

Community Sustainability Council
Greensboro, North Carolina
November 8, 2010
(draft)

A regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, November 8, 2010 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, beginning at 2:43 p.m. Members present were: Co-Chair Joel Landau, Co-Chair Bob Powell, Bob Skenes, Marlene Sanford, Tom Duckwall, Derrick Giles, Bob Kollar, Eric Hoekstra, and Valerie Vickers. Staff present included: Dan Curry, Manager of Community Sustainability; Josh Mullins, HCD Intern; Steve Randall, Engineering and Inspections; and Jeryl Covington, Director of Environmental Services. Also present was Peter Kauber who has been recommended to fill the vacant District 5 seat.

Approval of Minutes from October 11, 2010 Meeting:

Mr. Duckwall moved to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2010 meeting as amended, seconded by Mr. Hoekstra. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) – Final Review and Schedule for City Council Action:

Co-Chair Powell joined the meeting at 2:47 p.m.

Mr. Curry stated that the Report has been formatted and all of the changes referenced at the last meeting have been made. Members pointed out additional edits as follows:

- Make change in Introduction as discussed.
- Include a reference to Strategy 4 (e) under Green Jobs and Building in the Education section.
- Delete the word “recommended” in 3 (b).
- Add the strategy suggestion of showing previous water usage on the water bill to 6 (b).
- Add missing word “use” in Policy 9.

Mr. Kollar moved to accept revisions to the draft as presented along with the entire document, seconded by Ms. Vickers. The Council voted unanimously 9-0 in favor of the motion.

Presentation of the Sustainability Action Plan is scheduled for the December 7, 2010 City Council meeting.

DOE BetterBuildings Grant Update:

Mr. Curry stated that this five million dollar tentative grant from the Department of Energy is to do retrofit of existing buildings in the City. Several reports have been given to City Council and more information has been requested on various aspects of the program. Staff was asked to talk to community partners and lenders to determine levels of interest. A PowerPoint presentation will be given at the November 9, 2010 City Council meeting.

Community partners interested in working with the City include Habitat for Humanity, Housing Greensboro, Guilford County Schools, and Affordable Housing Management. Organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and AT&T’s Pioneer Group have expressed interest in participating with outreach efforts. In addition, Self-Help Credit Union and Greensboro Municipal Credit Union are interested in working with the City to develop a loan program to provide low-cost financing.

Responding to questions, Mr. Curry discussed lending programs for homeowners and ways to approach leveraging other than loans. He commented that taking out a loan is not the only option as there are other resources available for assistance.

Regional Sustainability Grant Update:

Co-Chair Powell stated that the purpose of the grant is to do a planning process focusing on sustainability across 12 counties in the state looking at economic and environmental impacts. The intent is to have a planning effort in each of the 12 counties. The outreach portion of the process will be conducted by a group of three universities; A&T, Winston-Salem State, and UNC-Greensboro. The 1.6 million dollar grant has been awarded and the project will begin in January of 2011. A series of community planning meetings will be held across the region throughout 2011 and 2012.

Mr. Curry pointed out that this grant is one of the first tangible results of the intergovernmental partnership between Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Discussion of Priority Actions for 2011:

Co-Chair Powell asked members for their feedback regarding the next steps for the CSC.

Council members made the following suggestions:

- Implementation of the CSC Action Plan
- Education and Outreach
- Monitor implementation of strategy adopted by City Council
- Continue Green Technology Subcommittee
- Coordinate environmental leadership groups
 - Places to meet/talk
 - Networking
- Set up Cash Flow Sustainability Account

Items from Co-Chairs:

Co-Chair Landau stated that he made a presentation to the Environmental Stewardship Committee of Holy Trinity Church on October 31, 2010 regarding the work of the CSC and the Sustainability Action Plan.

Co-Chair Powell reported on the Design Technology Symposium held last month in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The topic was on community gardens and sustainable agriculture. Members of the Council discussed markets in the area supplying locally grown produce.

Items from Council Members:

Mr. Skenes recommended that members watch the CNBC presentation of "The Secret Life of Garbage", a two-hour documentary.

Ms. Sanford suggested moving the meeting time of the CSC from 2:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Kollar moved to meet at 3:00 p.m., seconded by Ms. Sanford. The Council voted in favor of the motion 7-2. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Sanford, Duckwall, Giles, Kollar, Skenes. Nays: Hoekstra, Vickers.)

Mr. Hoekstra stated that he and Mr. Kollar attended the Critical Issues Forum sponsored by the North Carolina Council of Churches on October 14, 2010.

Mr. Hoekstra also attended a Sustainability Conference at Kanuga Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina on October 19, 2010. He toured the 147 solar water collectors estimated to create a savings of 35,000 gallons of propane gas per year.

Mr. Hoekstra recently attended the Managers Meeting of the Community Garden Council. He informed the Group that 3,000 lbs. of produce was raised over the summer that was donated to people in need.

Mr. Hoekstra and Ms. Vickers stated that a concert featuring Joyce Rouse, environmental songstress, will be held Saturday, November 13, 2010 at the Universalist Church of Greensboro. Money raised at the event will go toward youth grants.

Mr. Giles updated members on the December 1, 2010 presentation by Mr. Bob Dixson, Mayor of Greensburg, Kansas. He suggested coordinating efforts with other organizations and he asked the Council for their feedback regarding ways to raise the \$1,000 honorarium fee. Council members reiterated their endorsement of the event.

Mr. Curry stated that the Green Building Council has offered to coordinate efforts and share the cost of the event.

Mr. Brian Higgins, Sustainable Greensboro, informed the Group that they were interested in participating. Mr. Giles and Mr. Duckwall will contact Mr. Higgins to coordinate plans for the event.

Items from the Public:

Mr. Brian Higgins, Sustainable Greensboro, stated that he would like to return to the CSC to provide an update on his organization's activities.

Mr. Randy Richards is the Chairman of Sustainable Greensboro's Sustainable Business Committee. He informed members that the committee is working on a Green Guide to highlight products and services for groups wishing to design and implement sustainable practices.

Acknowledgement of Absences:

Ms. Sanford moved to acknowledge the absences of Ms. Allen, Mr. Clary, Mr. Davis, Ms. Hancock, and Ms. Leiner, seconded by Ms. Vickers. The Council voted unanimously 9-0 in favor of the motion.

Adjournment:

Ms. Sanford moved to adjourn the meeting of the Community Sustainability Council, seconded by Mr. Hoekstra. The Council voted unanimously 9-0 in favor of the motion.

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau
Co-Chairman

JL:sm/jd