

Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 15, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

In attendance: Chair-Mtima Richardson, Vice-Chair- Laura Allen, Mike McFarlane, Councilor Semple, Drew Johnson, Jan Bohman, Hannah Shafer, Dennis Reynolds, Mitra Gruwell, Karyn Kaplan

Absent: Louisa de Heer

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 September Agenda.

Vice Chair Allen requested the agenda be amended to move part of item #6 to after public comment.

Action Item: Approved September Agenda, as amended

Moved: Jan Bohman

Seconded: Mitra Gruwell

Vote: All in favor

Chair Richardson led an icebreaker that allowed commissioners to get to know each other better. The question of the day was about what folks are looking forward to in the fall.

Chair Richardson led the Commission through a Land acknowledgement.

Chair Richardson called for a motion to approve August minutes or request for discussion.

Action Item: Approved August Minutes

Moved: Mike McFarlane

Seconded: Art Farley

Vote: All in favor

Abstain: Drew Johnson

Public Comment

Debby McGee spoke on behalf of 350Eugene regarding the Climate Townhall and need to reschedule the event in the fall. Expressed gratitude for support in banning natural gas in Eugene, taking on gap strategies and discussed the impact of climate change in Eugene.

Commissioner Response to Public Comment

Vice Chair Allen and Commissioner Farley expressed gratitude to Debby for comments and work in the community.

Commissioner Bohman expressed appreciation for work of 350 Eugene and support of the Commission.

Commissioner McFarlane expressed appreciation for Debby coming to the meeting.

Commissioner Gruwell expressed appreciation for upcoming Climate Townhall and perspective about climate change impacts. Discussed opportunity to engage this perspective in community outreach and engagement.

FY22 Vision and Leadership

Commissioner Allen discussed meeting etiquette with the Commission, especially for the benefit of new commissioners. Topics included when and how often to speak, the difference between regular meetings and committee working space, time management considerations, etc.

FY22 Work Plan Development

Staff led the Commission through the completion of the FY22 Work Plan. Commissioners discussed the topics chosen at the previous meeting, the order of intent and additional ideas.

Action Item: Approve FY22 Work Plan

Moved: Art Farley

Seconded: Councilor Semple

Vote: All in favor

FY22 Vision and Leadership- Presentations

Vice Chair Allen discussed ideas about presentations to the Commissions to support the work plan.

Commissioner Kaplan suggested holding off on scheduling presentations until committees are in progress. Staff provided clarification about last year's presentations.

Commissioner McFarlane discussed suggestions including an update from Urban Forestry. Discussed focus of presentations.

Commissioner Farley expressed interest in airport updates related to representation on Advanced Terminal Airport Committee.

Commissioner Gruwell suggested hearing from community organizations related to current committee work.

Commissioner Bohman inquired about a list of presentations from last year and whether presentations topics will be highlighted in the September 22 work session.

Commissioner Kaplan expressed excitement about possible committees including waste management and others.

Committee Updates

Urban Forestry Committee Proposal

Commissioner McFarlane provided an update about the work of the urban forestry committee and submitted a proposal to renew the committee to continue its work. Discussed need of other committee interests within urban canopy related to canopy coverage and equity and diversity.

Action Item: Approve Urban Forestry Committee Proposal

Moved: Karyn Kaplan

Seconded: Dennis Reynolds

Vote: All in favor

Updates from staff and commissioners

Staff Updates

Staff provided updates on the following:

1. The Sustainability Program, in partnership with internal partners, has developed a newsletter called the Eugene Climate Connection that be launched in September. These newsletters contain updates from the previous quarter about work the City of Eugene is doing to meet its climate goals. Find more information at <https://www.eugene-or.gov/509/Sustainability-in-Eugene>.
2. Staff let the Commission know that the Work Plan meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 15 but as always is subject to change.
3. Staff discussed potential processes for initiating committees related to offsets, resiliency hubs and public engagement, especially using the Shift Campaign.
4. Staff provided an update about upcoming council presentations including
 - a. September 22, Additional Strategies
 - b. September 27, Join Work Session with EWEB and Eugene City Council
 - c. November 8, ESC Work Plan Update
 - d. November 17, CAP2.0 Updates
 - e. December TBD, Climate and Homelessness Funding Strategies
 - f. American Rescue Plan Act: Budget Committee meeting in October to discuss future funding
 - g. Inquired about possibility of ESC chairing a committee to serve as point of contact for budget. Commissioner Bohman volunteered to work with staff.

Commissioner Updates

Vice Chair Allen provided an update about fossil fuel risk bonds and Beyond Toxics' interest in pursuing this topic with City Council. Discussed an incoming request to support letter to Council and previous presentation in FY21.

Commissioner Reynolds spoke about Commission liaising and technical efforts on the Envision Eugene Technical Advisory Committee and relation to sustainability work.

Councilor Updates

Councilor Semple discussed September 15 meeting related to ADU developments.

Councilor Semple provided gratitude to Chair Richardson for a great meeting.

Commissioner Kaplan agreed with Councilor Semple's comments as well to Vice Chair Allen and staff. Requested clarification about how to recruit volunteers and engage ahead of meetings. Staff provided clarification.

Commissioner Farley discussed putting together a committee related to offsets and connection with staff. Commissioners Bohman, Allen, and Gruwell expressed interest in joining this committee.

Commissioners Shafer, Farley, Allen, and Richardson expressed interest in a committee to explore resiliency hubs.

Commissioners Gruwell, Kaplan and McFarlane expressed interest in a committee on Waste Management.

Commissioners Johnson and Bohman expressed interest in joining the urban canopy committee.

Staff inquired as to who might be interested in joining the Policy and budget committee. Commissioners Bohman, Farley and Gruwell expressed interest. Staff clarified it may not need regular meetings but information to provide a letter of climate support to Budget Committee in the spring.

Chair Richardson adjourned at 7:30 PM.