

ASHLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Agenda

December 16, 2015 – 6:00 PM

Community Development Building, Siskiyou Room
51 Winburn Way

1. Call to Order

2. Consent Agenda / Reports

2.1. Minutes November 18, 2015 Commission meeting

3. Announcements (10 min)

3.1. Next Regular Meeting: January 27, 2015

3.2. Upcoming Sub-committee meetings

- Air Quality-Leaf Blower
- Earth Bowl
- Conservation Classes – 2016

3.3 Other Announcements from Commissioners

4. Public Forum (10 min to be evenly divided by public wishing to speak)

5. Reports / Presentations/Updates (20 min)

5.1. Downtown Recycling – staff update (5 min)

5.2. Council - Councilor Rosenthal (5 min)

5.3. City Conservation & Operations – Hanks (5 min)

6. Old Business (40 min)

6.1 Commission Monthly Column in Sneak Preview (5 min)

- a. January – BYOB Update – Weir (Motion to Approve)
- b. February – Climate Action Update - McGinnis
- c. March – Earth Bowl - Silverberg/Weir
- d. April - Natural Yardcare Solutions – Cruikshank
- e. May – Water Conservation - ??
- f. June – Conservation Classes - ??

6.2 Climate & Energy Action Plan – Project Update (5 min)

6.3 Solar Park Resolution Proposal–Follow up from Sept public forum (20 min)

7. New Business (30 min)

7.1 Bag Ban Council Review (Jan 19)

– Commission input/recommendation (20 min)

8. Wrap Up (5 min)

8.1 Items to be added to next agenda

- a. Water Quality/Storm Drains – February meeting
- b. Earth Bowl Planning ?
- c. Bag Ban Council Review Follow-up

8.2 Adjournment (8 PM)

MINUTES FOR THE ASHLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, October 28, 2015
Siskiyou Room, 51 Winburn Way

1. Call to Order

Roxane Beigel-Coryell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Siskiyou Room.

Commissioners Mark Weir, Risa Buck, Bryan Sohl, Shel Silverberg, Cara Cruickshank, and Marni Koopman were present. Councilor Rich Rosenthal and staff member Adam Hanks were present. Commissioners James McGinnis was absent.

2. Consent Agenda

Wier/Buck m/s to approve the minutes of September 23, 2015, as presented. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Passes.

3. Announcements

The next commission meeting will be held one week earlier than the usual meeting date on November 18, 2015. The Earth Bowl subcommittee will meet on November 19th at 3:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

Ashland Independent Film Festival has a regional student competition, this might be an interesting way to get a student involved with the Climate and Energy Action Plan kick-off event or process.

SOU was recently honored for their sustainability efforts and for being a bee-campus. Additionally, SOU now has zip cars for rent on campus. Beigel-Coryell stated that you don't have to be a student to use the program, but students do receive a discounted rate.

4. Public Forum

Kristina LaFever – Suggested the group watch the video from the Council Study Session regarding a glyphosate ban. She was pleased that Council seemed supportive of the topic. She gave statistics regarding the dangers of glyphosate use. California is considering listing glyphosates as major carcinogens. She also stated that since Ashland is a Bee City, USA, we should be more interested in a ban because their use disrupts pollinator navigation.

Huelz –Described his concept of a department of conservation and how they could save more energy than our current level of savings. Stated he re-did his analysis and encouraged the group to look at his figures and use them in the commission's work.

Jeff Sharpe – Thanked the group for moving ahead with the greenhouse gas inventory and the Climate and Energy Action Plan. He offered to assist with the greenhouse gas inventory analysis. He encouraged the group to support a community solar plan. Stated that Ashland is unique in that we own a large parcel of land and our own electric system. He gave information on energy use assistance which could be achieved with a community solar program. He stated this would also increase local jobs, which would help our local economy.

5. Reports/ Presentations/ Updates

Introduction of new Recology Ashland General Manager – Buck introduced Gary Blake, the new general manager of Recology Ashland. She stated he has been on-board for four weeks and gave an overview of his background. Mr. Blake stated that he is trying to get a good feel for Ashland and has been attending meetings such as this to get to know the community. The group introduced themselves, thanked Mr. Blake for coming, and several group members encouraged him to continue recycling center operation in Ashland.

6. Old Business, part 1

Group agreed to move the Solar Park Resolution proposal to this portion of the agenda, to prevent public participants from having to wait all meeting for the item.

Solar Park Resolution Proposal - Carol Voisin stated she is here as a citizen, not as member of the City Council. She gave an overview of the resolution proposed and the reasons why they consider this a time-sensitive project. She stated California needs renewable energy and would be willing to pay higher prices, whereas Oregon is not currently willing to pay more for renewable energy.

Sohl stated that Lake County did a very aggressive renewable energy project but discovered that California requires that renewable energy be created in-state – would this legislation apply to this solar project? Voisin stated that she doesn't know, but the investors she has spoken to believe this project could work.

Weir stated that he is concerned about the project location, as a large portion of the area is environmentally sensitive and pristine ecologically. He could not support any major infrastructure installation which would harm that area. He also stated that solar energy is not the most environmentally friendly option, as the creation of solar panels is detrimental to the environment. Voisin stated that the area they are proposing is below the area of natural resources.

Koopman stated it would help to have a tour of the site, as she has the same concerns as Weir. Because of her work, she is extra concerned whenever people make climate change adaptations without understanding the implications of other side- or long-term- effects. She feels this discussion should be a part of the Climate and Energy Action Plan ad hoc committee work, so they can see how it fits into all community adaptations or mitigations. Voisin stated that waiting for the ad hoc committee's work could mean a higher costs to have the environmental impact study, cost/benefit analysis, and installation work done.

Silverberg requested clarification as to whether all the group was asking for was encouragement to start the process, not a commitment to the project being completed. Voisin stated that many of the tax credits would run out in 2016, so starting now is essential. Silverberg stated that you can't predict the future, so moving ahead quickly based on concerns of what funding may or may not run out isn't good planning.

Cruickshank stated she knows people who are in the solar business and they are considering getting out of the business because of the sunset of credits. She would support this resolution moving forward now.

Sohl stated that the group is embarking on a community process with the Climate and Energy Action Plan and this should be a part of that process. To approve this outside that process would be leaving the community out of the conversation. He is reluctant to move forward but would be willing to look at it early in the Climate and Energy Action Plan process if timeliness is a concern.

