

**Community Sustainability Council
Greensboro, North Carolina
August 9, 2010**

A regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, August 9, 2010 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, beginning at 2:35 p.m. Members present were: Co-Chair Joel Landau, Art Davis, Bob Skenes, Valerie Vickers, Carolyn Allen, Eric Hoekstra, and Marlene Sanford. Staff present were: Dan Curry, Manager of Community Sustainability; Sue Schwartz, HCD; Josh Mullins, 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 Revised Minutes from June 14, 2010 Meeting:

Ms. Allen moved to approve the revised minutes from the June 14, 2010 meeting, seconded by Ms. Vickers. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approval of Minutes from July 12, 2010 Meeting:

Mr. Davis moved to approve the minutes from the July 12, 2010 meeting as revised, seconded by Ms. Allen. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

“Shade and Save” -- A Human & Ecological Initiative to Conserve Energy:

Randall Romie, certified arborist, and Elaine Stover, founder of Green Schemes, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the concept of saving energy through the deliberate planting of trees. Ms. Stover stated that this initiative encourages people to plant a tree in the right place, understand why it is there, and learn how to care for it. Objectives of the initiative include lowering residential energy costs, raising physical and economic comfort levels of residents, and demonstrating a simple way for residents to take responsibility for climate change adaptation.

Ms. Stover gave details of the scheme and asked the Council for their feedback.

Ms. Sanford and Mr. Skenes felt that the concept needed more definition, clarification, and a target point.

Mr. Romie stated that a possible goal could be the strategic planting of three trees around a house.

Ms. Vickers commented that she supported the concept of purposely planting trees to save energy in whatever form it takes.

Mr. Kauber pointed out several situations where planting trees might be met with an objection, although he acknowledged that solutions were available.

Ms. Stover explained that they intentionally did not make this a program through progression. Possible programs have been discussed; however, at this stage they are listening to ideas and looking for potential collaborators. She would like to move forward to explore this as an initiative and possibility put together a pilot project.

Mike Cusimano, City of Greensboro Urban Forester, pointed out that trees are just one way to save energy costs. He described the many benefits of trees and added that on a conceptual level, the initiative is cost effective. He agreed that more details and work are needed to put a program into action.

Review Final SAP Revisions from Public Feedback:

Mr. Curry reviewed changes being made to the document and members provided their comments. He asked the Council to provide any additional feedback before Wednesday, August 11, at 5:00 p.m.

Status Report on Progress for Getting the SAP to City Council:

Mr. Curry received feedback that the SAP does not require a briefing session and can be presented to City Council whenever the CSC is ready. After a brief discussion, members agreed that a short informational presentation should be given to the Planning Board on land use related items in the SAP. The earliest opportunity for City Council consideration would be September 17. Mr. Curry reviewed the process for the August 25 submittal deadline. Mr. Skenes encouraged staff to get the final SAP draft to Council as soon as possible before the meeting.

Continue Discussion on Composition of CSC:

Chair Landau summarized that at the last meeting, members recommended having one seat assigned to each district. The remaining seats would be at-large for individuals with expertise and backgrounds in sustainability.

Ms. Sanford moved to reorganize the composition of the CSC so that of the ten district seats, five remain district seats and five become seats for people who must have professional experience.

Mr. Skenes read the motion from the last meeting. He pointed out that in addition to voting to recommend one seat for each district with the remainder being open seats for people with professional expertise in the area of sustainability, members voted to consider more detail to the expertise list. The Council discussed the motion and whether or not to create an expertise list.

Mr. Skenes moved to drop Ms. Sanford's passing substitute motion from the last meeting. The Council discussed the original motion along with the substitute motion passed at the last meeting and they offered suggestions for wording the new motion.

Ms. Sanford moved to change five of the district seats to make them open seats to people with professional expertise in sustainability. For illustrative purposes, expertise could be described in the areas of transportation and land use; green jobs and buildings; waste reduction and recycling; sustainability education and outreach; green technology; climate change adaptation; nature in the city; and City operations; seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted 6-1 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Davis, Skenes, Vickers, Sanford, Allen. Nays: Hoekstra)

Mr. Curry stated that he will include the motion in a memo to the City Manager's office with a request for instructions on how to proceed.

