

**Community Sustainability Council**  
**Greensboro, North Carolina**  
**April 11, 2011**  
(draft)

A regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, April 11, 2011 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, beginning at 3:08 p.m. Members present were: Co-Chairs Joel Landau and Bob Powell, Tom Duckwall, Valerie Vickers, Carolyn Allen, Tom Clary, Marlene Sanford, Derrick Giles, Bob Skenes, Bob Kollar, Art Davis, and Eric Hoekstra. Staff present included: Dan Curry, Manager of Community Sustainability and Josh Mullins.

**Approval of Minutes from March 14, 2010 Meeting:**

Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2011 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Kollar. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) and Transportation:**

Mr. Drew Spiliotis, Greensboro Department of Transportation (GDOT), gave a PowerPoint presentation on how City transportation can link with the SAP, provide opportunities for advocacy, and integrate policies under GDOT plans. He gave an overview of existing policies and programs, plan updates, and the planning process.

To give members an understanding of what GDOT already does, he reviewed policies and programs and the related SAP goals. He stated that GDOT's priority for sidewalks on major thoroughfares, an increase in funding for bus shelters, and transit technology align with the SAP goal of increasing discretionary ridership. Also in keeping with the SAP, the downtown Greenway will incorporate storm water technology management, and sidewalks and bicycle lanes will be incorporated into future project designs. In addition, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan is being updated and will align with the SAP goal to include bicyclists into the transportation planning process. Another initiative of the SAP is to identify key transporters. Mr. Spiliotis reported the Regional Transit Development Plan is being updated and aligns with this initiative.

Mr. Spiliotis reviewed the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan update and indicated there will be three Bicycle Pedestrian Plan Public Workshops held in May, 2011 to determine top priorities. In addition, MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan will be updated in 2012 following a series of public meetings.

Mr. Spiliotis discussed ongoing current planning that the CSC can become involved with. He gave an overview of the Sustainable Community Regional Planning Grant and GTA's 5-Year Transit Service Plan as it relates to the creation of cross-town routes.

**Toward Sustainable Roads:**

Dr. Ellie Fini, North Carolina A&T University, gave a presentation using research conducted on sustainable roads. She discussed sustainability in terms of social, economic, and environmental components. Dr. Fini defined sustainability and pointed out that there is a need for a sustainability rating system for transportation. She commented that maintenance on roads should be sustainable; the challenge to sustainable roads is long-term; and there is a need for a well-integrated transportation system. Dr. Fini discussed the many advantages of public transportation and pointed out that the challenge to sustainable roads is convincing people to change their lifestyle and use public transit.

### **E3 Grant Update:**

Mr. Mullins gave an update on the E3 Grant. Mr. Skenes, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Clary sat on the committee that reviewed and approved the awards. A grant in the amount of \$30,000 was awarded to the Guilford County Schools and programs are underway to train students and staff to do energy audits. The program for the second grant in the amount of \$19,000 has failed to materialize. Mr. Mullins explained that Piedmont Environmental Alliance's Director has stepped down and the company is not interested in seeing the grant through. The Chamber of Commerce is interested in taking over the grant and they are in process of submitting their vision for the program. The Committee will meet to make a determination once the information has been received from the Chamber of Commerce.

### **BetterBuildings Update:**

Mr. Curry announced that an Early Adopter Program has been launched. The Early Adopter Program is a rebate program for property owners who are interested in moving forward. He described details of the program that would provide rebates for the assessment work and the upgrade work. He stated that applications for the rebate program have been received from several multifamily projects, an office building, and a single-family home.

Staff is continuing to work on items requested by City Council to provide clarity on financing programs. Lenders have been asked to submit lending proposals and several meetings have been held. Mr. Curry anticipates that at least four lenders will be providing loan terms for secured and non-secured loans.

Mr. Curry indicated that neighborhood outreach efforts for education and advocacy will occur but have not been initiated yet. In addition, staff is soliciting for contractors for the pre-qualified contractor list

### **Develop Annual Work Plan:**

Mr. Curry reviewed the list of priorities from the last meeting that staff condensed into an action plan with items that are reachable, low-cost, and relevant for 2011, particularly in the advocacy area. Once the CSC comments on the work plan, it will be shared with the City Manager.

There was a discussion among members regarding advocacy and the role of the CSC. Mr. Skenes proposed that the City of Greensboro, along with CSC members, advocate the positions in the SAP. He pointed out that some of the items in the Plan must happen at the state and federal levels.

Ms. Sanford suggested that the Council should be more specific in their explanation of some of the initiatives in the SAP. She cited the third bullet point, Initiative 3, regarding advocating the transit system resources, in light of the recent GTA Board action. She felt the first draft of the work plan could be approved; however, more detail should be added upon a review of the initiatives.

Ms. Vickers felt that the work plan should be viewed as a document recommended by the CSC to the City without the identification of roles in the initiatives. The document reflects the CSC's priorities with details to be worked out later.

Mr. Kollar felt the document should be approved first and refined later. He suggested having working sessions with City Council representatives in an effort to move forward.

Co-Chair Powell pointed out that the document is a boiled-down version of a working action plan. Some of the priorities are immediate action items and other items will be addressed later.

Mr. Kollar felt it was important for the CSC to review the document, come back with input on changes prior to approval, and have a prioritization workshop.

Ms. Allen stated her opinion that there were several items that could be presented to the City Manager now. She cited the City Green Team as an example.

Mr. Skenes encouraged the Council to review the document in detail and make specific changes in order to be able to approve it at the next meeting and ask the City Manager to participate in a work session.

Mr. Giles suggested that it would be helpful to reference section numbers in the SAP for connectivity.

Following a discussion, members agreed that at least an hour will be spent addressing the action plan at the next meeting, members will review the document and send their comments to all members within 10 days, and Ms. Vickers, along with Ms. Sanford, will collate the comments and send them out to the Group.

Several items with budget implications were brought to the attention of Mr. Curry.

Mr. Skenes left the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Mr. Curry will request a June, 2011 meeting with the City Manager.

**Items from Co-Chairs:**

Co-Chair Landau updated members on the elimination of over-the-counter sales of plastic bags. Instead of a ban, an educational campaign is being proposed to local grocery stores to discourage the use of plastic bags.

Co-Chair Landau reported that he has spoken to the City Clerk regarding the status of appointments to the CSC. She will begin including open positions on the update that goes to City Council at each meeting. There are currently three openings on the CSC, Mr. Kollar's position, Mr. Hoekstra's position, and a District 3 position.

**Items from Council Members:**

Mr. Clary advised members of a \$461 million federal grant to improve passenger rapid rail train service. In addition, he announced that GTA now has three hybrid hydroelectric buses.

**Acknowledgement of Absences:**

Mr. Kollar moved to acknowledge the absence of Terri Hancock, seconded by Ms. Sanford. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau  
Co-Chairman

JL:sm/jd