

**Community Sustainability Council
Greensboro, North Carolina
December 14, 2009
(draft)**

A meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, December 14, 2009 at Building Inspections, 1001 4th Street, commencing at 2:35 p.m. Members present were: Co-Chair Joel Landau, Tom Duckwall, Carolyn Allen, Valerie Vickers, Art Davis, Eric Hoekstra, Derrick Giles, Marlene Sanford, Tom Clary, Bob Skenes, Bob Kollar, and Debbie Leiner. 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 November 9, 2009 Special Meeting:

Ms. Sanford moved to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2009 meeting, seconded by Mr. Kollar. The Council voted unanimously 9-0 in favor of the motion.

Approval of Minutes from the November 16, 2009 Regular Meeting:

Ms. Sanford moved to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2009 meeting, seconded by Mr. Kollar. The Council voted unanimously 9-0 in favor of the motion.

Code of Ethics:

Mr. Duckwall referenced information contained in *Ethics and Public Life* from the Institute of Government and suggested that the Council contact the Legal Department for their advice on how to proceed with the Code of Ethics proposed by Mr. Kollar. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Curry will contact the Legal Department and the matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

Ms. Allen joined the meeting at 2:49 p.m.

Mr. Davis joined the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Subcommittee Reports:

- **Waste Reduction and Recycling**

The subcommittee presented their report last month and several issues were raised. A subsequent meeting was held and the report was reworded to address these matters. Ms. Leiner commented that the main issue was a question of fairness and the idea that everyone should have access to recycling services at the same rate. Members discussed the rewording and possible recommendations at length.

Mr. Skenes moved to add a new Item "C", as read by Ms. Leiner, to Planning and Regulations thereby bumping Item C to Item D, seconded by Ms. Leiner. Ms. Leiner read the new item as follows: "We are recommending modification of the Land Development Ordinance to require new developments and neighborhoods to offer recycling facilities onsite." There was further discussion on the item and Co-Chair Landau suggested that the subcommittee review Ms. Leiner's notes and return at the next meeting with the agreed upon wording. Mr. Skenes withdrew his motion.

Ms. Allen moved that Number 7 includes the development of the City of Greensboro's Sustainability Mission Statement to be included in the introductory section of the Action Plan, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously 11-0 in favor of the motion.

- **Education and Outreach**

Ms. Vickers joined the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Mr. Randall discussed the short-term observations noted in the subcommittee's report. The subcommittee made the following recommendations: (1) Include a section on the CSC website listing local non-profits that have made contributions to the environment, health, and well-being of the community, (the site could also contain links to a calendar of upcoming events and information relating to the Greensboro Green Star program) (2) The CSC should encourage a local non-profit to create a website that the CSC could link to that highlights local environmental success stories, (3) The CSC should selectively issue its own Certificates of Appreciation and Recognition, (4) The CSC should coordinate and partner with local colleges, universities, and schools, (5) In order to reach out to local residents and commercial establishments, the CSC should include residential and commercial energy templates on its website and pursue residential awareness programs at local libraries and recreation centers, (6) Develop a role in a Youth Energy Leadership project to be followed-up by the subcommittee, (7) The CSC should adopt the education components of the Nature in the City and Green Jobs/Green Buildings subcommittees, and (8) Support neighborhood leaders to promote green initiatives, workshops, and seminars.

Ms. Vickers volunteered to begin working on youth leadership assisted by Ms. Leiner. Mr. Curry reminded members that there is an education element in the Energy Block Grant in the amount of \$250,000 that will be developed after the first of the year.

Members commented that the role of the CSC is not to set up workshops, seminars, and similar agendas; instead, the role is one of coordination, communicating, providing information, and bringing people together. To assure their creation, activities should be specified when presented to City Council. Ms. Vickers felt that the potential Energy and Outreach Coordinator would be helpful in implementing many of the committee's agendas.

Mr. Randall gave an overview of the subcommittee's mid-term recommendations as follows: (1) Secure an Energy and Outreach Coordinator, (2) A sustainable training program should be funded by the City to train at-risk youths in practical skills in energy and sustainability fields, (3) Investigate communication tools, and (4) Look closely at how neighborhoods can more actively participate.

Members discussed details and elaborated on all of the recommendations and suggested changes in wording. The subcommittee will return next month with a revised report reflecting the changes that were discussed.

Report on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Competitive Grant Application:

Mr. Curry informed members that the theme of the grant application is building retrofit work for residential and non-residential properties. The Department of Energy is looking for applications that would transform communities. Staff is focusing on the areas of central and east Greensboro. The City is asking for a grant of six million dollars and 5-1 leverage must be provided. The grant is projected to provide up-fit assistance to about 6,000 buildings in the targeted areas and would save around three million dollars of utility cost per year. The Department of Energy will announce their decisions in March, 2010. There will be a full briefing at the January, 2010 CSC meeting.

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

Ms. Schwartz reported that the application to DOE was submitted early. Staff was visited recently by two DOE project managers who discussed audits, program details, and their expectations. They indicated that certain requirements may be relaxed as many communities are finding it difficult to meet time constraints. Project managers were concerned with the City's large number of activities and they suggested ways to collapse some of the projects to decrease audits and administrative costs. Staff plans to meet with the City Manager to discuss implementation of the money. The DOE hopes to be on target for the first of the year to give their final approval.

E-Mails Sent to the CSC Website:

Co-Chair Landau referenced an e-mail regarding the 2010 Earth Day Fair on the campus of Wake Forest University. A representative from Greensboro was requested to speak about the City's environmental efforts. Ms. Vickers indicated she may be able to attend for part of the day.

Acknowledgement of Absences:

Mr. Davis moved to acknowledge the absences of Co-Chair Powell and Ms. Hancock, seconded by Ms. Allen. The Council voted unanimously 12-0 in favor of the motion.

Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau
Co-Chairman

JL:sm/jd