

# Mayor's CRO Ad Hoc Work Group Meeting Summary Notes

June 10, 2020

## 1. Opening and Agenda Review – Jason

Staff discussed process and agenda for the meeting. Sarah Medary, City Manager Pro Tem and Mayor Lucy Vinis made remarks. Staff provided next steps and instructions.

## 2. Review Group Purpose and Process

Staff shared the purpose statement for the group and the progress the group has made.

### **Purpose Statement:**

The Community Climate Action Plan 2.0 (CAP2.0) is Eugene's roadmap to achieving the community climate action goals in the CRO as well as a climate resiliency plan. The purpose of the Mayor's CRO Ad Hoc Work Group is to provide guidance on how to modify the Draft CAP2.0 and to provide input on additional actions to add to the plan to fully meet the CRO goals. The Work Group will provide guidance on the following:

- The high-level topics, or themes, that should guide the document revision process
- Evaluation criteria for additional actions to add to the plan
- Additional actions to add to the CAP2.0 to achieve CRO goals, including some prioritization of the suggested additional actions
- CAP2.0 community engagement process moving forward

### **Process:**

- Feb 12 – Work Group Meeting 1: Listening Session
- Mar 11 – Work Group Meeting 2: Themes + Additional Action Process
- May 12 – Work Group Meeting 3: Revised CAP 2.0 Data Preview; Processing Community Actions

## 3. Review of Community Actions – Chelsea Clinton

Staff discussed history of community vision actions including current action bundles and how group arrived here. Staff addressed adding granularity and feedback about new actions, including feedback about actions that seemed redundant. Staff addressed the process actions have undergone, as well as how actions will be spoken about in the document moving forward. Staff invited feedback about document in time for final wrap up mid June.

## Questions and Comments

- Inquired about how staff will address priority among community actions.
  - Staff spoke to the work already committed to in the CAP2.0 and need to start there. Once complete, staff will look to Council and community to decide what's next, the process moving forward will be public.
- What does it mean to include community actions in plan? Expressed disagreement with some actions and inquired how staff will decide which are included.
  - Staff will be clear about what has been committed to and what is not committed to (ECC Actions, COE Actions, community vision in its chapter); City Council and City Manager want to know where the community wants to go and including this in the document helps know what community feels about what is next.
- What do we do with the ones we don't think should be in the plan?
  - Staff understood the feedback from the last meeting was to include all actions, and addressed language that can be used in the plan and with Council to make sure actions are vetted properly before consideration.
- Furthered previous comments and concerns about actions that should not be included (which would negatively impact emission reduction goals), i.e., making bus fares free and associated impact.
  - Staff suggested an intro paragraph to frame what actions represent, and what they don't represent, as well as concerns about vetting moving forward.
- Discussed concerns about requirements for business community related to costs and feedback for staff as they frame these actions in the document for the community; spoke about the need to incentivize participation of these actions rather than mandating.
- Addressed timeline considerations and involvement of ECC partners moving forward; spoke about specific actions in the community vision actions that could be used to address emissions reduction.
- We don't need to have all the answers, resources, planning clearly now, however doesn't like label "community vision" because it doesn't express enough commitment; these actions are a commitment to address in the future; inquired what City Council's role will be when they come to approve this, or a line item veto of approving certain actions (rather than a package deal).
- Wants to include Energy in actions, especially since actions will take investment in local businesses, and businesses of marginalized communities, to close the loop economically to keep more money in the community to add to long term resiliency.
- Appreciated previous comments and wants accountability and educational feedback loops between public, ECC partners, and city officials; is there an opportunity to assign an entity to carry these actions forward for feedback to write up impact of individual actions items moving forward, as well as how to mobilize around how to make it happen or know what the challenges are.
  - Staff said it is too late to do that within CAP 2.0 planning process, but that perhaps moving forward outside of July timeline, the City can figure out how ECC can engage with these actions specifically.