Buck stated she appreciates the perspective that inclusion in the Climate and Energy Action Plan is important. She wondered about the cost and value of sending the electricity to California – would new infrastructure need to be built? Would we be able to send the power to Ashland after the 10 years elapses, or would there be no infrastructure in place to handle that? Voisin stated that yes, we could send power to California and yes the power could come back to Ashland afterward.

Voisin asked the group if her group could work in tandem (but slightly ahead of) the Climate and Energy Action Plan? Would the commission support this project if that were the case?

Beigel-Coryell stated the group had expressed concerns at the last meeting regarding the language of Section 2.c of the resolution. That section has not been altered and still stated that support of the resolution equals support of building the project, not support of doing studies regarding the possibility of the project. Voisin stated she thought a new version had been created.

Koopman asked if any other sites had been considered. Voisin stated that none had, as this site has both the 30% slope preferred and it is already owned by the City.

Cruickshank moved to support the next few steps of the process without approving the resolution as written. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Cruickshank asked what the group needs in order to give their support to this project. Group stated that they can't approve it without having more information and hearing from people with perspective on the environmentally sensitive areas of the land.

Sohl/Silverberg m/s to form a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission who will tour the site, meet with the project proposers, and bring back information to the Commission. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Passes.

Sohl, Cruickshank, and Koopman volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

7. Reports/ Presentations/ Updates, Continued.

Downtown Recycling – Buck stated they are good to go on the pilot project. They need to get sponsors and figure out how to attach the signs to the garbage cans as these cans are different than the ones in Lithia Park. The subcommittee will meet on November 3rd at 2:30 p.m. to finalize the sign language.

Council Update – Rosenthal stated that on November 2nd there will be a study session regarding a proposed ban on smoking downtown. On November 3rd the Council will consider first reading of ordinances regarding nuisances and unlicensed dogs. On November 16th the Council will

discuss the future of the electric utility as well as the recently completed water cost of service study.

City Conservation & Operations – Hanks stated the bag ban survey for retail establishments is moving forward. The survey he and Weir worked on for the grocers will have some similar questions as those for the smaller retail establishments but will also have more statistical data. Additionally, there will be an Open City Hall survey for general community responses on the city’s website. The review of the ban is tentatively set for the second Council meeting in January. Buck suggested the retail surveys include questions regarding compliance. Weir gave some history as to the original request for a \$.25 surcharge, and why Council instead agreed to the \$.10 surcharge. He stated that if it appears users are just switching to paper, rather than reusable bags the group should consider asking Council to increase the surcharge amount.

6. Old Business, part 2

Sneak Preview Column – Buck gave Silverberg a few suggestions regarding tree recycling and changing the word. “sustainable” to “local”. Silverberg agreed to incorporate those suggestions into the article. **Weir/Cruickshank m/s to approve the holiday conservation article as presented with the changes suggested by Commissioner Buck. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Passes.**

Wier warned that the January article to be considered at the next meeting will likely have some missing information when presented, as the survey will not yet be completed. Group discussed the following as upcoming topics:

January – BYOB Update
February – Climate Action Plan Quarterly Update
March – Earth Bowl
April – Natural Yard Care
May – Climate Action Plan Quarterly Update

Climate and Energy Sub-committee – Rosenthal stated the subcommittee had approved the RFP for the contractor. That document has to go through review by both the Legal Department and the procurement officer. This may take some time and might not be completed until closer to Thanksgiving. Whomever is hired as the contractor will work with the group on creating the action plan, as well as a plan for community involvement. There is a new committee member, Claudia Alick, who works at the Shakespeare Festival and is assisting with the Kick-off event in November.

Ashland Climate Challenge – Koopman stated that OSF has joined in a national effort to create short plays regarding the environment and they have agreed to perform some of those at the Kick-off event. So far the planning group has had a great response from local businesses. She gave an overview of the proposed agenda for the week and the Kick-off event.

Group gave some suggestions such as; including information regarding buying and eating local, videoing the event, encouraging the Mayor and Council to participate, and ways to get kids in the community involved. Koopman agreed to send the event flyer electronically to commission members so they can distribute it to their contacts.

Pesticide/Herbicide Discussion – Rosenthal gave background on why this topic is on the agenda and why Council had asked the Commission to review the proposal. Parks Director Michael Black was asked to participate in this discussion. Mr. Black stated there is a role for the Parks Commission and they will aid Commissioner Cruickshank’s group in preparing a grant and testing alternative products. Parks already has a fairly comprehensive no-pesticides policy but they are not in a position to propose this resolution for Council approval.

Group discussed whether a resolution would still be needed if the Parks Department was offering assistance. Cruickshank stated that the idea is to create educational materials that Council would approve to educate the community on the dangers and on alternatives. She asked if the group was interested in creating a sub-committee to work on updating the resolution. The group determined that they support the overall idea of a resolution and educational materials, but don’t have time to assist or work as a subcommittee. Group agreed to consider supporting Cruickshank’s community group if they come back with an updated resolution (or similar means of gaining Council support) at a later date.

7. New Business

Compost Classes – Buck stated the subcommittee is proposing changes to the classes offered in 2016 to encourage more participation. They will do one class on each of these topics: composting, waste prevention, the Climate and Energy Action Plan, energy conservation opportunities, and water conservation. They are considering changing the venue and are working on changing the title as the classes are no longer solely focused on composting. The group agreed this was a good new direction and asked the subcommittee to continue to move forward.

Leaf Blowers – Weir stated Council has recently received e-mails regarding leaf-blowers and a possible ban on their use. He wanted to double check that the group still wanted Weir and Silverberg to continue their research on bans. The group agreed to this course of action.

8. Wrap Up

Group requested an update regarding storm drain care and water conservation management based on Hanks’ and previous commissioner Beam’s work at the next meeting. Also they would like a discussion regarding Historic Commission decisions regarding not allowing metal roofs in historic districts.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Shiplet
Executive Assistant

MINUTES FOR THE ASHLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, November 18, 2015
Siskiyou Room, 51 Winburn Way

1. Call to Order

Roxane Beigel-Coryell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Siskiyou Room.

Commissioners Risa Buck, Shel Silverberg, Bryan Sohl, James McGinnis, and Cara Cruickshank were present. Councilor Rich Rosenthal and staff member Adam Hanks were present. Commissioner Marni Koopman arrived late.

2. Consent Agenda

None.

3. Announcements

The next commission meeting will be on December 16, 2015, which is one week earlier than the usual meeting date. The Earth Bowl subcommittee will meet on November 19th at 3:00 p.m. in the Siskiyou Room.

