

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

A regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, April 12, 2010 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, beginning at 2:38 p.m. Members present were: Co-Chair Joel Landau, Art Davis, Bob Kollar, Tom Duckwall, Tom Clary, Bob Skenes, Valerie Vickers, Terri Hancock, Eric Hoekstra, Derrick Giles, and Carolyn Allen. Staff present were: Dan Curry and Russ Clegg, HCD; Steve Randall, Engineering and Inspections and Jeryl Covington, Director of Environmental Services. Also present was ad hoc advisor Phillip Morgan, Piedmont Natural Gas Company.

Approval of Minutes from the March 8, 2010 Regular Meeting:

Mr. Kollar moved to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2010 meeting, seconded by Ms. Vickers. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approval of Minutes from the March 29, 2010 Special Meeting:

Mr. Skenes moved to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2010 meeting, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted 6-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Davis, Kollar, Duckwall, Clary, Skenes, Giles. Nays: None.) Ms. Hancock, Ms. Allen, Ms. Vickers, and Mr. Hoekstra abstained from the vote as they were not present at the March 29, 2010 special meeting.

Review the Final Draft of the Action Plan:

Co-Chair Landau asked the Council for feedback on any further major changes to the Action Plan.

Mr. Curry advised members that Russ Clegg, with HCD, was present to take notes on any changes made to the final draft.

Members discussed the pending non-attainment status information. Mr. Skenes questioned if any of the on-going strategies in the Plan might mitigate potential EPA sanctions. Co-Chair Landau stated that he would follow-up with Ms. Covington regarding Greensboro's pending non-attainment status along with the proposed Plan's influence on possible EPA sanctions.

Ms. Vickers questioned the usage of the term "deep ecology" in the sidebar describing Thomas Berry's contribution to Nature in the City. She will research the wording that Mr. Berry used and send the revised wording to Mr. Clegg.

Ms. Vickers also suggested that pictures of the community to be interspersed into the Action Plan should include the Kathleen Clay Edwards Library, the Greenway, the Proximity Hotel, Northern Middle School, and Northern High School. She agreed to e-mail these and other suggestions to Mr. Clegg. Staff will use this list as they take pictures in the community.

Mr. Giles commented that the Council should use the City's name as marking collateral as discussed at earlier meetings. Members discussed incorporating the marketability of the name "Greensboro" into Outreach and Education.

Mr. Giles moved to use the name "Greensboro" to develop a strong vision statement on marketing collateral that can be used to show a great degree of commitment to sustainability and to reflect the

City's vision for long-term growth, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Co-Chair Landau pointed out that Ms. Covington had joined the meeting and he asked her to comment on the possibility the City may be facing non-attainment status by the EPA in regard to ozone and particulate matter. She explained in detail that the EPA may revise their standards and Guilford County would be one of several counties brought back into non-attainment status if this happened. Ms. Covington stated that this information had already been shared with the City Manager. She explained that non-attainment status has a negative impact on communities by discouraging industries to relocate in the area and felt that the Plan would have little to do with mitigating the effects of sanctions. Co-Chair Landau summarized that it was uncertain if Greensboro would be going into a non-attainment situation and either way, it would be best not to include the information in the Plan as the document will be available on the website.

Co-Chair Landau reviewed several changes given earlier to Mr. Jansen. Most of these changes are reflected in the latest draft e-mailed to members. He pointed out that Mr. Jansen has not yet added requested data to the 2020 Emissions Projection graph. He was asked to address the following questions: (1) how much do the "business as usual" projections have to be reduced to reach a point of stabilization, and (2) what percentage of reduction does that represent?

Mr. Curry suggested that the "full utilization" line be shown on the graph as it has been identified throughout the report.

Mr. Clary advised the Council that a provision for the creation of a trust fund for the implementation of bike paths, sidewalks and other healthy activities is buried in the new health legislation. He pointed out that Transportation and Land Use lists bicycle infrastructure as a strategy and he asked if the City could apply for a grant under the program. Mr. Curry replied that he was not familiar with the grant program but he would ask the Transportation Department to research the trust fund.

Mr. Skenes pointed out that the Consolidated Plan was referenced on page 8, Other Plans. He suggested that since there are two Consolidated Plans, it should be specified that the document is referring to the Housing Consolidated Plan. He also mentioned that a word has been left out of Strategy C, the 3rd bullet, on page 22. Co-Chair Landau indicated that he had already passed along the correction to Mr. Jansen.

Mr. Curry commented that the numbering system used in Section 5 was very confusing. There was a discussion and it was suggested that all the strategies should be preceded by the appropriate policy number to provide more clarity. For instance, Policy 5, strategy A, would become Strategy 5-A.

Mr. Curry felt that Table 2, Primary Cost and Emissions Table, page 19, was confusing. Members agreed that a better explanation was needed for the column titles. Co-Chair Landau felt another column, "Cumulative Cost Savings 2010-2020", was needed for consistency. "Cumulative" should be consistent throughout all the column titles. Members felt that it would be useful to have a "range of savings" instead of "minimum savings". Mr. Skenes pointed out errors in Table 2 and he urged the team to check the math. For presentation purposes, he recommended switching the location of the "Proposed Cost to Implement" column to precede the "Proposed Savings" column. Mr. Curry felt that information on the public cost will be needed and should be referenced in the methodology.

