

Community Sustainability Council
Greensboro, North Carolina
June 13, 2011
(draft)

A regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, June 13, 2011 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Members present were: Co-Chairs Joel Landau and Bob Powell, Tom Duckwall, Valerie Vickers, Tom Clary, Marlene Sanford, Eric Hoekstra, Art Davis, Bob Skenes, Derrick Giles, and Terri Hancock. Staff present included: Josh Mullins, Planning and Community Development; and Steve Randall, Energy and Sustainability Program Manager.

Approval of Minutes from May 9, 2011 Meeting:

Mr. Davis moved to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2011 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Clary. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ms. Vickers and Ms. Sanford joined the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Mr. Giles joined the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

Ms. Hancock joined the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

PART Sustainable Communities:

Mr. Mark Kirstner, PART, gave an overview of the Sustainable Communities Program. He reviewed background information and details of the program in addition to ways that members can become involved as a group or individually.

The Sustainable Communities Program is the result of a competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He stressed that although the program covers 12 counties, emphasis is placed on the program operating as one region. He pointed out that highway, transit, and economic linkage will be improved in the multiple centers located in the region. The program strives to rebuild economies and provide affordable housing and livable communities for a sustainable future in the areas.

Mr. Kirstner stated that PART is one of the major partners in the project. The project hopes to develop a regional vision and goals within the first year. The kick-off event for the Sustainable Communities Program was May 3, 2011. He discussed details of the program that included the planning process, public engagement process, timeline, and tangible outcomes.

Mr. Kirstner pointed out ways to become involved with the project. He recommended joining a work group, accessing the website, www.triadsustainability.org, for information and e-mail list sign-up, and participation in one of the many public engagement events.

Members discussed the CSC's involvement and how the SAP fits into the program's regional plan. It was suggested that a CSC member serve as liaison to the Sustainable Community Program effort.

Ms. Vickers moved to have Mr. Davis serve as the CSC's liaison to the Sustainable Community Program effort, seconded by Mr. Skenes. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ms. Vickers volunteered to serve as back-up liason in the event Mr. Davis is not available.

BetterBuildings Update:

Mr. Mullins reported that the BetterBuildings Program recently went back to City Council and the program was unanimously accepted. There are currently around 30 Early Adopter applications being processed, contracts will be wrapped up by the end of August, and the neighborhood launch is expected to begin in September.

Mr. Mullins stated that the most substantial change from the earlier version of the program was the reduced building count from 3,000 down to 2,100. Half of these do not qualify for the State Weatherization Program but are in need of duct sealing, air sealing, or insulation in the price range of about \$2,000. These individuals will receive direct grants. In addition, he said that \$645,000 will be put into a Loan Loss Reserve Fund that will generate around \$4 million of investment from local lenders including Self Help, Greensboro Municipal, and Carolina Bank.

Public meetings for the BetterBuildings Program will be held June 27th and 28th, 2011.

Fun Fourth Festival:

Mr. Mullins stated that the CSC has been signed up for the Fun Fourth Festival. It was recommended that CFL's be distributed again this year along with Home Checklists and BetterBuilding Program handouts. Mr. Skenes suggested that a sign-up sheet be made available at the festival for individuals who would like free smoke detectors installed by the Fire Department.

An e-mail will be sent to members with information about the event and an opportunity to volunteer.

Review Annual Work Plan:

Co-Chair Powell asked members for feedback regarding any adjustments that need to be made to the work plan.

There was a discussion among members regarding the need for approval by City Council for the Cash Flow Sustainability Account and Green Star Awards.

It was pointed out that money was already available through the BetterBuildings Program and Water Resources for Initiative 6, funding for purchase of water saving devices, under Green Jobs and Buildings.

Ms. Vickers described a scenario to use education grant money to hire an intern to create a resource website. Members discussed regulations limiting the scope of an intern. Chair Landau pointed out that different rules would apply to student interns receiving credit for their work. Council members were supportive of the idea and there was a discussion regarding the best way to proceed.

Co-Chair Powell stated that members should be prepared to walk through the work plan at the next meeting and be more definitive on the CSC items that can be accomplished. He suggested that staff do the same thing.

Mr. Giles left the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

Items from Co-Chairs:

Responding to a question from Co-Chair Landau, Mr. Mullins stated that the Green Awards contact person in Raleigh, North Carolina indicated that she would be willing to attend a CSC meeting.

Mr. Mullins stated that he has not heard back from the City Manager's office regarding a request to attend a CSC meeting.

Council members discussed the status of the July, 2011 meeting and the number of members able to attend.

Mr. Skenes moved to cancel the July, 2011 CSC meeting, seconded by Ms. Sanford. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

It was decided to invite the Green Awards contact person to the August, 2011 meeting and to ask the City Manager to attend the September, 2011 meeting.

Co-Chair Landau announced that the Bring Your Own Bag campaign will hold a meeting on Thursday, June 16, 2011 at Panera Bread on West Market Street.

Items from Council Members:

Ms. Hancock gave an update on ICE recycling efforts.

Mr. Skenes left the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Mr. Hoekstra informed the Group that Styrofoam products can be dropped off at Holy Trinity Church for recycling on July 17, 2011. Ms. Vickers stated that permanent drop-off sites are also available at Temple Emanuel and First Friends Meeting.

Items from the Public:

Janisa Fowler, an intern at the Beloved Community Center, inquired about community outreach for the energy grant. Mr. Mullins explained that outreach is still underway for low to moderate income neighborhoods and is not restricted to east Greensboro. Mr. Mullins indicated that he would send a notification out to Ms. Fowler informing her of the July 27th and 28th public hearing. A Request for Proposals will be generated out of the public hearing.

Items from Staff:

None.

Acknowledgement of Absences:

Ms. Hancock moved to acknowledge the absences of Ms. Allen, Mr. McCullough, and Mr. Kollar, seconded by Mr. Duckwall. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau, Co-Chairman
Community Sustainability Council

JL:sm/jd