

**Community Sustainability Council
Greensboro, North Carolina
July 20, 2009**

A meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, July 20, 2009 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, beginning at 3:05 p.m. Members present were: Co-Chair Joel Landau, Co-Chair Bob Powell, Art Davis, Bob Kollar, Marlene Sanford, Tom Duckwall, Tom Clary, Eric Hoekstra, Terri Hancock, Carolyn Allen, Valerie Vickers, and Debbie Leiner. Staff present included: Dan Curry and Susan Schwartz, HCD; and Steve Randall, Energy and Sustainability Program Manager.

Approval of Minutes from June 8, 2009 Meeting:

Mr. Clary moved to approve the June 8, 2009 minutes, seconded by Co-Chair Powell. The Council voted 8-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Clary, Hoekstra, Hancock, Leiner, Allen, Vickers. Nays: None.)

Set New Day and Time for Regular Monthly Meeting:

Members were advised that due to a conflict in scheduling, their meeting time must be changed. It was decided that beginning in August, 2009, the CSC will be meeting from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month in the Plaza Level Conference Room.

Mr. Kollar, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Duckwall joined the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Report from City Operations Subcommittee:

Mr. Randall updated his recommendations for City Operations with estimated costs. He gave a detailed explanation of the estimated costs to expand the energy management team, to fund infrastructure development for the energy management program, to recommission additional buildings, and to adopt sustainable building standards.

Ms. Allen moved to approve the report as presented, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted 11-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Clary, Hoekstra, Hancock, Leiner, Allen, Vickers, Kollar, Davis, Duckwall. Nays: None.)

Report from Green Jobs/Buildings Subcommittee:

Mr. Curry distributed a handout prioritizing the committee's recommendations into three categories of advocacy, education, and policy actions. He discussed coordinating with groups already involved with short-term initiatives of advocacy in the community including working with legislative delegations, forming partnerships with local green building organizations, and engaging Duke Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas in discussions about energy conservation and usage.

Mr. Curry's overview of education addressed using all available communications systems to promote energy conservation, facilitating green jobs training, promoting local green building awareness, ensuring education on green building standards for inspectors and contractors, creating energy conservation mobile exhibits, working with Preservation Greensboro to promote energy efficiency for older buildings, and education on cost savings of lower water usage.

Ms. Sanford joined the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

A review of policy actions included implementing energy audits and encouraging conservation, working with the Green Building Council to make information readily available to the community, implementing programs for non-residential properties, continuing the work done by the Healthy Homes group, reviewing the Minimum Housing Code to identify current provisions, promote green building through the City's Land Development Ordinance, and promoting energy conservation working with the Rental Unit Certificate of Occupancy Board.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Kollar moved to approve the Green Jobs/Buildings report minus Item 3.1, seconded by Mr. Duckwall. The Council voted 12-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Clary, Hoekstra, Hancock, Leiner, Allen, Vickers, Kollar, Davis, Duckwall, Sanford. Nays: None.)

How to Proceed with the First Four Subcommittee Reports:

Co-Chair Powell led a discussion on the best way to proceed with the reports. Members felt that the completion and analysis of the Greenhouse Gas Inventory was a priority for targeting efforts along with keeping on track with grants and identifying potential programs. Members discussed setting the end of the year as the goal for finishing up work on the remaining four subcommittees allowing the completion of the action plan.

Report and Discussion on Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG):

Ms. Schwartz updated the Council on the energy funds. The application was submitted early and a case worker has been assigned at the Department of Energy. To address Co-Chair Powell's concern for the shortage of qualified staff, she added that she was advised that funds can be leveraged for internships. The Group noted the need for high quality, accessible interns and pointed out that the energy savings should be looked at to pay for the staff position.

To access the EECBG funds, an energy efficiency conservation strategy must be submitted within the strict timeframe. She discussed a month-by-month timeline for development of the strategy. The July public meetings were well attended, press coverage was good, and the website is receiving numerous hits although the feedback will not be available until the first of August. The Group discussed plans to hold focus group meetings by August 10 and having at least two CSC members present to help facilitate the meetings. Focus groups would include utilities, the non-profit community, the development community, the general business community, and the Neighborhood Congress. Draft strategies will be developed in August to be available for public review in September. The goal is to give final strategies to City Council in October for adoption and submittal to the Department of Energy.

