

**MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, November 21, 2011 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, commencing at 3:00 p.m. The following members were present: Co-Chair Joel Landau, Bob Kollar, Carolyn Allen, Tom Duckwall, Tom Clary, Eric Hoekstra, Art Davis, and Valerie Vickers. Staff present included Jamal Fox, Sheldon Smith, Nancy Jergensen, Caitlin Warren, and Steve Randall.

Co-Chair Landau announced that Mr. Skenes has resigned from the Community Sustainability Council. He expressed appreciation for Mr. Skenes' service to the Council.

BETTERBUILDINGS GREENSBORO UPDATE:

Caitlin Warren informed the Council that 737 unsolicited applications have been received to-date and 19 homes have been completed under the Early Adopter Program. Community outreach efforts have produced 43 energy assessments from the 737 applications. Staff is in process of hiring five Home Energy Response Officers (HEROS) in an effort to reach out to all of the 737 applicants. The program is moving toward its goal of 2,100 retrofits by May, 2013. Ms. Warren indicated the goal for every home served by the program is an energy savings of 15 percent.

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

GREENSBORO'S BOTTLE UP RECYCLING PROGRAM:

Mr. Smith gave an update on ARRA funded projects. Approximately 390 additional multifamily locations will be eligible for recycling carts. In addition, 86 plastic combo units will be used in municipal parking decks and at the Coliseum.

The Bottle Up project focuses on plastic bottles and containers. A competition is being planned for Earth Day, 2012 at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Library. A minimum of 24 pounds of recyclables would be required for participation and the participant would have to transport the recyclables to the competition location. Three cash prizes will be awarded to the participants who bring the most weight. A recycling truck would be on site to weigh the material. City Council members will be invited to announce the winners and award the cash prizes.

Mr. Smith asked the CSC to participate in the Earth Day event with a display or information table promoting support for the City's recycling program. He will provide more information on the event at a later date.

Mr. Smith informed members of a 2011 grant award in the amount of \$6,300 for an incentive program. He referred to a map and described the areas of participation, the range of participation, and the performance data for the eight routes in the pilot program. The program is expected to begin in February, 2012.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Members discussed the recommended changes to Boards and Commissions. There was also a discussion regarding City Council support for the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP). It was suggested that members talk to their City Council representative about the SAP. Co-Chair Landau indicated his plans to talk to Councilwoman-elect Yvonne Johnson about making an official motion to adopt the SAP.

It was suggested that a review of district representation on the CSC be conducted.

Members agreed that key talking points when approaching people about the SAP include:

- Cash Flow Sustainability Account to help fund future initiatives.
- Even if every initiative is undertaken in the SAP, emissions will still not be stabilized. This serves as the first step in hard economic times to get on the correct path.
- Savings to the City are projected to be in the range of \$20 million net.
- Every aspect of energy conservation and environmental concern is covered in the SAP. Many community groups and key staff people reviewed and participated in the Plan.
- A clearing house function was promised as feedback to many community groups.
- Any initiative requiring expenditures must come back to City Council for approval.

During conversation about possible changes to Boards and Commissions, concern was voiced regarding the after-the-fact procedure used in asking for input after a recommendation had already been made to eliminate the CSC. Some members felt that a representative from the City should come to a CSC meeting to discuss the recommended changes and also to become aware of the scope of work being done by the Group.

Ms. Vickers left the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Following a lengthy discussion, members agreed it would be best to schedule a meeting with the interim City Manager before the December 13, 2011 City Council meeting to discuss the recommended changes to Boards and Commissions.

Mr. Duckwall moved request a meeting with the interim City Manager to state a case for the CSC's existence and also to suggest there are better ways to solicit information in the future, seconded by Mr. Clary. The Council voted unanimously 7-0 in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 10, 2011 MEETING:

Mr. Kollar moved to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2011 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously 7-0 in favor of the motion.

EECGB UPDATE:

Mr. Fox distributed and reviewed a chart of EECGB expenditure projections. He reported that all projects are moving ahead and approximately \$1.5 million remains to be spent from the \$2.5 million allocated.

ITEMS FROM CO-CHAIRS:

Co-Chair Landau thanked members for their work with the SAP.

ITEMS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Fox reported that staff is submitting a grant application toward the Global Green Grant initiative. Dyan Arkin, Planning and Community Development, is working on a proposal for the College Grove initiative for Phase III of Willow Oaks.

At the last meeting, staff was asked to determine if the CSC could join the Piedmont Triad Sustainability Initiative. Mr. Fox was informed that the CSC cannot join as a Board; however, members can join the initiative individually.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES:

Mr. Clary moved to acknowledge the absences of Co-Chair Powell, Mr. Giles, Ms. Sanford, Ms. Hancock, and Mr. McClough, seconded by Ms. Allen. The Council voted unanimously 7-0 in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau
Co-Chairman

JL:sm/jd