

Commission Annual Retreat Minutes

Wednesday, August 18, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

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

Absent: Drew Johnson

Staff: Samantha Roberts, Chelsea Clinton

Call to Order:

Chair Richardson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Chair Richardson called for a motion to approve the retreat agenda.

Staff asked commission if they wanted to review the funding request that came from 350 Eugene after the packet was sent out. The Commission agreed to wait until September but asked staff to learn more about the breakdown of what funding will be used for including: who is speaking, explanation of costs and why the City is charging for the space.

Action Item: Approved August Agenda, save funding request for September

Moved: Karyn Kaplan

Seconded: Mike McFarlane

Vote: All in favor

Abstain:

Chair Richardson called for a motion to approve the July minutes.

Action Item: Approved July Minutes with changes

Moved: Mitra Gruwell

Seconded: Jan Bohman

Vote: All in favor

Abstain:

Public Comment

No public comment.

FY21 Work Plan Discussion

Chair Richardson and staff provided an overview of the FY21 Work Plan and Annual Report.

Commissioner Reynold asked about how the ESC engaged a lens for working with the marginalized community. Vice Chair Allen suggested that be included in the conversation about this year's work plan.

Commissioner Gruwell inquired about the impact of COVID on the Commission's work. Staff provided a synopsis of impacts on the past year and considerations moving forward.

Commissioner Farley clarified that progress on the previous workplan can be seen through the recommendations made to Council.

Commissioner Kaplan inquired about the status of recommendations and how to keep track of work being done on previous recommendations. Staff suggested that one method could be to include updates about recommendations during staff updates during regular commission meetings.

Commissioner Bohman inquired about upcoming work sessions related to the commission's work. Councilor Semple and staff provided an explanation about upcoming work sessions for waste reduction at large events and CAP2.0 funding strategies. Commissioner Farley weighed in on how to move forward with recommendations.

CAP2.0 Orientation Conversation

Staff introduced this section of the retreat and put a series of questions in the chat for Commissioners to respond to. These included:

- What were your greatest takeaways?
- What surprised you?
- What do you feel are the plan's strengths?
- Where did you see potential weaknesses?

Commissioner Bohman discussed thoughts about the orientation video and CAP2.0.

Commissioner de Heer provided thoughts on the CAP2.0 and expressed surprise about lack of alternative fuels and opportunities to explore therein. Communicated interest in needing more work around gathering refrigerant data.

Commissioner Bohman asked if Commissioners had reviewed the plan previously. Commissioner de Heer discussed her surprise about how much has changed in one year from the approval of the CAP2.0.

Commissioner Reynolds expressed concern about how little of the community knows about the CAP2.0 and how we can expand community awareness of the plan. Staff discussed work of the Sustainability Program to expand climate communications. Commissioner Reynolds discussed opportunity to table at events.

Commissioner Gruwell discussed opportunities for community engagement with the CAP2.0 and what role individual community members can play. Staff discussed the Shift Campaign its role communicating about individual behavior changes.

Commissioner McFarlane expressed agreement with Commissioner Gruwell, but wondered how to simplify the plan to be understood by more people and how it impacts everyday existence. Expressed a desire to focus on that kind of communication.

Commissioner Bohman discussed the importance of having the CAP2.0 Dashboard in enhancing local understanding.

Commissioner Shafer discussed a desire to make the CAP2.0 more accessible for folks to understand the key takeaways impacting their own lives.

Staff opened the conversation up to questions about the CAP2.0.

Commissioner Gruwell inquired as to what is the Shift Campaign. Staff provided an update about what the communication tool is, how it came to be and how it will be used.

Commissioner Farley discussed impact of COVID on community outreach, but opportunities for online resources to communicate information.

Commissioner de Heer inquired about what strategies are being taken to achieve the CRO goal of 50% reduction of fossil fuel use by 2030, with 2010 as a baseline. Staff asked Commissioner de Heer to clarify and Commissioner de Heer requested information about the quality of the data from 2010 and what is being done with the data especially as it relates to population increases over time, and what are strategies for encouraging fossil fuel reduction. Staff provided an explanation about confidence in 2010 data estimates. Staff discussed role of CRO's GHG reduction goals in reducing fossil fuel use as well as the role of CAP2.0 in laying out what the city is doing to achieve those goals.

Staff Share of Work Plan Ideas

Staff provided a series of ideas regarding work plan development in alignment with the CAP2.0.

Ideas included:

1. Research into offset purchasing ideas
2. Resiliency hubs, including food diversion
3. Working with HRNI for community outreach
4. Transportation projects

Staff discussed upcoming work sessions with Council in fall 2021, including sessions related to funding, additional strategies, joint meeting with EWEB to discuss electrification strategies, NWN 844 progress, etc.

Councilor Semple requested the Commission discuss offsets, especially local options.

Commissioner Gruwell inquired whether offset research should focus on local options. Staff clarified the role the Commission could play in research options and understanding the local need for offsets.

Work Plan Development and Discussion

Commissioner Priority Exercise

Commissioners spent 5 minutes writing down their top three priorities for the next fiscal year. Staff guided the Commission through a conversation about these priorities in the next section.