Ms. Allen moved to accept the timeline plus the changes made including the addition of the general business community, the Neighborhood Congress through the non-profit community, and a wide range of development community, seconded by Ms. Sanford. The Council voted 12-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Clary, Hoekstra, Hancock, Leiner, Allen, Vickers, Kollar, Davis, Duckwall, Sanford. Nays: None.)

Members volunteered to participate in the following focus groups:

- **Development Community:** Ms. Sanford, Mr. Clary
- **Utilities:** Ms. Allen, Mr. Hoekstra
- **Non-Profit Groups:** Mr. Davis, Mr. Kollar
- **General Business:** Ms. Hancock, Ms. Vickers, Mr. Duckwall

Ms. Schwartz distributed a handout reflecting general data gathered at the July 13, 2009 public meeting. The energy strategy activities listed in order of response were education, financial incentive programs, material conservation, and community approach that focuses on underserved areas. Information from the public meetings will be combined with website and e-mail data and will be presented at the next CSC meeting.

Report on Community Involvement and the EECBG – The Beloved Community Center:

Co-Chair Landau noted that at the prior week's public hearings for input on use of the EECBG funds, there was considerable comments on the importance of involving a broad section of the community into the process. Representatives of the Beloved Community Center were invited to do a brief presentation on ways to involve a larger section of the community.

Nelson Johnson, 2115 Murray Hill Road, stated that community building is the primary work of the Beloved Community Collaborative. He added that the economic component of the EECBG can be an important part of making communities stronger. He referenced a handout and described the views of the Beloved Community Collaborative stating their purpose, membership, and plan. He discussed community building within the stimulus plan and ways to facilitate public awareness. He suggested that energy efficiency and green economies in communities could be accomplished through education, energy audits, promoting local food production, and ongoing green job readiness training. The Collaborative recommended that the CSC makes the community building approach a central feature of energy sustainability and quality of life, that the approach is implemented now and during the planning period, the EECBG option should be employed to designate up to 20% of the City's allocation for community organizing by community-based organizations, and the City should draw from its local expertise.

Joyce Johnson, 2125 Murray Hill Road, stated that the Beloved Community represents a collaborative of individuals interested in working together and she reiterated their recommendation. Nelson Johnson added that the role they want to play involves pulling in and training groups to build empowered communities with a voice.

Report on "Greensboro Green Star" Program:

Ms. Vickers, Mr. Davis, Ms. Hancock, and Ms. Leiner volunteered to set up a time to begin working on the program. The Group will determine the criteria necessary to implement the program.

Update from Green Fair Committee:

There was no update from the committee. Co-Chair Powell, Mr. Giles, and Ms. Hancock are working on the event.

Report on Recent E-mails to the CSC Website:

Co-Chair Landau received an e-mail request from a student wishing to speak to the CSC to address ideas that fit into the City's energy initiatives. The Group agreed that the student should communicate with the Land Use/Transportation subcommittee.

An e-mail was received from a student requesting that a CSC member speak to the UNC-G community on the importance of sustainability. Co-Chair Landau suggested that she should also be in contact with the Sustainability Council at UNC-G and he directed her to their website. Ms. Vickers teaches a course at UNC-G and she offered to speak with the student.

Co-Chair Landau informed the Group of his response to a list of questions from Steve McCollum with the North Carolina Sustainability Energy Association. He added that Annette Green has expressed an interest to participate on the Recycling subcommittee.

Items from Co-Chairs:

There will be a special City Council briefing on Landfill Technology in the Plaza Level Conference Room on July 24, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Pat Diamond, a local real estate attorney, has offered his assistance to the CSC.

The Cooperative Extension will offer a tour of community gardens on July 23, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Items from Group Members:

Ms. Allen received an e-mail from an individual questioning the placement of cell towers in neighborhood parks. The Group discussed cell towers and the possibility of deleterious health effects.

Mr. Duckwall related an article in the Pediatric Journal citing a correlation between air pollution and IQ problems in children.

Items from the Public:

Janie Turnamian volunteered to be on the Green Technology subcommittee.

Acknowledgement of Absences:

Ms. Sanford moved to acknowledge the absence of Mr. Giles, seconded by Mr. Duckwall. The Council voted 12-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Clary, Hoekstra, Hancock, Leiner, Allen, Vickers, Kollar, Davis, Duckwall, Sanford. Nays: None.)

Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau and Bob Powell
Co-Chairs

JL-BP:sm/jd