The Association of Recyclers' winter forum will be held on December 10th in Portland. Buck will be in attendance.

Group expressed their appreciation for the Climate Kick-off event held on Sunday, November 11th. They agreed it was a good balance of information, artistic entertainment and community learning. They thanked the planning group for its hard work.

4. Public Forum

Jeff Sharpe – Gave kudos for Sunday's event. He thought the atmosphere was great. He also thought the lead speaker's talk was on the mark. He would like to be able to show the commission some renewable information at the next meeting.

Albert Pepe – Was inspired by the kick-off event on Sunday. He is generally not a fan of large meetings but was impressed with Sunday's event. He was disappointed that the event and the commission are not dealing with food security. He wondered why we are not doing more to grow food locally. He would like an emphasis on that as it is important to the community.

Marni Koopman arrived 6:09 p.m.

Huelz: Stated there are four different parts of energy – Generation, Efficiency, Conservation and Ecology. Generation creation via things like solar panels. Efficiency is the best use of created energy. Conservation is people's behavior. Ecology is making or using energy with the least amount of toxins or damage to nature. Generally we pay large amounts of attention to carbons but need to pay more attention to nature. He described the efficiency of the human body energy and how that can relate to being efficient in other sources.

5. Reports/ Presentations/ Updates

Bag ban update – Hanks stated that the survey was sent to retailers and SOU will be compiling the results. He should have information ready for the next meeting. He will be speaking with grocers directly to get their information. Additionally, there will be an Open City Hall topic on the City's website for community input. All of this information will be available to the Commission as well as the Council for their one-year review.

Downtown Recycling – the ad hoc group met to go over logistics. If staff is available, the baskets should be in-place by December 31st. Staff will be testing one location next week to make sure they look good, as the cans in the downtown core are different than the cans in the Park. There will be eight locations in the trial run.

Council Update – Councilor Rosenthal stated that at the November 30th study session Council will be discussing marijuana sales and production, with the first reading of an ordinance related to that scheduled for December 1st. As there have been concerns with outdoor growing odors but indoor growing requires lots of energy, Council has a difficult job ahead to find a good regulatory balance. On December 14th, Council will be discussing street utility fees and transportation funding. On January 5th there should be a recommendation from the AFN governance ad hoc committee.

City Conservation and Operations – Hanks stated that the City is in partnership with the company Enhabit to do a pilot program for energy performance reviews of homes. Enhabit is trying to develop a state-wide model so homes in different areas can be scored more consistently state-wide. There are still a few slots available, sign up can be done on the City's website.

Hanks has been spending lots of time working with the Greenhouse Gas Inventory contractor. The most challenging numbers to locate are regarding is transportation. He is working with ODOT to get this information.

6. Old Business

Sneak Preview Column – group agreed to approve the January article at the next meeting. They will give feedback directly to Weir. They discussed doing a Living With Wildlife column in September and Cruickshank agreed to be the author.

Composting Classes – the ad hoc committee will schedule a meeting soon to plan for next year's classes.

Climate & Energy Action Plan – the next meeting will be on December 2nd at 2:00 p.m. It will be a recap of the Kick-off event and a discussion of RFP scoring. The group is currently in a slight lull until the contractor starts. Rosenthal asked Koopman if she had any ideas as to how/when Geos Institute will provide the required deliverables from the kick-off event. Koopman stated that it will probably be a month before everything is input and processed. Group agreed this was a fair timeframe, since the contractor won't be starting until February.

Ashland Climate Challenge – Koopman reviewed the week's events. She stated that the hearth event was a highlight for her. There were roughly 300 in attendance at Sunday's Kick-off event and approximately 125 stayed for the world-café/roundtable discussion. The organizers tried for

zero-waste and they came close thanks to the durables donated. The only downside was there were fewer young people involved than they had hoped for.

Solar Park Resolution Proposal – Hanks stated that at the last meeting a subcommittee was formed and a plan was made for a site visit. Unfortunately, having a subcommittee has created some legal issues regarding who can go on the property. It may be best to end the subcommittee, hold the tour as individuals, and have those individuals report back to the commission for further discussion.

McGinnis stated he was under the impression Council wanted no movement on this project until the studies that are already in-process are completed. He is concerned about going against Council wishes. Sohl stated he believes it is important to be educated on these types of large environmental projects, even if the group doesn't move forward with approving the resolution. Rosenthal gave an overview of what the Council decision was, in that Council never discussed the merits of the solar project, but did discuss what has already been planned for the property and the studies which are in-progress.

Cruikshank stated that she dislikes the idea of disbanding the subcommittee as this is an important topic. Group discussed why it may be legal important to end the subcommittee at least for the duration of the tour.

Buck/Sohl m/s that the Solar Park Project subcommittee be disbanded. Discussion: group discussed whether the subcommittee could be reformed after the tour if the group determines it is necessary. Hanks agreed this was possible. **Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Passes.**

7. New Business

Water Quality/Storm Drain Care – Buck stated that it has been a few years since the subcommittee on this topic was in place and did the storm drain markings. She is interested in revisiting this topic and possibly updating the door hanger given to residents. She is also interested to learn how contractors are educated regarding drains and creeks. She wondered if the group had any interest, time, and/or energy to work on these issues.

Cruikshank stated she thought this was a great idea and that she is also interested in this topic.

Group had a discussion regarding whether there was a need for additional information regarding storm drains. Hanks agreed to see if staff can make a presentation regarding current practices and how the Water Master Plan fits into these concerns at a future meeting.

Historic Commission Design Standards – Sohl stated that he had a friend approach him with concerns regarding lack of ability to do conservation focused construction/remodeling in an historic district. Sohl expressed his concerns regarding those requirements. Hanks gave an overview of the requirements from the Land Use Code and described the process for exemptions from those standards through the Planning Commission.

Sohl suggested that the Commission consider requesting those code sections be amended to include more conservation-related practices. Koopman stated this would require lots of research regarding latest and most effective products. Group determined this would be good to be a part

of the Climate and Energy Action Plan process and that they should include other commission members in that process to hear all sides, particularly where group ideologies may differ (historic preservation vs. new technologies, etc.)