Report on Implementation of DOE Energy Efficiency Competitive Grant:

Mr. Curry informed members that the program is now being called BetterBuildings. The first two RFPs to go out will be for marketing assistance and assistance in putting together financial packages. In addition, the workforce development component has been initiated.

Mr. Curry stated that a financial update will be available next month on accomplishments and funds spent on the first energy grant.

Report on Implementation of DOE Energy Efficiency Block Grant:

Mr. Curry reported that the recycling project is underway. An order has been placed for recycling containers for both multifamily and City projects. In addition, the hydroelectric facility is ahead of schedule in terms of the design work. Work is being done to mold the revolving loan fund and building retrofit activities into the BetterBuilding program.

Josh Mullin commented on the educational component. Sustainable efforts are being targeted toward City employees such as shutting down computers, personal appliances, and lights. He is also working on surveys to evaluate City employees' thoughts on sustainability issues.

Mr. Randall reported that Engineering and Inspections is putting out an RFP for boilers for some of the City's existing facilities with sub-building automation systems to follow.

Report on Green Technologies Sub-Committee Alliance with Sustainable Greensboro and the Chamber of Commerce:

Mr. Clary stated that the meeting sub-committee meeting was not held due to a power outage. He confirmed that the Green Technology Sub-Committee will be working with Sustainable Greensboro and the Chamber of Commerce. The agenda item will be continued to next month.

Communications sent to the CSC:

Mr. Curry responded to an item regarding Patriot Biodiesel and updated members on conversations held with City staff. He explained that the City is not currently purchasing biodiesel fuel due to cost, issues relating to storage, and maintenance concerns.

Items from Co-Chairs:

- Tour of Solid Waste Transfer Station

Ms. Covington and members agreed to schedule a tour of the Solid Waste Transfer Station to Friday, August 27 at 2:00 p.m.

Items from Council Members:

- Report on Tour of Guilford College Solar Installation

Mr. Skenes reported that members recently took a tour of Guilford College's solar installation. The group met with Jim Dees, Sustainability Coordinator for Guilford College, and Phil Stroud, with FLS. They took a brief tour of the installation that provides domestic hot water for five buildings on campus.

Items from Staff:

None.

Items from the Public:

Steve Armstrong is a green building consultant with Environmental Solutions Group. He commented on the "Shade and Save" presentation. He said that effective planning could be done to add shade to homes without impacting solar installations. He commented on the importance of reducing the heat island effect to cut energy costs.

Rick McDaniel, Green Synergy in High Point, NC, distributed a recent newspaper article about radiant barriers, a product offered by his company. He was referred to Mr. Curry to discuss the possible use of this product by the City.

Wendell Roth is the owner of MyWater, a company revolving around bottleless water coolers. Filling stations are used in conjunction with an individual's water bottle. Low-calorie flavors can be added at the point of use. The filling station requires 80% less energy than traditional vending machines. Mr. Roth's interest in pursuing dialogue with the City was referred to Mr. Curry.

Rod Crauderueff is a Masters Candidate in Urban Planning at MIT. He is spending the summer studying different implementation plans and challenges around energy efficiency. He has been involved with local community initiatives at the Beloved Community Center. Mr. Crauderueff described his work with Sustainable South Bronx and other equitable economic environmental planning projects. He offered to share details with the Council if there was interest. He also suggested involving local people to encourage improvement of environmental performance of the Solid Waste Transfer Station to help implement some of the goals of the CSC.

Acknowledgement of Absences:

Ms. Vickers moved to acknowledge the absences of Co-Chair Powell, Ms. Hancock, Ms. Leiner, Mr. Duckwall, Mr. Kollar, and Mr. Giles, 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 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau
Co-Chairman

JL:sm/jd