

**Community Sustainability Council  
Greensboro, North Carolina  
January 10, 2011  
(draft)**

A regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, January 10, 2011 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, beginning at 3:12 p.m. Members present were: Co-Chairs Joel Landau and Bob Powell, Tom Duckwall, Valerie Vickers, Carolyn Allen, Tom Clary, Marlene Sanford, and Terri Hancock. Staff present included: Dan Curry, Manager of Community Sustainability and Josh Mullins, HCD Intern. Also present was Peter Kauber, who has been recommended to fill the vacant District 5 seat.

Chair Landau introduced Jerry McCullough who is interested in being on the Council as a District 2 representative.

**Approval of Minutes from December 13, 2010 Meeting:**

Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2010 meeting as written, seconded by Ms. Vickers. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Update from City Council Meeting Regarding SAP:**

Mr. Curry thanked members for their work on the SAP and their support during the recent presentation to City Council. He reported that City Council voted to accept the SAP. Members felt that it was important to take actions to insure the SAP continues to gain attention. Ms. Allen reminded members that as projects come forward for funding, the SAP will come back to City Council's attention.

Ms. Vickers expressed her interest in creating a dialogue with City Council and moving forward with the Awards of Appreciation and Recognition. Members discussed sending a letter of thanks to City Council for accepting the SAP along with requests to schedule a briefing session and move forward with awards.

**Energy Efficiency Education Grant Award Update:**

Mr. Mullins reported that a total of seven applications were received. The Committee met and decided on two applications, Guilford County Schools and Piedmont Environmental Alliance.

The grant request for the Guilford County Schools project was \$30,000. Their proposal was to monitor energy at 25 school sites, develop energy programs, and monitor progress. The second project, Piedmont Environmental Alliance in Winston Salem, NC, proposed a series of workshops directed at small businesses in Greensboro to develop plans to reduce energy costs. Piedmont Environmental Alliance will partner with the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce to develop energy reducing criteria and return to staff for further review. Their grant request for the project was \$19,000.

Mr. Mullins stated that both awards are on hold awaiting direction from the City Manager regarding the need for City Council approval before a contract can be developed.

**The Living Machine Presentation:**

Mr. Scott Nelles gave an overview of his background, the corporate structures of The Living Machine, and the impending water crisis caused by the rapid emptying-out of finite water sources. He pointed out advantages of waste water processing to supply a reliable and consistent source of non-potable water along with obstacles to the reuse of waste water.

Mr. Nelles explained the technology and described the Living Machine as a low energy, small footprint, and high aesthetic waste water treatment. He discussed the operating costs in locations across the country where the ecological on-site waste water technology is being used. The Living Machine is being used locally at Northern Guilford High School.

**Develop Annual Work Plan:**

Mr. Curry suggested four areas to begin developing a work plan for the upcoming year. The areas were as follows: (1) SAP activities, (2) sustainability metrics, (3) special events, and (4) recognition.

Mr. Curry asked members for feedback on the best way to track the 119 tasks listed under the 41 strategies in the SAP. Co-Chair Landau suggested focusing on areas that are less costly with a quick payback such as City Operations and Waste Reduction and Recycling.

Ms. Vickers felt that weighing the high impact and low cost of tasks in a grid format would be an effective filter to determine priorities.

Members felt that it would be advantageous to view an entire Section of the SAP in terms of no cost/low cost projects and City/private sector projects.

Mr. Jerry McCullough, District 2, agreed with mixing no cost projects with low cost items that would have a major impact in the City as well as in residential areas.

Co-Chair Powell noted that Mr. McCullough's comment tied in with the cash flow concept. He also felt it was important to prioritize items that were catalytic.

Mr. Duckwall felt that education was the key and encouraged partnerships with groups in the community.

Mr. Clary suggested that emphasis be put on cost versus return on investment.

Ms. Hancock pointed out the importance of noting the interdependency of SAP activities and the Energy Conservation Block Grant.

Co-Chair Powell stated that another filter would be to put a low priority on projects that were not shovel ready.

Council members asked Mr. Curry to prepare a formatted table for the February meeting for the purpose of reviewing and prioritizing the 114 SAP tasks using the recommended filters.

Mr. Curry suggested that members determine several key targets in order to create a benchmark for the Plan. He felt it was important to include some components of City Operations in the benchmark. Suggestions for criteria to be tracked included energy, water, and solid waste.

The Group discussed participation in events including Green Fair, Fun Fourth, and Earth Day.

Mr. Clary, Mr. Duckwall, Co-Chair Powell, Ms. Vickers, Ms. Hancock, and Ms. Allen volunteered to work at the Earth Day event. Mr. Duckwall will request a space at the Kathleen Clay Edwards library for an interactive display.

Ms. Hancock stated that she will make arrangements for a table at VF Corporation's Earth Day event. She will notify members of the date.

Mr. Duckwall volunteered to follow-up with Piedmont Environmental Alliance for information on their event.

**Items from Council Members:**

Mr. Duckwall shared a model constructed by several individuals that he described as a riverboat in reverse. He demonstrated how water action can generate electricity.

**Items from Co-Chairs:**

Co-Chair Powell reported that he recently attended the Future City Competition at the Triad Science and Math Charter School. He has asked the students to share their display at the next CSC meeting.

**Items from the Public:**

Mr. Peter Kauber, District 5, asked about the status of City Council appointments to the CSC. Co-Chair Landau stated that he was waiting for action from City Council.

Mr. Curry suggested that the Co-Chairs draft a letter to City Council with the CSC's recommendation to restructure the appointment process, voted on at an earlier meeting. The letter could also include a reminder that there are vacancies that require City Council action.

**Items from Staff:**

Mr. Curry stated that an update on the Block Grant funds will be presented at the next meeting.

Mr. Curry reported that the Mitchell Treatment Plant hydroelectric turbine project is in difficulty. The engineers have determined that it is much more expensive and is generating less energy than expected. He stated that staff may have to return to the CSC with funding reallocations.

**Items from Public:**

Mr. Jerry McCullough, District 2, thanked members for their work and added that he was looking forward to being on the Council.

**Acknowledgement of Absences:**

Ms. Sanford moved to acknowledge the absences of Mr. Davis, Mr. Skenes, Mr. Giles, Ms. Leiner, Mr. Hoekstra, and Mr. Kollar, seconded by Ms. Allen. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Adjournment:**

Ms. Sanford moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Vickers. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau  
Co-Chairman

JL:sm/jd