- Expressed disappointment that Natural Gas actions were included in community vision list. Concerned because of ongoing confidential negotiations related to the Northwest Natural Franchise Agreement. Conversations around City commitments to natural gas actions should be limited to negotiations at this time.
  - Staff clarified that the ideas included in the community vision are ideas from the community and do not represent commitments from the City.
- Expressed appreciation for work. Shares concerns for prioritization but understand process moving forward, including accountability.
- Discussed how actions are to be framed is very important; expressed that some language is problematic like “require”, “ban”, etc., especially related to Council priorities. Talked about how people without context for this process will interpret these actions, and discussed thoughts about some actions that may be difficult to achieve; inquired of staff what the intent for actions was for the evening.
  - Staff said intent is to get feedback about actions as they are to be presented in the document and reiterated messages being about framing.
- Can we let Ad Hoc Members do a Sharepoint site to edit the actions moving forward, perhaps have folks vote on the actions, etc. Member would like to provide feedback about preamble moving forward.
- Encouraged members to “see the forest through the trees”, spoke about difference between committed-to actions and community vision actions; shared concern about how actions will move forward; desire to stay focused on priority as document moves forward to Council rather than stay too focused on details; expressed confidence in staff and Council to vet actions moving forward.
- Inquired about ensuring accountability to reach goals set forth, especially for addressing the gap. Member inquired of staff what impact the public forum will have on the Plan if the CAP 2.0 has already been published.
  - Staff addressed question about accountability by saying ECC Partners will have support to move forward on actions they have committed to. Staff spoke to how to address Gap between ECC actions and CRO goal, including role of community vision actions. Staff explained public input has been gathered over the past several years up to this point, it is time to finish and implement the Plan, when adjustments can be made through public input and Council direction.
- Inquired what happens if there is a budget shortfall (i.e. aggressive transportation goals and impacts on work moving forward), and how will staff plan for that moving forward.
  - Staff spoke about budget processing related to climate advocacy moving forward.
- Discussed importance of remembering climate justice and equity in actions moving forward.
- Mentioned concern about lack of clarity if the group was trying to fix the document or improve the Plan; expressed concern about community vision actions and lack of accountability to complete these, as well as concern about the community’s potential lack of confidence in plan if there isn’t commitment to complete those actions.

- Staff addressed the process for gathering and processing community actions. Staff reiterated these actions strongly communicate what the community wants to complete after the first commitments are completed and asked for members to participate in accountability moving forward to achieve desired community outcomes.
- A lot hinges on how community vision is addressed (held, addressed, committed to); expressed thoughts about difference between including actions in a document as opposed to including actions in the Plan; expressed appreciation for aforementioned ways to incorporate actions.
- Feels the ad hoc group failed to reach its goals and is not doing the work to vet and process ideas from community in order to turn them into commitments that will close the gap in the Plan. Contemplated that if group needs more time to get commitment for actions, then that time should be given.
- Hears desire for consensus around community vision actions and discussed concerns about some actions. Discussed difficulty in achieving consensus about deciding which actions can be committed to by individuals and businesses and reiterated comments about incentives rather than mandates. Discussed discomfort about settling on consensus without further vetting of comments.

#### 4. Community Engagement Approach – Chelsea Clinton

Staff introduced the intention of this section and purpose of these ideas.

Staff presented thoughts about community engagement moving forward to include considerations for a reconvening of the equity panel, work of the Sustainability Commission and citizen advisory boards, individual and household and action campaign, Eugene Climate Collaborative, Sustainable Business Engagement Strategy, Reporting and Accountability to include CRO annual report (would go to Equity Panel in early fall and Council in later fall), CAP 2.0 Dashboard (10 or so metrics, more will be overwhelming), and GHG emissions inventories.

