

Understanding the City Council action on November 9, 2015

At the November 9, 2015 City Council work session, here's what Councilor Greg Evans said and the adopted motion (times listed are from the webcast recording):

34:07 Evans: "My intent is for us to take a timeout, and take a little bit of a break, so that we can have a conversation, a facilitated conversation, between the City and the affected neighbors in the special area zone. ... My perspective is – I support the intent of the motion that I voted on on the twenty-first. I think that we have some issues that are problematic in that motion, and I want us to have an opportunity so we can have some time to be able to engage the affected neighbors and the City so that we can be able to get the best outcome possible. And so, with that in mind, I'm going to put this motion out on the table."

[Highlighted text below was added by amendment at 1:06:10]

*"I move to suspend the council's October 21, 2015 motion until after the council has had a work session to consider the outcome of a facilitated discussion that includes at a minimum the **Council of South Eugene Neighborhoods**, affected residents and businesses, and the City, utilizing the services of a neutral facilitator such as Oregon Solutions; except that the council shall not hold a public hearing on the South Willamette Special Area Zone until after the council confirms a public hearing date following the completion of the facilitated process."*

49:22 Evans: "What this motion is saying is suspend what we did on the 21st, comeback, and have a conversation with neighbors that we, basically, have not had conversation with before, up to this process."

51:20 Evans: "So, let's take a step back, let's take a breath and let's begin a real conversation with the residents so that we can shape policy appropriately."

Here are the "takeaways" ...

1. No scheduled public hearing or council action until council takes some further action. There is nothing related to SW-SAZ on the council's "Tentative Working Agenda."
2. Nothing in the "Clark" motion, adopted on October 21, 2015 is in effect.
3. Evans was very clear and repetitive that the intent of his motion was a "facilitated discussion" with "affected neighbors and the City." This included: "affected residents, businesses" and the Council of South Eugene Neighbors.
4. The motion did not put forth that the "facilitated discussion" should include other parties, such as Mia Nelson (1000 Friends of Oregon representative), Sustainability Commission or Planning Commission members, or anyone other than the "affected neighbors."

The City has engaged [Oregon Consensus](#) to conduct an "[assessment](#)" starting this week. This is supposed to be limited to a number of interviews to determine whether facilitation is an appropriate process, and, if so, who should be involved.

The Council of South Eugene Neighbors (CSEN) representatives voted to recommend the four member neighborhoods approve a letter to City Council that includes the following statement:

"We do not support initiating a facilitation process before residents, business owners, and property owners within and around the South Willamette area have had the opportunity to develop a community proposal for goals, objectives and implementation recommendations."

A request has been sent to Oregon Consensus asking that they provide clear and complete description of their plans for the "assessment."