

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Work Session Eugene, Oregon 97401

April 18, 2022
5:30 p.m.

Councilors Present: Emily Semple, Matt Keating, Alan Zelenka, Jennifer Yeh, Mike Clark, Claire Syrett, Randy Groves

Councilors Absent: Greg Evans

Mayor Vinis opened the April 18, 2022, work session of the Eugene City Council in a hybrid in-person and virtual format.

1. WORK SESSION: Applicant Statements for the Eugene Planning Commission

Council President Claire Syrett gave background and introduced the topic.

Applicant:

Diane Behling - gave her statement and answered questions from Council.

Council Discussion:

- Councilor Keating - asked staff about the process and shared a concern that two of the three finalists out of 17 applicants withdrew their application and there was no time to add more finalists.
- Councilor Zelenka - stated he has a problem having just one applicant to consider; suggested that Council re-ballot to get more applicants and schedule interviews to have a bigger pool.
- Councilor Semple - stated she does not feel a re-ballot is necessary because councilors had access to all applications and can interview separately if they want to; stated the vacancy needs to be filled quickly; supported changing the recruitment process for the future so this scenario does not happen again; said she would like to move forward.
- Councilor Groves - stated Council can interview other candidates but a vote does not need to happen again to select the fourth, fifth and sixth place candidates to interview.
- Councilor Clark - recalled plenty of appointments and nominations that involved motions and substitutions for applicants never interviewed; asked how long this position has been empty and what the deadline is for this process; shared he is comfortable not re-balloting for this process.
- Councilor Syrett - said she will not support a motion to re-ballot because the candidate was one of the top three candidates and she showed up and is well-qualified; stated it is not a perfect process but is a sufficient process.
- Councilor Zelenka - stated the current voting system is not a good way to do business; asked if there are any vacancies coming up on the commission.

- Councilor Semple- noted that the last round of Planning Commission appointments only resulted in six applicants and there was not much of choice like there was this round.

MOTION AND VOTE: Councilor Zelenka, seconded by Councilor Keating, moved to re-ballot and get two or three more applicants to interview. **FAILED 2:5**, Councilors Semple, Keating, Groves, Syrett, and Clark opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brooke Freed
AIC City Recorder

(Recorded by Niyah Ross)

Link to the webcast of this City Council meeting [here](#).