#### Questions and Comments

- Spoke about challenges in budget process related to how spread out climate work is throughout the city and getting folks engaged in the process despite the city's efforts to make information accessible. Discussed need to make how the City funds items clearer to the community so they understand what work is being funded.
  - Staff further discussed challenges in budgeting and provided an example about one challenge related to road challenges and how funding can be mixed together.
- Wants to make sure information is accessible before each April, and engagement is spread out throughout the year.
- Addressed need for Citizen Advisory Board, otherwise accountability is fragmented and difficult to achieve related to advancing climate goals.

- Encouraged to see Sustainable Business Engagement Strategy which came from the Eugene Sustainability Commission efforts and conversations, and expressed appreciation for inclusion of this plan.
- Staff reiterated Councilor Syrett's inquiry about engaging directly with neighborhood associations and discussed that staff does not have capacity to respond deeply to each association. Staff requested feedback for achieving this goal.
- Make sure we are allocating resources for outreach in a way that reaches a majority of the people, especially people who are likely to be directly impacted by climate change; inquired about accountability and integration of these thoughts across department.
  - Staff discussed ways to get information out across the organization internally including the internal climate action team which could be one solution to make sure internal departments are working in a coordinated fashion.
- Can we set goal to update document every 3-5 years with additional actions and updated target?
  - Staff shared CRO requires the CAP to be updated every 5 years.
- Discussed how budget can reveal priorities and inquired how is the City aligning commitments over time and importance of staying on the timeline.
- Spoke about challenges related to additional liaison efforts, and addressed business engagement strategy to engage small businesses that are minority owned
- Staff wanted to hear comments on neighborhood association piece and from Linda around advisory committee
- Discussed challenges of integrating sustainability commission and liaison efforts with other committees due to timing of committee work and meetings.
- Discussed work of sustainability commission compared to their lack of work within the CAP and lack of bandwidth for work in implementation over the years; further discussed possibilities working with a Climate Citizen Advisory Board.
- Expressed appreciation for work on monitoring progress and communicating progress and reporting. Spoke to the challenge of engaging the middle population who often get overlooked and left behind because it's not as easy for them to engage due to life circumstances (like those employed and too busy to go to COE website and read report). Spoke about an idea to use visuals annually in high traffic areas like downtown, that are simple to communicate what work is being done.
- Discussed thoughts about a Climate Panel (Advisory board idea from Ad Hoc member) to work on large number of items over large number of years; discussed use of structured conversations about how city can work with neighborhoods.
- Discussed disagreement with comment about lack of staff resources, expressed hopes around getting around excuses people have for not attending meetings and increasing engagement; expressed desire for using increased creativity in reaching out to folks.

Staff discussed thoughts about breaking norms in terms of how we engage and use our capacity for time engagement.

## 5. Check Out-Group

Staff discussed purpose of Check Out time to reflect on Ad Hoc Work Group process and thoughts about initial intentions. Staff spoke about goals for this closing out and what members can think they can commit to carry work forward.

### Discussion:

- Very willing to support work of CRO and Plan especially in regards to housing and homelessness crisis. Expressed appreciation for any process where “trust is identified as a challenge where technical content is the agenda”. Expressed desire for members to focus on shared goals rather than differences as its importance to move work forward.
- Expressed thought that there is so much work to be done, and much of that work is making connections. Referenced budget committee and different community groups and committees that come together to make that work happen, and the need for sharing information; willing to commit to do this in areas they have influence including within the city, both personally and professionally. Discussed importance of equity and racial justice in personal and professional life. Expressed that this process was helpful in meeting other individuals and hearing different perspectives and thoughts about process and Plan moving forward.
- Discussed components they appreciated about the process including staff’s role in listening to feedback and expressed appreciation for Chelsea and her work. Discussed how the process worked and thoughts about how it could have been done – does not feel confident these goals will be met and gaps addressed but is hopeful there is genuine desire to get things done. Would like to see things that increase their confidence that city will meet goals. Feels that goals are not scientifically robust enough to achieve climate needs and would like to see city address this climate crisis to same degree as pandemic response. Discussed ability to commit to being an advocate and encourage diversity of advocacy and engagement, as well as persistence. Discussed desire to see more people of color including representatives of the Kalapuya tribe involved with the process.
- Expressed thanks to elected officials and staff for content, expressed concern about gap among strategies and not leaving process with total confidence in final produce to this end. Committed to pursuing a climate advisory board like Lane County and discussed importance of community confidence and trust. Discussed items they think are missing and thoughts about being “on board” with plan.
- Discussed comparison of experiences with engagement outside Oregon, and that in Oregon, and Eugene particularly, feels impressed with engagement among staff, elected leaders, and general community. Discussed work professionally around electrification, and personally about individual actions in the future.
- Appreciated staff efforts to engagement and listening to community members, discussed challenges around engaging different voices and values with climate work. Appreciated hearing other folks and expressed their thoughts about the group bringing back the same concerns over the past three meetings . Discussed confusion about why