8. Wrap Up

Group requested that the following items be on the next agenda:

- Presentation by staff regarding storm drains (if staff is available)
- Bag Ban update and discussion on possibly requesting Council up the charge to \$.25/bag

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Shiplet
Executive Assistant

“Paper or plastic”, over a year ago that was still a common option at many retail and grocery establishments in Ashland. Then, in May of 2014, the City Council of Ashland instituted a Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) program. This program was in response to extensive citizen commentary about the environmental impacts of short term use, disposable plastic and paper bags. The program essentially banned plastic bags for most retail transactions and instituted a fee for paper bags. For some Ashlander’s, the BYOB program resulted in little change in their daily routine. Those already bringing reusable bags when shopping, the absence of plastic bags simply meant less potential litter in the Rogue Valley. Now, as the city council looks to review the program in January of 2015, it may be helpful to reflect on the BYOB program, the fact that it was not passed unanimously and the scientific foundation on which the recommendations were made.

To elucidate the design and benefits of the program, it is beneficial to review how the conservation commission assembled its recommendations. The commission began by examining over 20 peer reviewed studies on the implementation and achievement of programs limiting short term use bags. These programs exist throughout the world in places as varied and far away as China and Ireland and as close as Washington DC, Aspen, CO and Eugene, OR. In each case, programs ban plastic bags outright or create a financial disincentive for failing to bring your own bag. Fortunately for the commission, countries such as Ireland have plastic bag policy instruments dating back to 2002. (1) The effects of these policies have been studied going on a decade and program best practices are supported by statistically relevant scientific evidence. Although not always the case with policy instruments, successful BYOB programs stand in sharp contrast, and often contrary to, antidotal supposition. Employing the aforementioned studies, the commission evaluated the instruments which would; 1) eliminate plastic bags, 2) drive behavior towards bringing your own bag, and 3) work to ensure that paper bags did not replace plastic.

Based on their potential for litter and decomposition times, plastic bags were an easy choice for elimination. Although arguably convenient for the absent minded, polyethylene bags contribute 11 % to terrestrial and aquatic litter in Oregon with an average biodegradation exceeding 500 years.(2,3) Further, recycling rates for plastic bags in the US range below 7.2 % and countries such as Ireland, which have plastic bag policies in place, realized quantifiable plastic bag litter reductions from 5% to 0.3% following implementation.(4,5) Given their chronic hazard to ecosystems, and coupled with their persistent nuisance, it was time for plastic bags in Ashland to go.

A more difficult problem was driving behavior towards bringing your own bag and not taking a disposable paper bag. Most of us would like to believe we would bring our own bag, however, research conducted by Zhu et al, shows that given the option of a free bag, over 71% of individuals will take the bag, even if they don’t need it (i.e. small items which can be carried by hand).(6) This is further complicated by work from Bolderdijk et al. showing that pro-environmental education alone, while improving knowledge on an environmental subject, does not translate into motivational force for action.(7) Thus, the problem for the commission became suggesting a program which would encourage people to bring their own bag vs. taking a paper bag. As previously mentioned, significant research has been conducted in this field. The use of pricing elements to illustrate and assign tangible value at the time of checkout had been shown to be effective and became the commissions suggested instrument.(8, 9, 10)

But some might ask, why charge for the paper bag at all, and/or, how to decide on the correct price point? The answer is based on the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of paper bag production and disposal. Although paper bags biodegrade at a quicker rate than their polyethylene brethren (2 years and 500 years respectively), their immediate environmental impact is far greater. Production of paper bags requires 5

times more gigajoules of energy, create 3 times more carbon emissions, consume 25 times more water and results in 7 times more waste than plastic bags. (11) Production of 1000 paper bags vs plastic bags requires an additional 2,112 GJ (58,666 kWh) of energy, enough to power 11 average houses in Oregon for a year.(12) The same 1000 bags require an additional 3637 liters (961 gallons) of fresh water. With these potentially disastrous environmental impacts of a direct substitution from plastic to paper, the commission supported a 25 cent surcharge on paper bags. This fee structure coincides with the best practices from other communities showing a reduction in single use waste.(13) For better or for worse, the mayor acted as the swing vote which defeated the 25 cent suggested rate, ultimately the council approving a 10 cent fee. Now, over a year later, the commission is working with city staff to understand if the 10 cent charge on paper bags was enough to drive behavior and have people bring their own bag. As we head into 2016, remember to bring your own bag, save some money and do your part to reducing short term use disposables.

- (1) Ritch, E. Brennan, C. and MacLeod, C. (2009) *Int J Consum Stud*, 33: 168-174.
- (2) Ocean Conservancy (2010) ISBN 978-0-615-34820-9,
- (3) Stevens, E. (2001). *Green Plastics*, Princeton University Press
- (4) US EPA (2014) *Municipal solid waste generation recycling and disposal in the United States, Tables and Figures for 2012.*
- (5) United Nations Environment Program (2005) *Design and implementation of economic instruments in the solid waste sector.*
- (6) Zhu et al. (2010) *Energy Procedia*, 5: 2516-2521
- (7) Bolderdijk et al. (2013) *PLoS ONE*, 8: 1-7
- (8) Sharp et al. (2010) *J. Consumer Behav.* 9: 470-484
- (9) Homonoff, T. (2012) Department of Economics, Princeton University
- (10) Poortinga et al (2012) WSA working Paper 01-2012
- (11)Greene, J. (2011) *Life Cycle Assessment of Reusable and Single-use Plastic Bags in California*
- (12)US EIA (2015) *2013 Energy consumption for Oregon*
- (13)Clapp, J. and Swanston, L. (2009) *Envir. Polic.* 18: 315-322

DRAFT
RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF ASHLAND TO SET ASIDE IN 2015
100 ACRES ON THE IMPERATRICE PROPERTY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF
A SOLAR PARK BY A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CONTRACTOR/INVESTORS.