Another change in wording was noted. The "rain tax" should be changed to "storm water fee" throughout the document.

Mr. Kollar moved to adopt the Climate Action Plan with the edits discussed, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council unanimously voted in favor of the motion.

Review the Draft Power Point Presentation, Identify Changes:

Co-Chair Landau stated that he asked Mr. Jansen to include strategies and eliminate one of the two graphs duplicated in the presentation.

Ms. Vickers described the laminated modified PowerPoint presentation provided by Mr. Clegg for an event. She stated it is available to use if any one is interested. She also pointed out that one strategy was left off of Nature in the City. She suggested that members review the PowerPoint and make changes if necessary.

The Council discussed a change to be brought to Mr. Jansen's attention. In terms of a handout, two paragraphs were left out of the Executive Summary and need to be added. Members suggested using a smaller font and removing the header on the second page so the information can fit on the front and back of one page.

Discuss Public Engagement and Strategies for Promoting the Action Plan:

Mr. Clegg updated the Council on the official presentation of the Plan to the public. Staff suggested holding the Open House at the Carriage House. The presentation will be offered twice during the day in a drop-in format. He indicated that staff is looking at available dates for the event. Ms. Hancock recommended holding the event in the auditorium at Weatherspoon. Ms. Schwartz will coordinate with members regarding dates and location.

Mr. Curry stated that a final revised draft will be e-mailed to members within several days and the draft will then be posted on the City website. The draft will be circulated among the various departments that will be affected by the Plan for their feedback. The scheduled event will be the Open House. He asked for any other recommendations from members to promote the Plan.

Mr. Skenes suggested using Channel 13 to inform the public. Members discussed getting on Channel 13's production list to create a formal program about the Action Plan that would run continuously.

Council members will be making presentations in the community to promote the Plan. Co-Chair Landau asked each member to identify the groups they plan to speak to. Members responded as follows:

Mr. Clary: Sierra Club

Ms. Allen: Piedmont Bird Club, Greensboro Beautiful, League of Women Voters

Mr. Duckwall: Audubon Club, Sierra Club, New Garden Friends Meeting, Guilford College

Mr. Hoekstra: Environmental Stewardship on May 16

Ms. Hancock: Chamber of Commerce Sustainable Business Subcommittee, Piedmont Land Conservancy, VF Employee Earth Day Event

Ms. Sanford: Action Greensboro

Ms. Vickers: UNC-G, Bennett College, Greensboro Day School Sustainability Group, Guilford County Science Teachers

Mr. Davis: Neighborhood Congress in June, Beloved Community

Co-Chair Landau: Sustainable Greensboro

It was suggested that information on the Plan should be also be distributed to Karen Neil with the Agricultural Extension office.

Mr. Curry offered to write an article for the U.S. Green Building Council newsletter and members discussed giving a presentation to the University Roundtable Group in May.

Discuss CSC's Possible Agendas after the first Action Plan is Presented to City Council:

Co-Chair Landau stated that this agenda item would be discussed at the next meeting.

Updates on Status of Energy Efficiency Block Grants:

Mr. Curry informed the Council that the strategy has been formally approved by the Department of Energy and City departments are already working on the ten different activities in the Energy Block Grant program. Plans are also being formulated for the start-up of the Revolving Loan Fund. Information on Energy Block Grant activities can be found on the City website.

No word has been received yet on the status of the Competitive Grant.

E-Mails Sent to the CSC Website:

An e-mail was received from Central Piedmont Community College's Students for Sustainability group. They requested recommendations for green sites to visit on April 30, 2010 as the Proximity Hotel was unavailable on that date. Co-Chair Landau indicated that the group is planning to visit TS Designs in Burlington and are still looking for other locations. Mr. Curry commented that he sent a listing of LED certified projects in the region that they can contact if interested.

Items from Co-Chairs:

Co-Chair Landau invited any one interested to attend the annual Deep Roots Taste Fair on April 24, 2010 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Items from Group Members:

Ms. Vickers updated the Council on the recent Earth Day celebration. She thanked everyone who participated. She also thanked Mr. Clegg for his help with the handouts and materials for the display.

During conversation members noted the following additional changes they felt should be made to the Plan: (1) denote Proximity Hotel by name, and (2) Russ Clegg should be recognized under Acknowledgements.

Items from the Public:

Jared Weston thanked the Council for mentioning his participation in the Action Plan and for the rewarding educational experience.

Items from Staff:

Ms. Covington stated that the Guilford County Agricultural Extension on Burlington Road will have a one-day hazardous materials collection on April 16, 2010. There will also be a Prescription Collection on April 24, 2010 at the High Point Road and Lawndale Drive Walgreens locations.

Mr. Curry informed members that the Triad Green Awards will be held on April 22, 2010 at the Embassy Suites.

Acknowledgement of Absences:

Mr. Skenes moved to acknowledge the absences of Co-Chair Powell, Ms. Leiner, Ms. Sanford, and Davis Montgomery, ad hoc advisor, seconded by Mr. Davis. 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