that was and belief that staff need to keep that in mind for implementation in the future. Mentioned desire to be involved with equity panel moving forward.

- Discussed challenge as Large Level Stakeholder in engaging smaller businesses for a cohesive voice. Discussed future needs for process and potential challenges engaging businesses in the future. Expressed fear for delayed involvement and anxiousness for wanting to be committed to bring people to the table before it becomes too late. Discussed work in the future as Intergovernmental Relations Manager for LTD and connection with Eugene Chamber. Discussed thoughts about reflecting on the group in hindsight.
- Discussed previously expressed fears and wishes city was further along with those larger questions. Expressed belief that the Ad Hoc process failed because they hadn't figured out how to close the gap or incorporate commitment to community actions. Inquired if perhaps staff can come up with recommendation for closing the gap and send before Council. Remains committed to climate goals and commitment to creating actionable goals and expressed they wish the group was in a better place.
- Expressed agreement that group did not achieve goal of identifying gaps but appreciates the work of staff so far. Discussed efforts to commit to work moving forward including opportunity to create a new "business as usual" in light of life altering crises as they arise. Expressed need to strengthen marginalized communities to increase community strength and to create a sustainable economy not so dependent/impacted by crises.
- Discussed thoughts about how they could assist these efforts through work on Budget Committee by bridging resources to people coming up with solutions to address gaps in goals and climate work in general. Discussed thoughts about process and appreciation for continuance of work in light of the pandemic, but missed the work of the small groups in going in depth. Discussed nervousness about if goals of group were met, or if their fears were validated.
- Expressed thankfulness for community involvement and importance of work members were asked to do. Discussed thoughts about how this work is hard and difficult and that incompleteness is appropriate given largeness of work. Discussed commitment to do everything possible to keep communicating and work on Electric Board and discussed how her work across communities nationally will further the work of Eugene.
- Expressed appreciation for commitment and passion for climate work that is not simple or straight forward. Discussed thoughts about what has happened throughout the process, including in light of COVID-19 and racial inequity.
- Expressed appreciation for this work and Chelsea's work. Discussed thoughts about expectations initially for the group and would have liked to end with a more streamlined list. Expressed desire to get to implementation.
- Expressed thoughts about process and thoughts about developing a plan, especially one that gets to zero. Talked about the amount of work to do in implementation and discussed commitment as a City Councilor to turn the Plan into Action. Expressed thanks to Mayor Vinis for putting together the workgroup, to Chelsea for doing the work, and to community members for their work and future work.

- Discussed thoughts about the process of the workgroup including the amount of work community members did outside of the meetings, and staff to get components in place to move forward. Discussed role in the city organization and commitment to carrying work forward in those various programs.

## 6. Closing and Next Steps

Mayor Vinis provided concluding remarks. Staff discussed key takeaways and expressed appreciation for work of the TBL Subgroup in analyzing COE actions. Staff made closing remarks.