

**Community Sustainability Council  
Greensboro, North Carolina  
July 12, 2010**

A regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, July 12, 2010 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, beginning at 2:40 p.m. Members present were: Co-Chairs Joel Landau and Bob Powell, Art Davis, Tom Duckwall, Tom Clary, Bob Skenes, Valerie Vickers, and Marlene Sanford. Staff present were: Dan Curry, Sue Schwartz, and Russ Clegg, HCD; Steve Randall, Engineering and Inspections; and Jeryl Covington, Director of Environmental Services. Also present was Josh Mullins, HCD intern.

**Approval of Minutes from the June 14, 2010 Meeting:**

Mr. Skenes moved to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2010 meeting, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mr. Clary joined the meeting at 2:43 p.m.

**Items from Staff:**

Mr. Curry stated that he is now working in the City Manager's Office and his new position is Manager of Community Sustainability. He will be the primary staff liaison providing support for the CSC. In addition, he will be the primary staff tracking the progress of the SAP and helping the CSC report to City Council as needed on the status of activities in the Plan. He will also serve as the manager for the Retrofit Ramp-Up Project.

Ms. Schwartz is the Acting Director of Housing and Community Development (HCD). She introduced Josh Mullins, summer intern for HCD. Mr. Mullins provided graphics for the CSC booth at the Fun Fourth Festival. Mr. Curry updated members on the success of the event. He stated that 809 CFL light bulbs were handed out to the public as part of the educational effort.

**Report on the Struggles of the local Biofuels Industry:**

John Hepburn, one of the founders of Patriot Biodiesel, gave a brief overview of the biofuels industry. He pointed out that they manufactured over 100,000 gallons of biofuel last year but this year instead of growing, they are struggling to survive. Mr. Hepburn stated that Patriot Biodiesel uses garbage in the form of waste vegetable oil to generate fuel that runs successfully. For the most part, the waste vegetable oil is obtained from local restaurants.

In response to a question from Mr. Skenes, Mr. Hepburn provided details on Patriot Biodiesel's production process and price points. He expressed his frustration that the government has not reinstated the \$1 per gallon tax credit. He also commented that the City of Greensboro has not put bids in to purchase biodiesel fuel. He asked the CSC for any help they could give.

Ms. Covington and Mr. Clegg addressed the City's use of biodiesel fuel. Mr. Clegg stated that biodiesel fuel had been used in the past; however, the product gummed up and caused problems in the vehicles. Mr. Hepburn clarified that the problem was a result of old filters and when cleaned, the product ran without difficulty. Ms. Covington commented that the City's decision not to purchase the fuel is based on budgetary limitations, as biodiesel fuel is a little more expensive.

Members discussed the importance of supporting this green technology. Mr. Curry will do research on the matter and return to the Council with an action plan.

**Update on EPA's Possible Tightening of Air Quality Standards:**

Ms. Covington stated that the landfill gas contract is an economic incentive that is not done out of her department, Economic Services. She responded to questions from members and gave background information on the renewable energy fuel source and the phase systems put into place by the City. Responding to interest from members, Ms. Covington will arrange a tour of the landfill transfer station.

Ms. Covington informed the Council that Greensboro currently meets the existing air quality standards. They have asked the EPA to renew the City's attainment to take advantage of the economic boost it provides. She anticipated that the new air quality standards would be lower and it was likely the City would not be in compliance with the new levels.

**Review Final SAP Revisions From Public Feedback:**

Mr. Clegg provided detailed feedback from City department heads.

Comments included the following: (1) questions relating to how the CSC picked their goals and "what is feasible", (2) add more technical information to show how cost reductions were derived, (3) note the Glossary within the text, (4) adjust water and sewer rates to keep up with costs, (5) edits to various Tables, and (6) improve format to make product easier to read.

Mr. Clegg also highlighted specific recommendations for inclusion into the Plan such as measure of EMT per capita, impact of loose leaf collection, review of "zero plastic bag" policy, LEED requirements for City buildings, make parks more re-cycling friendly, community garden programs, and explore the National Heritage Site Foundation.

Co-Chair Powell commented that clarification was needed between the terms "as proposed reductions" and "fully implemented reductions". Co-Chair Landau referred to an e-mail sent to the CSC and suggested that more detailed water usage information should be included on water bills to reduce usage.

Mr. Curry will forward this feedback to the Brendle Group for updated work. The final product will be available at the next CSC meeting.

**Status Report on Progress for Getting SAP in Front of the City Council:**

Mr. Curry informed members that he has not received confirmation regarding a briefing slot in August. If there is no opportunity for a briefing, the SAP will be placed on the City Council agenda sometime in August.

