

Community Sustainability Council
Greensboro, North Carolina
August 8, 2011
(draft)

A regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, August 8, 2011 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, beginning at 3:04 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, Carolyn Allen and Jerry McClough. Staff present included: Josh Mullins, Planning and Community Development.

Approval of Minutes from June 13, 2011 Meeting:

Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2011 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Skenes. The Council voted unanimously 7-0 in favor of the motion.

Mr. McClough and Mr. Clary joined the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

Mr. Davis joined the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Sustainability Audit:

Karen Markovics, Planning and Community Development, presented an overview of the Sustainability Audit and priorities for the Comprehensive Plan update. A consulting team has been contracted to work with the Department of Planning and Community Development to carry out the initiative to integrate policies to promote sustainability. The objectives of the project are to evaluate current policies, adopt plans and practices that focus on sustainability themes, identify consistencies and opportunities in plans, and recommend action steps for the Comprehensive Plan update.

There are two phases of the project. Phase I was the audit where 25 plans were reviewed. A report was prepared highlighting inconsistencies, opportunities, and gaps within the plans relative to sustainability.

Phase II, the alignment phase, is currently underway. A plan evaluation tool was developed to begin implementing policies and practices within different departments. The evaluation tool shows alignments and linkages between different polices and plans and recommends steps to integrate sustainability when the plans are updated.

Ms. Markovics reviewed the next steps including staff review, review by Boards and Commissions, and review by the City Manager leading up to final recommendation to staff on October 1, 2011.

Ms. Vickers joined the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

CSC Staffing/Status:

Co-Chair Landau announced that Mr. Mullins will be leaving his position with the City at the end of the week. The CSC thanked Mr. Mullins for his work.

Members discussed the status of Boards and Commissions.

BetterBuildings and EECBG Update:

Mr. Mullins reported that approximately 300 applications have been received for the BetterBuildings program. He explained that there are several elements within the program. The grant element

provides for basic weatherization work and low-interest financing that can be obtained at rates of 3 to 4 percent. The non-grant element offers regular financing at 6 to 7 percent rates and the possibility to receive a \$150 rebate on energy assessment costs. Staff is also working on sponsorship opportunities to add incentive. In addition, a Request for Proposals has been issued for a Community Outreach Provider who would train volunteers to identify neighborhoods and drive demand for the product. Contractor training, for contractors who already have BPI certification, is scheduled for the end of August. The retrofitting of homes should begin in September, 2011.

Mr. Mullins stated that some of the funding identified for recycling is going to be moved to an activity for the Parks and Recreation Department. The activity will involve the installation of a remote lighting system for City ball parks.

Mr. Mullins informed members that 12 proposals were recently received for the Energy Efficiency, Education, and Demonstration Grants. Mr. Skenes, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Duckwall agreed to continue serving on the committee to review the proposals.

Review Annual Work Plan:

The Council reviewed each item under the work plan to determine high and low priorities. Comments and determination of highest priorities under each category are as follows:

Transportation and Land Use

- Initiative #1 Change "implement" to "monitor implementation of".
- Initiative #2 Lower priority item, being implemented now.
- Initiative #3 This strategy is underway.
- Initiative #4 When the Boards and Commissions Review occurs, indicate that this item was included in the SAP and request follow-through; send a letter advocating the Long-Range Transportation Plan update and if there is a Citizen's Committee, ask for a seat.
- Initiative #5*** Priority item; send a letter from the CSC to the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee advocating this item. The CSC plans to ask for a seat on the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

Green Jobs and Buildings

- Initiative #1 This strategy is underway.
- Initiative #2 Second tier priority; consider adding as a bullet point to generate awareness.
- Initiative #3 This strategy has been done.
- Initiative #4*** Priority item; awareness of this strategy should be maintained.
- Initiative #5 Members identified this item as a potential priority.
- Initiative #6*** Priority item (water bill); add the CSC in an advocacy role.

Waste Reduction and Recycling

- Initiative #1*** Priority item; a review of the City's recycling program should be added to this initiative; should be advocated by the CSC.
- Initiative #2 This strategy is underway.

City Operations

- Initiative #1*** Top priority item; staff and CSC should work together to develop the policy.
- Initiative #2 This strategy is underway; staff should research and CSC should advise.
- Initiative #3 Second tier priority.
- Initiative #4 Second tier priority.

Nature in the City

- Initiative #1*** High priority; strategy is high profile and being done on limited basis but merits making it more visible.

Initiative #2 There is awareness of this item; goes with Initiative #1.

• **Education and Outreach**

Initiative #1 This strategy is being done.

Initiative #2 This strategy is on hold.

Initiative #3 This strategy is being done.

Initiative #4 This strategy is complete.

Initiative #5 Creation of database added as new initiative. Ms. Vickers volunteered to follow through with the possibility of creating sustainability network, or database, on one website along with an intern position with educational institutions.

Co-Chair Powell volunteered to write the letter asking for a seat on the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. The letter will be sent to City Council with copies to the City Manager and Sue Schwartz.

Mr. Hoekstra left the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Items from Co-Chairs:

Co-Chair Landau informed members that Ms. Sanford was recently quoted in the Business Journal. In the article, she expressed her support of the Land Ordinance going into effect.

Co-Chair Landau commented on an article referencing a green building project being constructed at Moses Cone Hospital. Builders are seeking LEED Certification at the silver level for the six-story tower at Moses Cone.

The next meeting of the CSC will be held on September 12, 2011.

Items from Council Members:

None.

Items from the Public:

None.

Items from Staff:

None.

Acknowledgement of Absences:

Ms. Sanford moved to acknowledge the absences of Mr. Giles, Mr. Kollar, and Ms. Hancock, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously 10-0 in favor of the motion.

Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau, Co-Chairman
Community Sustainability Council

JL:sm/jd