Item: Move to Close the Nominations**

Motion: Art Farley  
Second: Louisa de Heer  
Vote: All in favor

Laura Allen provided a brief personal statement about serving as Vice Chair of the commission.

**Vote for Commission Vice Chair**

Commissioner Laura Allen – Mtima Richardson, Art Farley, Laura Allen, Louisa de Heer, Mike McFarlane, Karyn Kaplan, Councilor Semple, Jan Bohman, Dennis Reynolds, Hannah Schafer, Mitra Gruwell

**Updates from staff and commissioners**

**Commissioner Updates**

Chair Richardson provided an update about presentation to City Council Wednesday July 21, 2021. Council received the presentation well, expressed interest in work related to Urban Forestry, Air Quality recommendations

Commissioner Kaplan inquired about the large event waste reduction and staff provided an update.

Vice Chair Allen informed the Commission, including new commissioners of an opportunity to attend quarterly calls for a network of elected officials, including local organizations and advocates, to stop fossil fuel infrastructure.

Commissioner de Heer provided a reminder about the GreenFund application for local sustainability events.

Commissioner Bohman inquired as to how information is distributed about the Greenfund Grant. Staff provided information about where to find the link for application, on the Commission's website, and Vice Chair Allen provided an update as to who has been contacted so far about the grant.

### **Staff Updates**

Samantha provided updates on the following:

1. The commissions update to City Council Wednesday, July 21: the Commission provided an updated to City Council regarding the FY21 Annual Report and recommendations. At this meeting, staff provided next steps for the Food Security, Fossil Fuel Risk Bond, Air Quality and Energy in buildings proposals. Councilors Syrett and Keating expressed interest a workgroup to work through the Air Quality recommendations, or possibly holding a future work session to discuss the topic further.
2. Envision Eugene Technical Advisory Committee open seat: Howard Saxion has termed out and a new opening is available for interested Commissioners. Staff provided information about this seat and requested that interested commissions follow up directly with staff after the meeting. Commissioner de Heer inquired as to who the staff person is that leads that committee.
3. Staff provided an update about the GreenFund grant to the NAACP: the payment request has gone out to pay the NAACP for the August 7<sup>th</sup> Art Festival Mural project.
4. Staff introduced the FY22 Work Plan retreat topic and walked Commissioners through a tentative agenda. Commissioners provided feedback about the agenda:
  - o Commissioner de Heer expressed a desire to prioritize work plan
  - o Commissioner Farley echoed the need to focus on the workplan and hear from new commissioners
  - o Commissioner Reynolds discussed focusing on the Commission's collective sense of priorities
  - o Commissioner Allen suggested orienting the Commission to the CAP2.0
  - o Commissioner Bohman expressed agreement with these points
  - o Commissioner Gruwell would like a staff perspective about what's been going on, beyond what's just written
  - o The Commission agreed to a 3 hour meeting with a 15 minute break.

### **Councilor Updates**

Councilor Semple provided updates about the work of City Council, including gratitude for the successful presentation to Council by the Sustainability Commission. Discussed interest of the City Council in Urban Forestry and clean air work session. She discussed the challenge of the Council taking on more ideas and needs and requested that the future work plan align with the Climate Action Plan to move that work forward. She discussed approval for new safe site camp grounds and work of the Council and staff to add sites, police reform efforts, fireworks ban, joint meeting on homelessness upcoming, affordable housing trust fund from the construction excise tax for housing affordability and postponement of ADU decisions.

Commissioner Reynolds inquired and pondered of Councilor Semple related to issues of the unhoused and housing density, whether it would be helpful if the Commission reflect on intersectionality related to sustainability/climate and the unhoused. Councilor Semple responded with clarifications about state role related to density and comprehensive planning. Staff also clarified about boards and commission work

related to housing and density and where the commission can add value and not duplicate efforts. Staff also spoke about the benefit of liaising to other boards and commissions as well.

Commissioner McFarlane spoke about the possibility of the City spending money inside the City for carbon offsets. Councilor Semple expressed disagreement with purchasing offsets and expressed hope to spend money on efforts to reduce carbon. She discussed frustration with cutting off important conversations because of competing priorities. Staff spoke to the specifications about purchasing offsets.

Commissioner Farley expressed agreement with Commissioner McFarlane related to frustrations that money for offsets were spent outside of Eugene and a desire to spend that money inside. Staff offered to provide more information about the offsets purchased to meet the CRO.

Chair Richardson suggested the Commission review the CAP2.0 ahead of the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:04 PM.