

**MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 9, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, May 9, 2011 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, commencing at 3:05 p.m. The following members were present: Co-Chair Joel Landau, Co-Chair Bob Powell, Bob Kollar, Bob Skenes, Carolyn Allen, Tom Duckwall, Tom Clary, Eric Hoekstra, Marlene Sanford, Art Davis, and Jerry McCullough. Staff present included Dan Curry, Manager of Community Sustainability; Josh Mullins, Planning and Community Development; and Steve Randall, Energy and Sustainability Program Manager.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 11, 2011 MEETING MINUTES:

Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2011 meeting as amended, seconded by Mr. Skenes. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

UPDATE ON PLASTIC BAG PETITION:

Co-Chair Landau informed the Council of a campaign to educate retailers and consumers about single-use bags. Members discussed whether or not to endorse the educational campaign that would encourage the voluntary elimination of single-use bags.

Co-Chair Powell joined the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Mr. Davis joined the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Mr. Clary moved to endorse the educational campaign, seconded by Mr. Duckwall. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mr. Curry encouraged the CSC to notify City Council of their position to support the voluntary campaign. Following a discussion, members agreed to send notice to the Mayor's office of their position to support the voluntary campaign unless they hear otherwise by June 1, 2011.

UPDATE ON SAP WORK PLAN:

Ms. Sanford suggested that a grid be created to place work items under the following categories: (1) CSC work, (2) staff work, and (3) City Council action. Members felt that the grid was a good idea to facilitate clear communication with City Council.

Ms. Allen moved to approve the work plan, seconded by Ms. Sanford. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ms. Vickers joined the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

EECBG UPDATE:

Mr. Curry reviewed a quarterly report of expenditures using information that was available at the end of April, 2011.

Mr. Curry stated that the Green Job Development, Residential Energy Program, and Revolving Loan Fund activities are all enmeshed in the BetterBuildings Efficiency Program for the City of Greensboro. Staff is working on a presentation to be given to City Council at their May 17, 2011 meeting. Responses will be given to City Council's earlier request for more information regarding financing for the program.

Mr. Curry stated that one purchase order for recycling containers for multifamily residential complexes was implemented for the Materials Recycling activity. In addition, the Brendle Group was hired to conduct the City audit for sustainability programs and policies under the Planning Regulations activity.

Mr. Mullins updated members on Education and Outreach activities and reported that the Guilford County Schools Energy Wise Grant program is winding down. He also informed members that the Piedmont Environmental Association contract has been terminated. Partnership with the Chamber of Commerce will probably not happen due to a difference in the scope of the application. Mr. Mullins reported that a Teen Career Fair was held in April, 2011 at the McGirt-Horton Library and a Green Business Luncheon will be held in a few weeks.

The Stewardship Policy activity is still in development. Mr. Randall is working with Public Affairs to conduct a program of educational challenges regarding energy and sustainability.

Mr. Curry reviewed public projects. He indicated that the activity to improve city recycling is still being assessed by Field Operations; the RFP for Building Automation will go out later in the week; and the project for a hydroelectric turbine has been dropped. The City is in process of identifying alternative projects.

Mr. Randall reported that the boiler replacement project is underway and should provide energy improvements with installation. Significant expenditures should be seen shortly under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit category.

Mr. Curry indicated that the equipment for the Greenway Solar LED Lights project has been purchased and half of the funds designated for the activity have been spent. He also stated that most of the work has been completed on the Greenhouse Gas Inventory Action Plan.

Mr. Curry summarized that less than 10% of expenditures have been spent; however, it is expected that the expenditure level will rapidly accelerate as large projects begin.

The BetterBuilding grant is still gearing up and expenditures can be seen from the purchase of supplies for the Outreach Program. The Early Adopters Program has launched and applications are being received.

Responding to a question, Mr. Curry indicated that the BetterBuilding Program is running a little behind the original time frame and 24 months remain to complete the program target. The deadline for the program is May, 2013.

ITEMS FROM CO-CHAIRS:

Co-Chair Landau thanked Mr. Curry for his work with sustainability for the City of Greensboro. Mr. Mullins, Sustainability Planner, will be the Council's liaison to the City. Mr. Curry stated that Ms. Barbara Harris, Planning and Community Development, will be taking over as program manager for the BetterBuildings program.

Co-Chair Landau welcomed Mr. Jerry McCullough to the Council. Mr. McCullough is the District 2 representative.

Co-Chair Landau informed members that Mr. Mark Smith, Guilford County Public Health Department, is working on a Healthy Community work group. Their focus will be to examine the relationship between the built-community and health. Co-Chair Powell added that this is part of the Piedmont Triad Sustainable Community Regional Planning Project.

ITEMS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Ms. Vickers suggested that the contact for Green Awards in Raleigh, North Carolina should come and speak to the CSC to provide a description of a successful awards program.

Mr. Curry reported that staff extended an invitation to the City Manager to attend the June, 2011 CSC meeting. Members discussed alternate dates to schedule the City Manager if he is unable to attend.

There was a brief discussion of the Earth Day activities. Ms. Vickers commented that the event at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Library had more interaction with children than the other events she attended. In addition, she felt that the brochures regarding energy efficiency in the home were very successful.

Ms. Allen said that the older children appeared to enjoy the interactive games at the event she attended in Winston-Salem. She felt there should be some way to engage younger children.

Members discussed ways to make the sustainability movement in Greensboro more visible to the public. Ideas included a hybrid bus or van tour of sustainable sites in Greensboro with press coverage, promoting sustainability grants, and creating a Green Awards Program.

Mr. Hoekstra reported that he attended a workshop sponsored by the North Carolina Solar Center on driving habits. The workshop addressed ways to raise mileage 15-30%. In addition, he said that Environmental Stewardship will be collecting Styrofoam #6 at Holy Trinity Church, 211 West Fisher Avenue, on Sunday, May 15, 2011.

ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Mr. Mullins reminded the Council about the Bi-Ped updates to be held May 10, 2011 at Bur Mill from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. and May 12, 2011 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Central Library.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES:

Mr. Davis moved to acknowledge the absences of Mr. Giles and Ms. Hancock, seconded by Ms. Vickers. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau
Co-Chairman

JL:sm/jd