

**Community Sustainability Council
Greensboro, North Carolina
March 29, 2010**

A special meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, March 29, 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, Co-Chair Bob Powell, Art Davis, Bob Kollar, Tom Duckwall, Marlene Sanford, Tom Clary, Bob Skenes, and Derrick Giles. Staff present were: Dan Curry and Susan Schwartz, HCD; and Steve Randall, Engineering and Inspections. Also present was ad hoc advisor Phillip Morgan, Piedmont Natural Gas Company.

Overall Document Organization:

Mr. Jansen asked the Council for feedback on the overall organization and content of the Action Plan.

Council members made the following recommendations:

- The Summary page should be moved after the Letter from Co-Chairs, Acknowledgements, and Table of Contents.
- Create a sidebar to acknowledge Thomas Berry for his contribution to Nature in the City.
- Include the visual 3-line graph previously discussed.
- On the 3-line graph, show per-capita impact of total emissions.
- Consider presenting graph information locally by GDP.
- Under Table 2 on page 10, elaboration is needed for the term “fully implemented.”
- Information that has been dropped from the Waste Reduction/Recycling subcommittee report needs to be discussed in the document.

The Council discussed the merits of virtual appendices. Members felt that the document should be as compact as possible to be more reader-friendly. Ms. Schwartz and Mr. Jansen commented that hyperlinks are becoming the standard in Ordinances and texts because of printing and storage constraints.

Mr. Skenes moved to have a virtual appendix and virtual subcommittee reports in the document, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Strategy-Level Presentation:

Mr. Skenes noted that under Waste and Recycling Strategies on page 20, a reference was made to using “other strategies.” He commented that the City is already employing most of these strategies and they should not be listed. He stressed that emphasis areas need to be accurate.

Members brought the following observations to Mr. Jansen’s attention:

- In several places cost savings should be changed to “annual” cost savings.
- The following individuals should be recognized on the Acknowledgement page: Pat Boswell, Debbie Davis, Steve McCollum, Kim Yarbray, Jared Weston, and former Mayors Johnson and Holiday.
- In Section 2.2, omit the three bullet points and replace with exact wording from City Council minutes.

- In Section 2.3 citing City examples, verify 2007 as certification year for the Proximity Hotel. Other examples include user-friendly recycling program, bio-diesel fuel used for transit fleet, LED traffic light conversion, and CERT at A&T University.
- In Section 2.3, add that Greensboro built the first LEED certified spec warehouse in the country.
- In Section 5.2, Mission Statement, change wording to reflect that the Action Plan is part of the charge of the CSC to serve City Council.
- In Section 5.1, last paragraph, add the word “more” to read “the City hosted two more Open Houses.”
- The term “intentional communities” should be explained in the Glossary.
- On page 17, under Strategy E, delete Neighborhood Congress.
- The Cash Flow Sustainability Account is mentioned but should be emphasized more as it is the basis of the overall strategy.
- Policy 7, under Waste Reduction/Recycling, it was also recommended that recycling services be provided at no additional charge to all users. The second bullet should be changed to reflect the exact language from the subcommittee report.
- On page 16, in the Green Building Certification sidebar, add NAHB’s program as one of the examples.
- On page 11, under Transportation and Land Use—Policy 1, rearrange strategies a, b, and c so that strategy c comes first.
- Under Waste Reduction/Recycling, add “diverting recyclable waste to recycling reduces collection costs to the City.”
- Under Policy 2, strategy B, the second bullet, change “on all major roads” to “on all major and minor thoroughfares.”
- Under 6.5-Nature in the City, include one line from the subcommittee report stating that “research shows quality of life, health, and educational achievement improve when children and adults have access to the natural world.”
- Under Waste Reduction/Recycling, add as a strategy “set a city-wide goal of reducing use of plastic bags via an educational campaign.”

Mr. Morgan left the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Co-Chair Powell joined the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

There was a discussion among members regarding budget priorities. Mr. Curry confirmed with members that the list of budget comments he received was complete. He reviewed the list and indicated that energy education seemed to be a top priority. There were also several comments on transit, biking infrastructure, green jobs, recycling, building code work, and residential energy audits.

Co-Chair Landau reiterated the importance of the Cash Flow Sustainability Account to the overall strategy. Mr. Curry stated that he will begin talking to the Accounting Department about the structure of the Cash Flow Sustainability Account. The Council discussed putting out a general statement that the set of proposals included in the Plan will save more than they will cost. They also agreed that references to budget priorities should be placed in the Letter from the Co-Chairs.

The Council went into recess at 3:50 p.m. Co-Chair Landau called the meeting back to order at 3:55 p.m.

Mr. Giles left the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Update on Green Technology Subcommittee Report:

Co-Chair Powell cited Peter Kauber, with Guilford Solar, and his workshops on local energy as information that could be considered green technology for Greensboro. Mr. Kauber defined four areas where local energy resources are used locally. Co-Chair Powell suggested that the Council's policy should be to promote the use of local energy resources and the strategies should include use of the following: (1) bio-fuels, (2) active solar hot water, (3) solar generated electricity, (4) application of industrial scale waste heat recovery, and (5) smart buildings.

Ms. Sanford recommended contacting Dan Lynch with the local Economic Development Alliance. Since the policy is to promote local energy resources, the Alliance should be involved as they would be more familiar about industries interested in growing in the area.

Co-Chair Powell indicated that more work needed to be done on the policy of local energy usage and he suggested that the Council focus on getting the report out first. Members discussed inserting a paragraph into the report as a placeholder giving a brief description of the concept and adding that the Council is not yet at the point of developing the strategies.

Discuss Report Template:

Members reviewed the three template options presented by Mr. Jansen. After discussion and a poll of members, the preference was to incorporate a green accent color in the portrait style with the City logo.

Determine Best Approach and Schedule for Collecting CSC Feedback on Details:

Ms. Schwartz outlined the sequence of events that will occur before the Plan is sent to City Council for approval. Comments from the CSC and internal City staff will be incorporated into the cleaned-up draft by April 9, 2010. The Open House will be scheduled, and presentations to civic groups along with Boards and Commissions will be made in April to mid-May. The last revision will include comments from the CSC and would be presented at the May or June meeting. Staff felt that it would be late June or July before the item would be put on City Council's agenda.

Staff will develop the following tools to help members capture public feedback: (1) a PowerPoint presentation, (2) a handout, (3) a standardized feedback form, (4) a web feedback form, and (5) talking points.

Acknowledgement of Absences:

Mr. Davis moved to acknowledge the absences of Ms. Leiner, Mr. Hoekstra, Ms. Vickers, Ms. Hancock, Ms. Allen and ad hoc advisor, Mr. Montgomery; seconded by Mr. Skenes. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau

Co-Chairman

JL:sm