Theme areas included: community education and outreach, resiliency and emergency preparedness, offsets, urban forestry, advancing previous work and monitoring climate progress, waste reduction, housing, transportation.

Commissioner Bohman expressed disappointment in feeling rushed in the process and wanting to have more time to discuss this work with other commissioners. Staff explained purpose behind methods and what using the workplan can look like throughout the year.

Staff put three questions in the chat box to engage the large group about where to start writing the work plan:

- Are these priorities in alignment with the CAP2.0 needs?
- Do these priorities need Council oversight?
- What tangible product does the Commission see from these?
- How do Commissioners envision themselves focusing on these areas?

Sharing thoughts

Commissioners discussed thoughts on the above questions.

Commissioner Reynolds expressed appreciation for seeing others' priorities to enhance group discussion and discussed need to be aware of intersectionality of work being done.

Commissioner Bohman discussed thoughts on monitoring progress on NWN, CAP2.0 work and advancements in other areas like urban forestry and mitigation strategies.

Commissioner Gruwell discussed the role of community outreach in advancing understanding about climate change, providing understanding about individual roles in advancing climate action and using metrics to monitor progress.

Commissioner Kaplan discussed thoughts on the Commission's role in researching and providing recommendations and inquired about the themes mentioned by other commissioners. Discussed thoughts on preferences for moving forward themes in the next work plan.

Commissioner de Heer role of Commission to support staff in communicating about the CAP2.0 to community and impacts of climate change on the community, especially parts of our community most vulnerable to these changes. Discussed ideas for advancing this effort.

Vice Chair Allen discussed preference in themes including resiliency hubs, offset purchase considerations, and fossil fuel risk bonds.

Commissioner McFarlane discussed thoughts on working on new ideas while balancing previous work monitoring and progress. Discussed the role of Council and how the Commission can interact with Council in advancing work moving forward.

Commissioner Farley expressed agreement with comments about balancing new ideas with existing work. Discussed ideas as to how to do that in the work plan, as well as other ideas to work on including impact of land use policy changes, urban forestry, etc.

Chair Richardson discussed work of letters to policy makers in helping promote work plan progress. Inquired about the progress of the 2021 Equity Panel. Staff provided an update and link to this work. Staff suggested gathering interested commissioners in getting updates about upcoming city council work sessions, budget committee meetings, etc. Staff provided an update about the CAP2.0 Dashboard development, and timeline for the CAP2.0 Annual Report and biannual greenhouse gas inventory. Staff also discussed thoughts about tracking housing implementation pipeline work finishing up in fall 2022.

Writing the plan

Staff input items and themes from the conversation into the work plan document and facilitated a conversation about where to prioritize work for FY22.

Staff discussed the role of detail in the work plan and how the commission can use the work plan to advance work areas of interest while meeting city council needs.

Commissioners discussed details of work areas and where work area items fit in overall work plan.

Discussion:

Commissioner Reynolds discussed thoughts about offsets including tree planting in underserved parts of the city versus purchasing verified offsets. Discussed thoughts about intersectionality of goals, for example role of community outreach in resiliency planning, or urban canopy compared to urban density.

Commissioner de Heer discussed need to connect with other local groups, citing example of Lane County's Climate Action Planning and potential opportunity for engaging with other local groups, to advance goals in work plan.

Commissioner Farley expressed agreement with Commissioner de Heer and experience with the food security committee and local partnerships.

Commissioner Gruwell discussed ideas about individual action recommendations using the Shift Campaign and current ideas in the FY22 work plan draft.

Commissioner Reynolds discussed desire to get regular updates related to CAP2.0 progress, previous recommendations, etc.

Commissioners and staff discussed role of "further research" as a means to capture potential areas of research.

Chair Richardson discussed ideas around role of community presentations and conversations to learn about what is going on in the community and communicate with partners what the city is doing as well.

Commissioners de Heer, McFarlane, Richardson and Bohman expressed desire to make Urban Forestry a standalone area of interest and not an area of further research. Staff moved this item to be stand alone.

Commissioner Bohman expressed desire to make offsets a standalone work plan item, and to fold NWN monitoring needs into the monitoring/pushing forward section of the work plan.

Councilor Semple discussed progress and work around urban forestry efforts, including priorities of trees for city council. Discussed nature of urban forestry in city work, on public lands – and potential needs for development of ideas on private land.

Councilor Semple discussed need of public education around climate change, the nature of the crisis and what the city is doing to address this issue. Discussed opportunity of the Commission to educate the community, build support for adding capacity to the work and research that will aid further efforts. Discussed preference for a few items of focus to allow council the ability to move forward a few items rather than many.

Commissioner Kaplan discussed desire to understand how city council is communicating and the role of the commission in viewing council meetings to have a better understanding of the work council is doing.

Staff provided an update on next steps for work plan development and expressed appreciation for the Commission's work.

Councilor Semple provided updates about the work of City Council, including gratitude for the successful work plan development meeting and advice for connecting with Council to support work plan progress.

Chair Richardson adjourned the meeting at 8:32 PM.