RECITALS:

- A. The City of Ashland is owner of the 864 acres identified as the Imperatrice Ranch Property.
- B. The City purchased the property in 1996 for the purpose of using it or portions of it for land treatment of treated sewage as a method to diminish elevated temperatures of effluent that is discharged from the WWTP and flows into Ashland and Bear Creeks especially between April and May and late September to early October.
- C. According to the Comprehensive Sanitary Sewer Master Plan, 2012 the effluent can only be used on 412 acres of the Property 10.2.1 which states “Due to steep terrain and other limiting features (TID canal, wetland swale) portions of the Imperatrice site are not usable for irrigation. Limiting irrigation to slopes less than 20% and providing necessary buffer zones for the canal, swale and property lines provides a usable irrigation area of 412 acres for Class C effluent or 433 acres for Class B effluent...”
- D. In accordance with the CSSMP, CH2MHILL’s memo of June 8, 2015 this addresses their study results to date. The critical time frame is April-May and October-December for temperature mitigation. (Paragraph 5, third and fourth bullets) This time frame has been clarified to the month of May and October. Their options for mitigation are in line with the master plan.
- E. Property for a Solar Park would not interfere with the 412 or 433 acres identified in the master plan because a solar park can be located on the slopes 20% or greater. See Map, Exhibit 1.
- F. The City of Ashland must have a redundant power source in light of the threat of natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and drought that can and will effect the entire state including our primary power supplier Bonnieville Power.
- G. The City of Ashland must take measures to curtail its and the nation’s carbon emissions. A solar farm on the Imperatrice Property would be an important contribution to getting Ashland and the Valley to zero net carbon emissions.
- H. Investors will be interested in what Ashland has to offer because of California’s [SB 32](#) that will increase the amount of energy the state is

required to draw from renewables 50 percent, reduce petroleum use 50 percent, and improve the energy efficiency of buildings 50 percent, all by the year 2030. The energy market for renewables is in California.

- I. President Obama - "Climate change is no longer some far-off problem. It is happening here. It is happening now," he warned the representatives of more than 20 countries attending the Conference on Global Leadership in the Arctic: Cooperation, Innovation, Engagement and Resilience, or GLACIER. "Any so-called leader who doesn't take this issue seriously or treats it like a joke is not fit to lead," he said. "On this issue, of all issues, there is such a thing as being too late, and that moment is almost upon us."

THE CITY OF ASHLAND RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Provisions for Electric Power Redundancy

Ashland will set aside on the Imperatrice Property 100 acres suitable for a solar farm. See Exhibit 1 for the site that is greater than 20% slope.

SECTION 2. Terms and Conditions

- a. The City contract with a professional, technical solar expert to develop an RFP study for investors to construct a 10 megawatt solar farm on the Imperatrice Property.
- b. The City Council constitute a small *ad hoc* committee to review the proposals.
- c. By no later than mid 2016 the City is required to have completed the RFP process and selected an investor for negotiations of a public, private accord to build a 10 megawatt solar farm on the Imperatrice Property.

SECTION 3. This resolution was duly PASSED and ADOPTED this ____ day of October, 2015, and takes effect upon signing by the Mayor.

Barbara Christensen, City Recorder

SIGNED and APPROVED this ____ day of October, 2015

_____ John Stromberg, Mayor Reviewed as to form:

Dave Lohman, Ashland City Attorney



Plastic Bag Ordinance

Greylan Georgianna, Gannon Schroder, John McMaster

Dr. Donna Lane

City Representative: Adam Hanks

BA 428

Introduction Objectives

Primary Objective: Reveal the impact of the plastic bag ordinance on the retail businesses in the City of Ashland.

Secondary Objective: Uncover secondary data regarding plastic bag ordinances in other cities and their impact on retail businesses.

Review of Literature

Retailer Surveys: Eugene & Corvallis

- Inconvenience
- Loss of customers
- Theft & Shoplifting
- Better reminders
- Decrease in paper bag usage

(City of Eugene, 2014), (City of Eugene, 2013),
(City of Corvallis, 2015)

Economic Analysis: L.A. County

- Customers would go shop elsewhere
- Loss of business
- Loss of employment
- Reusable bags must be used 104 times

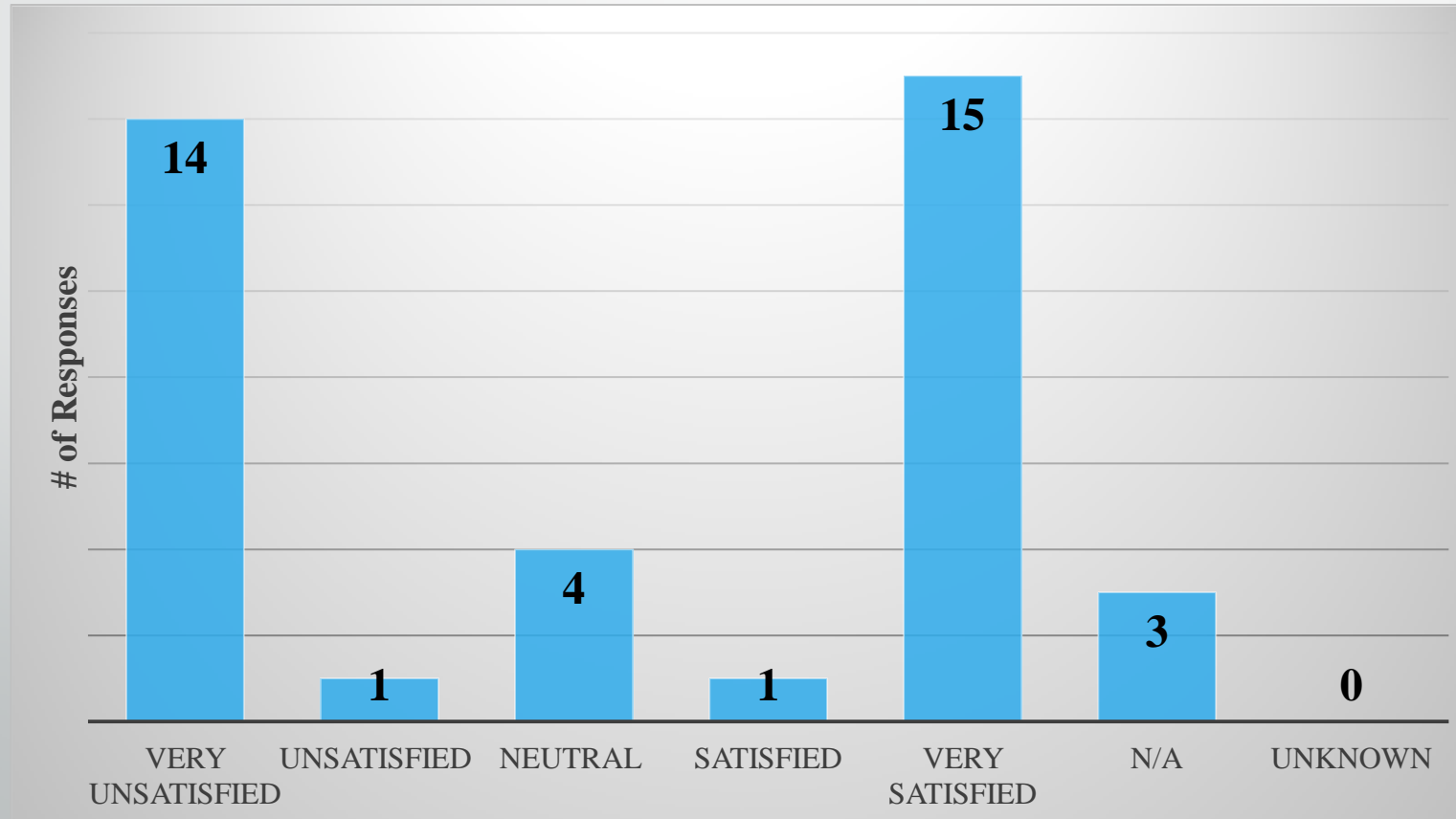
(Villareal & Feigenbaum, 2012, August 16)

