

Community Sustainability Council
Greensboro, North Carolina
December 13, 2010
(draft)

A regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, December 13, 2010 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, beginning at 3:12 p.m. Members present were: Co-Chair Joel Landau, Bob Skenes, Tom Duckwall, Bob Kollar, Valerie Vickers, Carolyn Allen, and Tom Clary. Staff present included: Dan Curry, Manager of Community Sustainability; Josh Mullins, HCD Intern; and Steve Randall, Engineering and Inspections. Also present was Peter Kauber who has been recommended to fill the vacant District 5 seat.

Approval of Minutes from November 8, 2010 Meeting:

Mr. Davis moved to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2010 meeting as written, seconded by Ms. Vickers. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Sustainability Action Plan (SAP):

Mr. Curry stated that the SAP is scheduled to be presented to City Council on January 4, 2011. He plans to meet with Co-Chairs Landau and Powell to work on details of the presentation and suggested that CSC members be integrated into the presentation.

Council members discussed perceptions of the SAP that they have encountered in the community. Ms. Vickers felt it would be helpful to have a set of talking points at the presentation relating to how the SAP compares with efforts being made by other cities. Mr. Curry commented that the SAP is conservative and realistic compared to other communities by seeking to stabilize, not reduce greenhouse gas emission. In addition, he pointed out that the SAP does not have a budget allocation attached. Any future recommended activity requiring City funding would have to go to City Council for approval.

DOE BetterBuildings Grant Update:

Mr. Curry presented a timeline of activities relating to the DOE BetterBuildings Grant.

In January, 2011, staff has plans to finalize the marketing contract for the grant. Other activities will include working with lenders and workforce development. Advertised quarterly Community Advisory Group meetings will begin in January to provide updates on aspects of the building program.

Mr. Curry commented that program descriptions will be finalized by February, 2011 along with contractor qualifications, training curriculum for workforce development, and information technology solutions. At this time staff will be able to look at branding and marketing information, review lending proposals, and assemble outreach packages.

During the period of late February into March, 2011, staff will finalize financial agreements and an Outreach Plan to allow for the soft launch of the program. Training and recruitment will begin during this period for the 280 jobs that are expected to be created through the life of the program.

Mr. Curry said that the program will initially run for four to six months. Any necessary adjustments in the program will be made at that point followed by the measurement and verification process.

In response to a question from Ms. Allen, Mr. Curry clarified that the deadline to spend the grant funds is May of 2013.

Education Subcommittee/Green Star Awards:

Mr. Mullins reported that Sustainable Greensboro and the Chamber of Commerce have partnered to work on a participatory awards model similar to the Climate Wise Award program. In light of this, Mr. Mullins and Ms. Vickers have concluded that instead of hosting an awards event, Certificates of Recognition and Appreciation should be given on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis. A nomination form is being developed on the website for use by the public.

Ms. Vickers felt that the initial Certificates of Recognition and Appreciation should be given out on a quarterly basis. She discussed highlighting projects that are done during school months, neighborhood events, developing criteria for looking at diversity, and including all neighborhoods and districts in the City when giving awards.

Ms. Vickers and Mr. Mullins commented on the need to develop specific criteria for the awards. Mr. Mullins stated that criteria should include the measurable impact of the activity along with how it relates to the SAP.

Update from Sustainable Greensboro:

Mr. Brian Higgins, Sustainable Greensboro, gave an overview of Sustainable Greensboro activities. He reviewed their mission and vision and pointed out that Sustainable Greensboro strives to connect efforts in the City to raise the profile of sustainability. He discussed the three core program areas of civic ecology, outreach and education, and sustainable business.

Mr. Higgins focused on the Sustainable Business Committee and the needs of the business community in terms of addressing issues of sustainability. He stated that a business community survey was conducted and results indicated the following topics of interest: (1) how to recycle, (2) energy efficiency, and (3) how to fund energy efficiency. Three successful workshops were held in response to the topics.

To aid the business community in implementing sustainable practices, Sustainable Greensboro has developed the Energy Challenge. The core programs of the Energy Challenge include energy efficiency, measuring the company's ability to reduce energy usage, waste reduction, and internalizing company behavior.

Mr. Higgins mentioned the possibility of creating a Sustainability Summit in 2011 to build on work done at Holy Trinity Church and in the SAP. Mr. Kollar acknowledged the value of the concept along with the need to network and join efforts to be effective.

Items from Co-Chairs:

Co-Chair Landau recently gave an update on the SAP to First Presbyterian's Green Team. The Group expressed their support of the SAP.

Items from Council Members:

Mr. Duckwall reviewed an article on the Palo Doro Canyon and the construction of windmills as a power source for nearby Amarillo, Texas. He concluded that alternate routing was arranged to avoid constructing the windmills in the canyon.

Items from the Public:

None.

Items from Staff:

The next meeting of the CSC will be held at 3:00 p.m. on January 10, 2011. Mr. Curry indicated that he would like to discuss SAP metrics at the January meeting.

Mr. Curry informed members that the RFP for Energy Efficiency Education and Demonstration Projects is due Friday, December 17, 2011. The project is part of the education component from the first energy grant. He asked if there were any CSC members interested to sit with staff and review the proposals. Mr. Skenes, Mr. Clary, and Mr. Davis volunteered to review proposals.

Acknowledgement of Absences:

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

Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau
Co-Chairman

JL:sm/jd