

**Community Sustainability Council
Greensboro, North Carolina
August 10, 2009**

A meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, August 10, 2009 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Members present were: Co-Chair Joel Landau, Co-Chair Bob Powell, Bob Kollar, Marlene Sanford, Tom Duckwall, Tom Clary, Terri Hancock, Carolyn Allen, Valerie Vickers, Debbie Leiner, Art Davis, Eric Hoekstra, Derrick Giles, and Bob Skenes. Staff present included: Dan Curry and Susan Schwartz, HCD; Steve Randall, Energy and Sustainability Program Manager; Jeryl Covington, Director of Environmental Services; and Sheldon Smith, Solid Waste Division. Also present were ad hoc advisors Davis Montgomery, District Manager for Duke Energy, and Phillip Morgan, Community Relations Developer for Piedmont Natural Gas.

Co-Chair Landau introduced the Council's newest member, Bob Skenes, who is filling the open District One seat.

Approval of Minutes from June 20, 2009 Meeting:

Ms. Allen moved to approve the June 20, 2009 minutes as written, seconded by Ms. Vickers. The Council voted 10-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Sanford, Duckwall, Hancock, Allen, Vickers, Clary, Kollar, Skenes. Nays: None.)

Mr. Hoekstra joined the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Report on Highlights of the Vermont Sustainability Program:

Ms. Hancock gave an overview of the sustainable business practices program she attended in Vermont over the summer. The program focused on environmental/ecological economics and the paradigm shift toward sustainability. She pointed out the necessity for businesses to embrace new technologies, new shifts in thinking about the environment, and social responsibility.

Ms. Leiner joined the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

Report on Plasma Technology for City Landfill Presentation to City Council:

Co-Chair Landau informed the Group that City Council had a briefing on the new plasma technology that might have been applicable to the White Street landfill. It was determined that there is not enough landfill material to process to make the technology viable at this time. Co-Chair Powell commented that a feasibility study was needed along with a fairer presentation of facts.

Mr. Davis joined the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Report on Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Input from the Public Meetings of July 13, 2009, from the CSC Website Survey, and E-Mails to the CSC:

Ms. Schwartz reviewed the raw data gathered from the public meetings and the CSC website. The information reflects the public's sense of priorities regarding the types of program areas where the stimulus money can be spent. The priority areas included education, funding and financial incentives, material conservation, transportation programs, community based incentives, and community approaches focusing on underserved areas. All of the data and input will be available as the strategy is put together.

Assessing Where We Are -- Status of the CSC's Strategic Plan:

- **Funding from DOE**

The DOE approved the application to receive administrative funds from the grant. Strategies must be received by DOE 120 days from the date of application approval.

- **Schedule of Activities to Complete Strategic Plan**

Three focus groups have already been scheduled. Ms. Schwartz requested feedback from the Group on non-profits to include in the focus groups. Members suggested numerous non-profit groups to contact including churches, Housing Coalition, Faith Action, Neighborhood Congress, and participants from the CSC event last fall.

Co-Chair Powell updated members on the Greenhouse Gas Inventory. He summarized a report using methodology from Hinkley to get a relative measure in comparison to other counties. The next step is to determine BTU usage per household in Greensboro and compare the number with houses on a national level to assess efficiency and potential savings.

The RFP has been sent out to obtain consulting services. The consultant will generate a public draft document for review, set targets and goals, and perform the actual Block Grant work to analyze programs and put them into the DOE's format to submit the application within the timeframe.

The Group discussed having a member of the CSC participate with the Consulting Review Committee. Mr. Kollar moved to have Mr. Clary sit on the Consulting Review Committee, seconded by Mr. Davis. The group voted 13-0 to approve the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Sanford, Duckwall, Hancock, Allen, Vickers, Clary, Kollar, Hoekstra, Leiner, Davis, Skenes. Nays: None.

- **General Guidelines for Establishing Programs**

There was a discussion on the types of activities to target within the CSC Action Plan, related to the EECSBG. The Group will look into this again at the next meeting when all of the data from the focus meetings and survey has been compiled.

- **Next Steps**

Members discussed how the administrative money would be spent over the three-year period. Co-Chair Powell reminded staff of the critical need for general administrative support for the CSC. Mr. Curry will ascertain if the money to pay for the extra support is an eligible cost from the grant funds. He indicated that after the cost of the consultant was determined, a full administrative budget for the three-year period would be brought to the CSC.

Mr. Giles joined the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Review and Comment on Staff Recommendation for the Funding Framework for EECSBG:

Because of the diverse range of activities allowed under the Energy Grants, the City Manager's Office asked staff to prepare a recommendation on a funding framework. The recommendation provides a general framework showing a possible breakdown of how the funding could be used on types of activities. Staff proposed a framework funding Administration at 10%, Education and Outreach at 10%, Community-based Programs at 40%, and Public Infrastructure at 40%.

Ms. Schwartz reviewed the breakdowns and asked for comments and feedback from the CSC

before the recommendation is given to the City Manager for City Council's review. Members discussed the framework and shared their perspectives with staff. Mr. Montgomery, with Duke Power, offered a business perspective to the Council through a choice comparing immediate return with public infrastructure and long-term investment with education and community-based programs that would embrace cultural change and impact. Ms. Schwartz summarized the Group's concern that funds need to go to underserved communities and into education for a long-term effect, along with the need for some level of immediate investment that would be invested back into the community.

Ms. Sanford moved to keep the proposal recommended by staff with Administration at 10%, Education and Outreach at 10%, Community-based Programs at 40%, and Public Infrastructure at 40% until a consultant is hired, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted 9-5 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Sanford, Duckwall, Hancock, Allen, Vickers, Leiner, Davis, Hoekstra, Skenes. Nays: Giles, Landau, Powell, Kollar, Clary.)

Reconsider Monthly Meeting Time for CSC's Regular Meeting:

Co-Chair Landau indicated that there may be occasional conflicts with the availability of the Plaza Conference Room. Members discussed alternative days and times, and it was decided to change the regular meeting of the CSC to the third Monday of the month at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on September 21, 2009 in the Plaza Level Conference Room. Mr. Curry will confirm the availability of the room.

Items from Co-Chairs:

A group photo will be taken at the next meeting, September 21, 2009.

Items from Group Members:

Mr. Clary proposed that the Group watch an informative PBS series as an educational workshop. Council members discussed finding a location to view the series after the October, 2009 meeting.

Adjournment:

Mr. Kollar moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Vickers. The Council voted 14-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Davis, Kollar, Sanford, Duckwall, Clary, Hoekstra, Hancock, Allen, Vickers, Leiner, Giles, Skenes. Nays: None.)

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau and Bob Powell
Co-Chairs

JL-BP:sm/jd