Methodology

- Population Surveyed: 181 retail businesses excluding grocery stores
- Survey Design
- 39 responses – 21.55% response rate

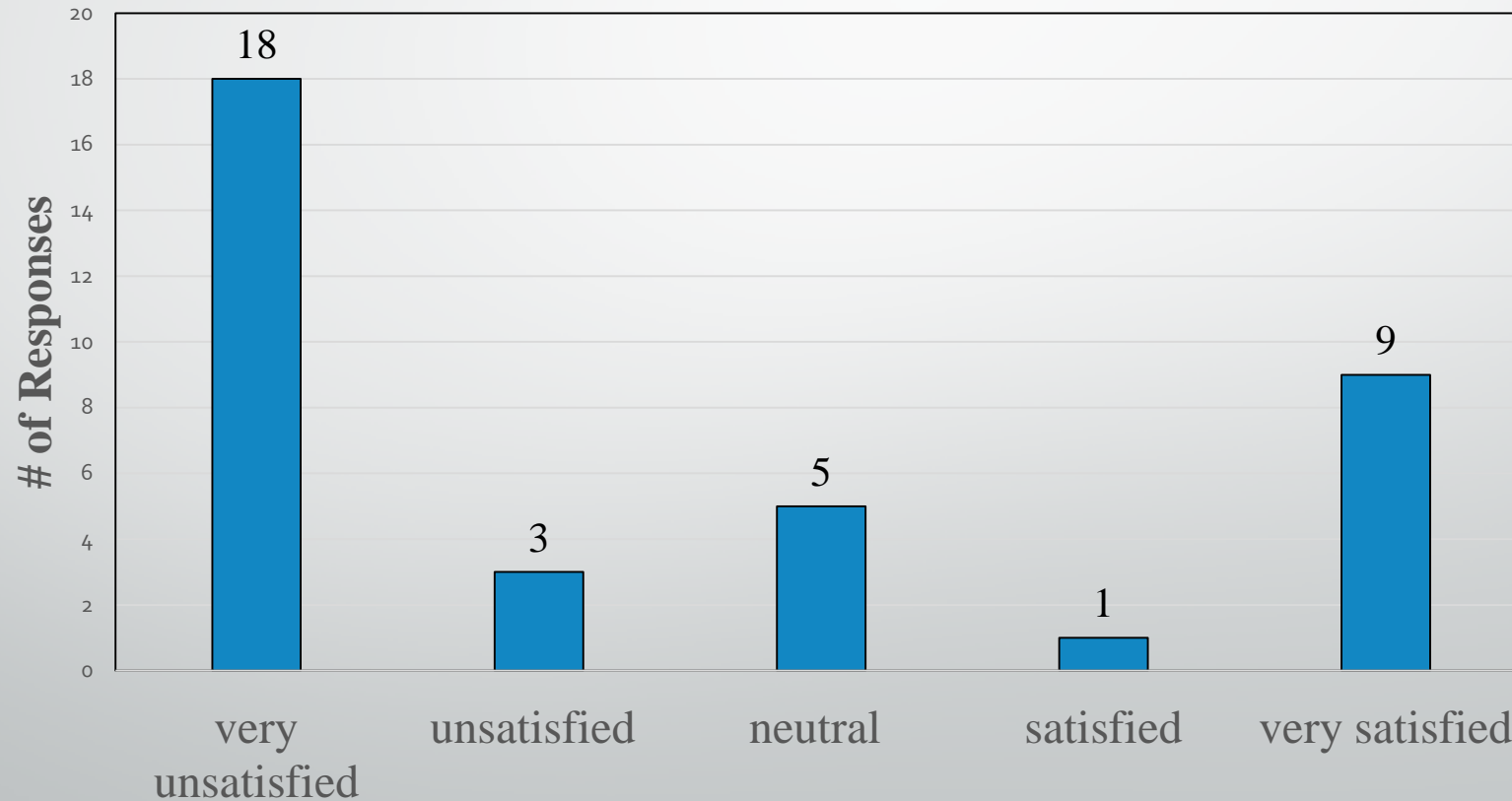
Survey Results

Q1. How satisfied are you with the current plastic bag ordinance? (1= very unsatisfied, 5= very satisfied) Mean value of 3.05







Survey Results

Q2. How satisfied are you with the current 10 cent charge for paper bags? (1= very unsatisfied, 5= very satisfied) Mean value of 2.44



Survey Results




Q3. How much does your business spend on bag orders since the ordinance was implemented?
Increased amount, Decreased amount, The same amount, Unknown

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Increased amount		7	18.92%
2	decreased amount		10	27.03%
3	the same amount		17	45.95%
4	unknown		3	8.11%
	Total		37	100.00%

Survey Results

Q4. Which of the three choices below would you be in favor of in regards to the paper bag fee?





Charge a fee higher than 10 cents, Keep the 10 cent charge the same, Eliminate the 10 cent charge.