**Report on Implementation of DOE Energy Efficiency Block Grant:**

Ms. Schwartz stated that City Council must approve a budget amendment in an upcoming meeting before the money can be spent. She stated that the hydroelectric turbine program is ahead of schedule as far as design and engineering. Staff is in process of figuring out the educational components. The solar light program will move forward after the July 20, 2010 City Council meeting when funds are approved for the Greenway. Staff is working to make sure the projects are underway within the seven-month requirement.

**Report on Implementation of DOE Energy Efficiency Competitive Grant:**

Mr. Curry recently attended a workshop in Washington, DC for grantees. He commented on the level of support from the government and the wide array of resources available to implement the grant. In

response to a question from Co-Chair Landau, he stated that most of the \$25 million that must be secured to get the grant money is to be leveraged from loans taken out by individuals to do the retrofit work. The majority of funding will come from private lenders, and a full range of incentives is needed to make the program work.

### **Report on other Green Award Programs:**

Mr. Mullins researched award programs around the country similar to the Green Stars program. He reported that in North Carolina the only similar programs are the Triad Business Journal Awards, Charlotte Business Journal Awards, and the sustainable component of citywide awards in Durham. He broadened his search and discovered the Climate Wise Award program in Fort Collins, Colorado. Instead of being nominated for an award, any organization can join Climate Wise. Membership decals are provided along with assessment tools, such as energy audits. A banquet is held every year and individuals are recognized at the bronze, silver, and gold level. The program is not awards-based or competitive; instead, it is supportive and accessible. He also cited the City of Lakewood Youth Award as an example of an outstanding youth award model.

Mr. Mullins will e-mail the two models to members He will meet with Ms. Vickers and other interested members to help develop an awards format before the next CSC meeting.

### **Communications Sent to the CSC:**

Co-Chair Landau pointed out two e-mails suggesting that more detailed information be placed on water bills and that recycling be encouraged at apartment complexes.

Mr. Skenes encouraged the CSC to support and encourage City Council to take dramatic steps in recycling. There was a discussion among members and it was agreed to make the matter an agenda item following the group's tour of the transfer station.

### **Items from Co-Chairs:**

Co-Chair Landau informed members that a business professor at Guilford College is looking for a group that her students can work with to develop a marketing plan during the fall term. Patriot Biodiesel was discussed as an option along with recycling areas in Greensboro that would benefit from a marketing plan for compliance.

Co-Chairs Powell and Landau reported on their recent presentation before the Neighborhood Congress.

### **Items from Council Members:**

Mr. Duckwall stated that the Guilford College tour is scheduled for Wednesday, July 14, 2010. Members should meet at 10:00 a.m. in front of the Frank Science Center.

Co-Chair Landau recapped that five terms on the CSC have expired. Co-Chair Landau and Ms. Sanford have expressed their wish to be reappointed. Mr. Kollar (District 5), Mr. Hoekstra (District 3), and Ms. Leiner (District 2) will not be continuing. Mr. Kauber has expressed interest in being appointed to the District 5 seat as a local alternative technology expert. There has been communication with City Council regarding filling the seats; however, no action has been taken.

Ms. Sanford suggested that half the district seats should be expertise seats. While district representation is necessary, having professionals in various segments of the sustainability industry would be beneficial to the CSC.

The Council discussed the concept, how it should be structured, and the set-up of the CSC.

Ms. Sanford moved to recommend that the City Council officially establish the existence of the Community Sustainability Council with a seat make-up that changes five of the current district seats to open seats for people with expertise and/or interest in community sustainability, seconded by Ms. Vickers.

Ms. Sanford amended her motion and moved to recommend that the City Council officially establish the existence of the Community Sustainability Council with a seat make-up that changes five of the current district seats to open seats for people with professional expertise in the sustainability area; and at the August meeting the Council should consider more detail to the expertise list, seconded by Ms. Vickers. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**Items from the Public:**

Peter Kauber, recommended by Co-Chair Landau to City Council member Wade to fill the vacant District 5 seat, suggested calling in individuals with expertise as needed. Members commented that this practice was used in the subcommittees. The Council discussed the need for creating another means to fill seats with qualified individuals, such as creating open seats.

**Items from Staff:**

Ms. Covington identified Senate Bill 886 as the legislation she referred to earlier that was written in the plural but intended for one. She will send a PDF copy to Co-Chair Landau.

**Acknowledgement of Absences:**

Ms. Sanford moved to acknowledge the absences of Ms. Hancock, Mr. Giles, Ms. Allen, Mr. Hoekstra, Ms. Leiner, Mr. Kollar, and ad-hoc advisors Mr. Morgan and Mr. Montgomery, seconded by Ms. Vickers. The Council unanimously approved the motion.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau  
Co-Chairman

JL:sm