

Community Sustainability Council
Greensboro, North Carolina
January 11, 2010
(draft)

A meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, January 11, 2010 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, commencing at 2:30 p.m. Members present were: Co-Chairs Joel Landau and Bob Powell, Tom Duckwall, Carolyn Allen, Valerie Vickers, Art Davis, Eric Hoekstra, Derrick Giles, Marlene Sanford, Tom Clary, Bob Skenes, and Terri Hancock. Staff present included: Dan Curry and Susan Schwartz, HCD; Steve Randall, Energy and Sustainability Program Manager and Jeryl Covington, Director of Environmental Services. Also present was ad hoc advisor Davis Montgomery, Duke Energy.

Approval of Minutes from the December 14, 2009 Meeting:

Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2009 meeting, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously 11-0 in favor of the motion.

Report on Energy Efficiency Initiatives by Duke Energy:

Mr. Montgomery gave an overview of energy efficiency initiatives available on the Duke Energy website, www.Duke-Energy.com. He discussed energy and money-saving opportunities and analysis available for residential and business customers.

Co-Chair Powell joined the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Progress Report on Proposed Code of Ethics:

Mr. Curry presented the Legal Department with Mr. Kollars's proposed Code of Ethics and they referred him back to the City Code regarding the set-up of Boards and Commissions. Mr. Curry suggested that the next step may be to formally request the legal staff to prepare a document describing rules and procedures specifically for the Community Sustainability Council. He will follow-up with the legal staff regarding a strategy to produce a document for members to preview.

Reports from Subcommittees:

• **Waste Reduction and Recycling**

Members discussed the rewording suggested at the December, 2009 meeting. The Council decided to send the report back to the subcommittee for additional review and revision before the February, 2010 meeting.

• **Education and Outreach**

Council members discussed revisions made by the subcommittee. They made the following recommendations to reword Items 3, 6, and 8:

- Add "individuals, groups, or institutions" when referring to entities developing workshops and seminars.
- Add grants "may" be available for "Neighborhood Small Projects".
- Change "strong" neighborhoods to "stronger" neighborhoods.
- Change "Green Star Committee" to "Green Star Subcommittee".

Update on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategies Proposal Application to DOE:

Ms. Schwartz reported the City has received a list from the Department of Energy containing technical questions. Technical calculations are being redone by the consultants for resubmission.

Housing and Urban Development, the Environmental Protections Agency, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Energy have agreed to coordinate programs, funding, and

policies that work together to create sustainable communities. Ms. Schwartz stated that the Department is patterning their Consolidated Plan on that model. She encouraged members to attend the upcoming Consolidated Plan Public Meetings.

Mr. Davis left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Progress Report on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Competitive Grant Application:

Mr. Curry informed members that City's application for \$6 million dollars of grant money to build retrofitting has been submitted. He expects notification of the allocations sometime in March, 2010.

Discussion Concerning Implementation of CSC Action Plan:

Co-Chair Powell indicated that a productive meeting was held with the consultants regarding the Action Plan that will be presented to City Council. Consultants plan to prepare a draft of the Greenhouse Gas Inventory by the next CSC meeting to set targets for the City. A & T University has taken raw energy numbers reflecting energy usage in Greensboro and converted them into a greenhouse gas production number using a formula developed by the Hinckley organization. This value can be used in comparisons with other cities.

The consultants will help produce numbers for energy efficiency values for Greensboro houses, vehicles, and industry; use that information to forecast future emissions and energy usage; and assist in proposing renewable energy goals.

The CSC, along with the consultants, will start the process of looking at Action Plan strategies at the February, 2010 meeting and will work on developing the Action Plan in greater detail in March, 2010. The goal is to have a final draft of the Plan ready to deliver to City Council in late April of 2010.

Mr. Curry informed members that the next product the group will see is an annotated outline of the Action Plan to be mailed out before the February, 2010 CSC meeting. The intent is to organize all of the information the subcommittees have developed. The consultants have sent a list of Climate Action Plans from eight other cities for review by the CSC. Members volunteered to review the Plans and give their feedback on clarity, format, and organization before the next meeting.

E-Mails Sent to the CSC Website:

Co-Chair Landau reviewed the e-mails that have been received and members discussed responses. An e-mail was received requesting a volunteer to represent Greensboro at the Piedmont Environment Alliance Earth Day Fair. Ms. Hancock, Ms. Vickers, Mr. Duckwall, and Co-Chair Powell volunteered their time for a portion of the day. Staff will check into the availability of displays, handouts, and other materials to use at the Piedmont fair and the Greensboro Earth Day fair.

Request for Letter of Support for NCA&T Community Supported Agriculture Grant:

NCA&T is requesting a letter of support from the CSC relating to a grant for programs involving community supported agriculture, local foods, and community gardens. It was suggested that a letter of support not only be given from the CSC but from the City as well. Co-Chairs Landau and Powell will request a letter of support from the City at their upcoming meeting with the Mayor. Mr. Curry described the process that staff will follow to generate a letter for the Mayor's signature.

Following a brief discussion, Ms. Sanford moved to draft a letter of support from the CSC for the grant application, seconded by Ms. Vickers. The Council voted unanimously 11-0 in favor of the motion.

Items from Co-Chairs:

Co-Chairs Landau and Powell have meetings scheduled with the Mayor and the City Manager to bring them up to date on CSC activities and preparation of the Action Plan.

Presentations to the Kiwanis Club and First Presbyterian Church have been scheduled to help publicize the Action Plan.

Items from Group Members:

Amory Lovins, a leader in energy efficiency at Rocky Mountain Institute, will be speaking at Catawba College in February, 2010. Members interested in attending should contact Co-Chair Landau for car-pooling arrangements.

Ms. Allen read an e-mail from Ms. Leiner encouraging members to attend a presentation entitled "Global Climate Change, North Carolina Here and Now" given by a panel of experts to be held at the Central Library. Co-Chair Landau will resend the e-mail to members.

Ms. Sanford informed members that North Carolina is one of six states to receive aid with building retrofits.

Items from the Public:

Co-Chair Landau was asked to distribute informational flyers on Housing Summit 2010. The theme this year is "Housing Matters for Sustainable Greensboro."

Items from the Staff:

Ms. Covington informed members of the EPA's designation of greenhouse gases along with the website listing the industries being focused on.

Mr. Curry commented on a possible activity being planned for Martin Luther King Day coordinated by Zimuzor Ugochukuu who is a student at UNC-Greensboro. He described the student outreach program working with Lowes to deliver CFLs to 200 homes on Martin Luther King Day.

Acknowledgement of Absences:

Mr. Duckwall moved to acknowledge the absences of Mr. Kollar, Ms. Leiner, and Mr. Morgan, seconded by Ms. Allen. The Council voted unanimously 11-0 in favor of the motion.

Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau
Co-Chairman

JL:sm/jd