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Charge a fee higher than 10 cents.		3	7.89%
2	Keep the 10 cent charge the same.		13	34.21%
3	Eliminate the 10 cent charge.		22	57.89%
	Total		38	100.00%

Survey Results

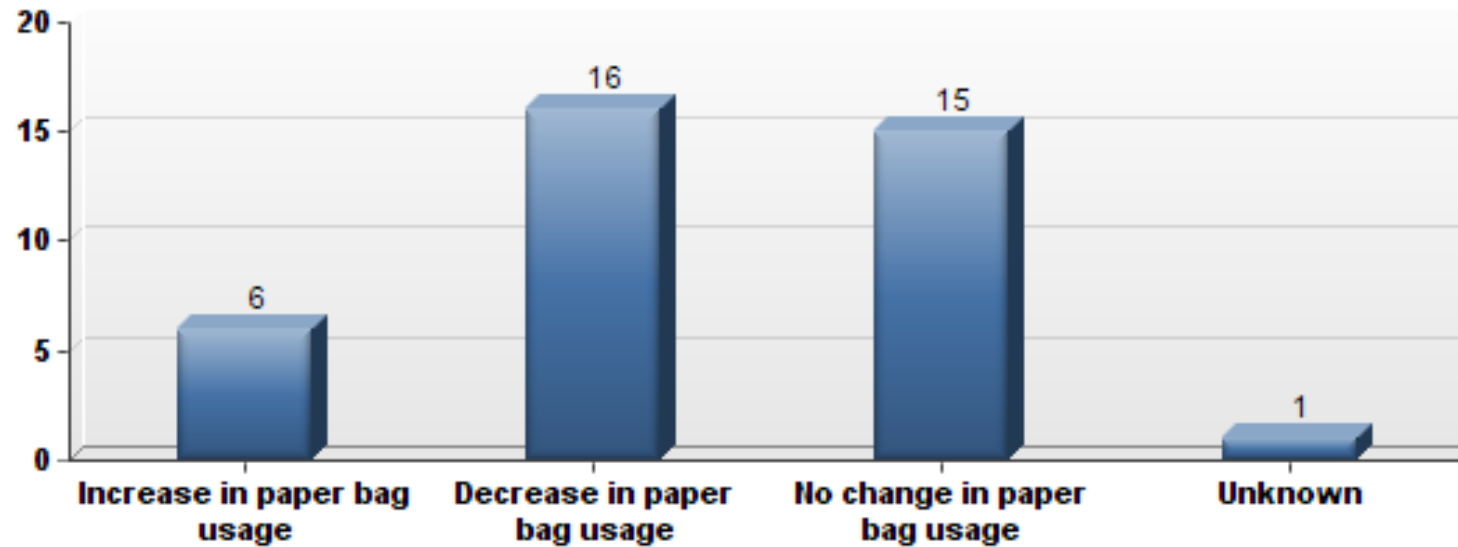
Q5. What impact has the plastic bag ordinance had on your sales?

Increase in sales, Decrease in sales, No impact on sales, Unknown

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Increase in sales		1	2.63%
2	Decrease in sales		2	5.26%
3	No impact on sales		29	76.32%
4	Unknown		6	15.79%
	Total		38	100.00%

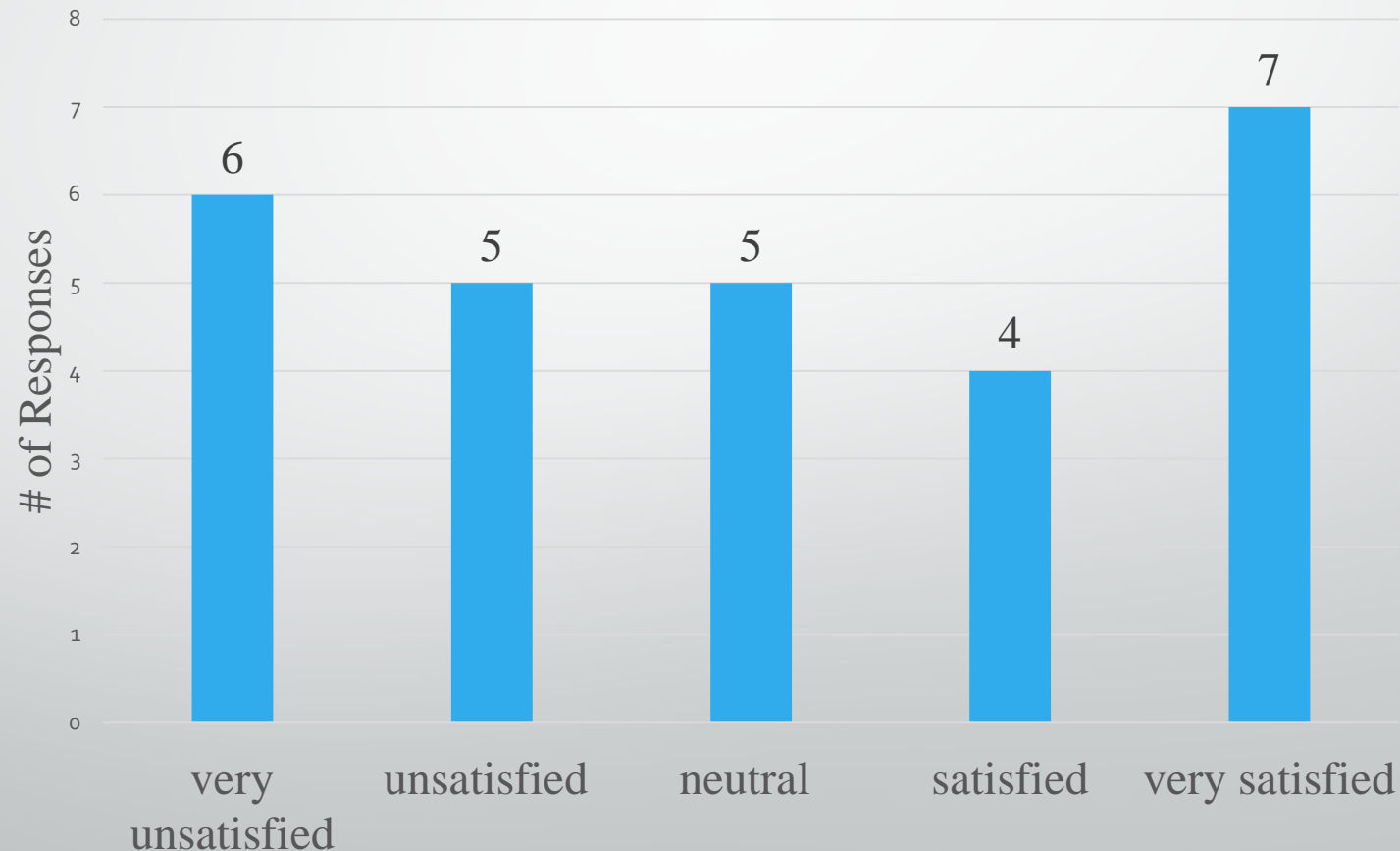
Survey Results

- Q6. What impact has the plastic bag ordinance had on your paper bag usage?
Increase in paper bag usage, Decrease in paper bag usage, No change in paper bag usage, Unknown



