

**Community Sustainability Council
Greensboro, North Carolina
Meeting of September 21, 2009**

A meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, September 21, 2009 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, beginning at 2:39 p.m. Members present were: Co-Chair Joel Landau, Co-Chair Bob Powell, Tom Duckwall, Terri Hancock, Carolyn Allen, Valerie Vickers, Art Davis, Eric Hoekstra, and Derrick Giles. Staff present included: Dan Curry and Susan Schwartz, HCD; Steve Randall, Energy and Sustainability Program Manager; and Holly Johnson sitting in for Jeryl Covington, Environmental Services.

Approval of Minutes from August 10, 2009 Meeting:

Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2009 meeting as written, seconded by Ms. Hancock. The Council voted 8-0 to approve the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Hancock, Allen, Davis, Vickers, Duckwall, Hoekstra, Giles. Nay: None.)

Report on Criteria for a “Greensboro Green Star” Program:

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

Ms. Vickers reviewed the concept of the Greensboro Green Star program. The committee looking into the program consists of Ms. Vickers, Mr. Davis, Ms. Hancock, and Ms. Leiner. The committee met and it was agreed that there was a need for collaboration and partnering with other community groups giving awards for sustainability including businesses, religious groups, environmental groups, educational groups, beautification groups, and utilities. The committee will work with the CSC's Education Subcommittee to highlight what is already being done in the community. When an obvious gap exists, Greensboro Green Star certificates of award could be given either during CSC meetings, a City Council meeting, or in the school setting. Ms. Vickers also discussed linking to a website that would highlight awards in the community, communicating with City Council on the program, and developing criteria for awards relating to energy sustainability. The committee will return at the next meeting with a more formal proposal and a sample certificate of award.

Update on RFP for Consulting Services:

Ms. Schwartz reviewed the selection process for the 21 proposals received in response to the RFP for consulting services. The Brendle Group, based in Fort Collins, Colorado, was chosen and their contractor, Clarion, has an office in North Carolina. Ms. Schwartz discussed the role of the Brendle Group in completing the Greenhouse Gas Inventory along with the development of strategies and the Action Plan. Roger Walton, with Clarion, reviewed his background and involvement in the project.

Report on Input from Focus Groups:

Staff recently met with the real estate community, the residential development community, the commercial development community, and a green business group. Ms. Schwartz noted that the focus groups indicated education as a priority in addition to providing outreach to underserved communities. Staff plans to meet with other focus groups including non-profit organizations and City department heads.

Status Report on EECBG Process, and Next Steps for CSC:

Ms. Schwartz stated that the EECBG strategy must be submitted to the Department of Energy by December 3, 2009; however, the strategy must be completed by November 17, 2009 to be presented

to City Council for adoption. Clarion plans to be in Greensboro on October 7 and October 8, 2009 for a community discussion.

Performance Contract Report:

Mr. Randall updated the Council on the City's performance contract. He reviewed the process leading up to signing a contract and described the current six million dollar performance contract which was begun in April, 2009. The contract is approximately 50% completed. He explained that the main financial reason for a performance contract is payback with the assumption that all expenses are in year one, all savings from year to year are equal, and the savings will last at least as long as payback.

Update from Green Fair Committee:

The committee announced that they will present their report at the next CSC meeting.

Reconsider Monthly Meeting Time for CSC Regular Meeting:

The Council agreed to schedule their permanent monthly meeting time on the third Monday of every month at 2:30 p.m. in the Plaza Level Conference Room.

Report on Any Recent E-Mails to the CSC Website:

Co-Chair Landau read an e-mail from Jim Barnhill suggesting types of plantings to plant in medians. He also noted that some street lights were remaining on through the day. Mr. Randall commented that roadway lighting operates on photo sensors and he suggested responding to Mr. Barnhill with the appropriate phone number to report the malfunctioning lights.

Items from Co Chairs:

Co-Chairs Landau and Powell plan to meet with Brian Higgins, founder of Sustainable Greensboro, to prepare for a joint presentation before the Greensboro Neighborhood Congress in November, 2009.

Items from Group Members:

Mr. Duckwall commented that an individual at the local Honda Jet facility is working with a team on the development of a 100 mpg car that does not contain electric components.

There was a discussion among members regarding tax programs that recognize energy efficiency for homeowners as well addressing the financing issue.

Mr. Hoekstra recently met with NC Interfaith Power & Light. He updated members on their plans to weatherize 300 homes in Asheville, North Carolina this summer.

Items from the Public:

None.

Items from Staff:

Mr. Curry described other pieces of the stimulus program that have energy conservation sustainability aspects. The City has received an award that will allow the purchase of two hybrid buses for the motor pool fleet. There is also a redevelopment block grant allocation that contains eight different activities having energy conservation as a theme.

Acknowledgement of Absences:

Mr. Duckwall moved to acknowledge the absences of Ms. Sanford, Mr. Clary, Mr. Kollar, Mr. Skenes, and Ms. Leiner, seconded by Ms. Allen. The Council voted 9-0 to approve the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Hancock, Allen, Davis, Vickers, Duckwall, Hoekstra, Giles. Nays: None.)

Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau and Bob Powell
Co-Chairs

JL-BP:sm/jd