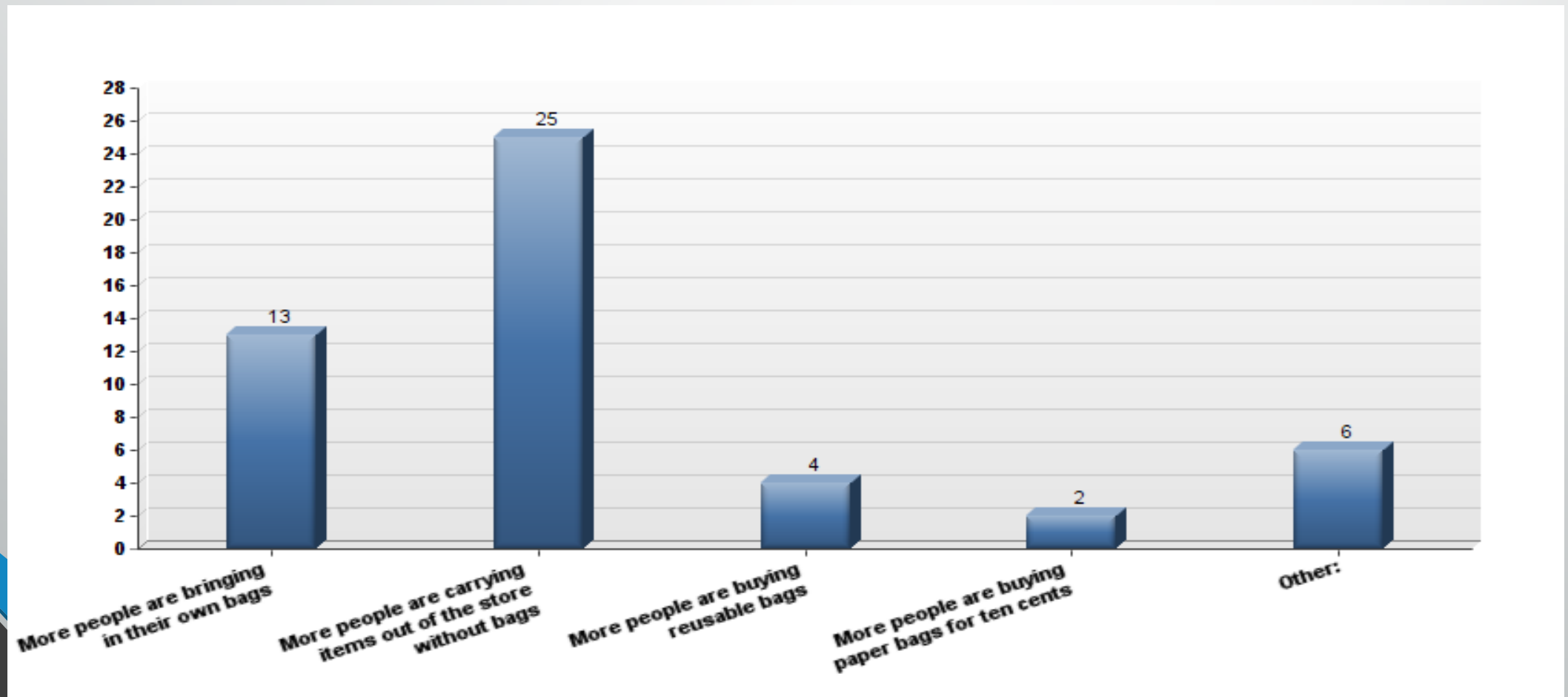
Survey Results

Q7. If you had to make an assumption, how satisfied are your customers with the current plastic bag ordinance? (1= very unsatisfied, 5= very satisfied) Mean value of 3.03





Survey Results

Q8. The goal of the program was to eliminate single use plastic bags and encourage customers to bring in their own bags. Which one of the following statements is true for the customers at your business?



Survey Results

Q9. Is your business located in the Downtown area of Ashland?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		25	73.53%
2	No		9	26.47%
	Total		34	100.00%

Survey Results

Q10. How does your business help customers remember to bring bags when they shop? (Please select the following)

Have signage at the register, Have signage in the parking lot, Have signage on the store windows, Other

Majority checked other: No Signage

Survey Results

Q11. What is your overall opinion about the plastic bag ordinance?

In Favor:

- Good idea eliminating plastic bags and being socially responsible

Opposed:

- Problematic for conducting business

Recommendations

Provide signage in the parking lot of retail businesses. Located on standees, on shopping carts or parking lot billboards so that the customer has the option to retrieve their personal reusable bags before entering the store and avoid any inconvenience that may arise by remembering their bags at the checkout counter.



Recommendations

Amend the ordinance so that the retail businesses can charge a fee for paper bags at their discretion.

Create a better reusable bag



Thank you

Reference List

- City of Corvallis. (2015). *Corvallis Enhancing Community Livability*. Retrieved from Corvallis Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bags Ordinance: <http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/index.aspx?page=854>
- City of Eugene. (2013). *City of Eugene Community Plastic Bag Survey*. Eugene: City of Eugene.
- City of Eugene. (2013). *Eugene Business Survey - 2013*. Eugene: City of Eugene.
- City of Eugene. (2014). *Eugene*. Retrieved from Plastic Bags in Eugene: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/plasticbags>
- Villarreal, P., & Feigenbaum, B. (2012, August 16). *A Survey on the Economic Effects of Los Angeles County Plastic Bag Ban*. Los Angeles: National Center for Policy Analysis.



November 30, 2015

City of Ashland
20 E Main Street
Ashland, OR 97520

Dear Friends at the City of Ashland,

Thank you very much for your contribution of \$250.00 to the Geos Institute dated November 25, 2015. People like you who believe in our work and are willing to invest in it are a core strength for the organization – and key to our ongoing conservation success.

The Geos Institute is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and your gift is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services are offered in exchange for your gift. Its full value is used to support the projects of the Geos Institute.

Thank you again for standing with us on behalf of healthy ecosystems, clean water and a planet we feel good about leaving to our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tonya Graham".

Tonya Graham
Executive Director

A handwritten note in blue ink that reads "Thank you! Thank you for sponsoring the Ashland Climate Challenge. Mami".

84 Fourth Street
Ashland, OR 97520

Ph: 541.482.4459
Fax: 541.482.7282

GEOS INSTITUTE

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