

**MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, December 12, 2011 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, commencing at 3:00 p.m. The following members were present: Co-Chairs Joel Landau and Bob Powell, Bob Kollar, Tom Duckwall, Tom Clary, Art Davis, Derrick Giles, and Valerie Vickers. Staff present included Jamal Fox, Valencia Roner, and Caitlin Warren.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 21, 2011 MEETING:

Mr. Davis moved to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2011 meeting as written, seconded by Ms. Vickers. The Council voted unanimously 8-0 in favor of the motion.

INTRODUCTION TO NEW SUSTAINABILITY PLANNER:

Mr. Fox introduced the new Energy Grants Project Manager, Valencia Roner. Co-Chair Landau welcomed Ms. Roner to the Community Sustainability Council.

BETTER BUILDINGS GREENSBORO UPDATE:

Ms. Roner reported that a quality assurance firm has been engaged to work with residential customers. In addition, qualifying and training for 14 firms in the area of Home Performance with Energy Star designation (HPwES) has been completed. Several mid-sized commercial projects have been completed that brought forth a leveraging of \$600,000. She said that retrofits on low-income residential apartment buildings have been completed and approximately \$700,000 was leveraged in the process. Ms. Roner stated that Home Energy Response Officers (HEROs) are actively engaged in community outreach efforts.

Ms. Roner indicated that the next step following energy assessments will be the execution of contracts for the work. She anticipated that HERO visits to the approximately 700 residential applicants already approved will be caught up by February, 2012.

Ms. Roner stated that relationships have been established with three lenders, Greensboro Municipal Federal Credit Union, Carolina Bank, and Self Help Credit Union to provide special financing options to applicants.

Responding to a question from Mr. Davis, Ms. Roner said that to-date approximately 67 assessments have been completed; 743 applicants have been approved; and 10 applications are in process. She stated that the target is 2,100 residential retrofits. There will be 1,020 grant home retrofits with the balance being incentive homes.

EECBG UPDATE:

Mr. Fox reported that close to \$1 million of the allocated \$2.5 million has been spent. Per the status report, the amounts have not changed since the last meeting.

Ms. Vickers referenced the educational component of the grant and asked about the status of plans to create a network of community sustainability resources and the opportunity for students to serve as interns. She reiterated the need for the Katherine Clay Edwards Library branch to have an environmental sustainability resource and inquired if money was available to fund the objective. Ms. Warren stated that Elizabeth Link, City of Greensboro, is in process of finalizing plans to secure an intern to work with the project. Ms. Roner will follow-up on the matter and present an update at the next meeting.

UPDATE ON STATUS OF SAP AND CSC BOARD:

Co-Chair Landau indicated that a member of City Council plans to make a motion to direct staff to make recommendations toward accepting and implementing the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) at the next City Council meeting.

Co-Chair Landau indicated that he was informed by the interim City Manager that the CSC Board would not be eliminated. The current City Council supports the continuation of the CSC.

CSC NEXT STEPS:

Mr. Giles recommended that a City Council member attend CSC meetings as a liaison at least on a quarterly basis.

Ms. Vickers stated her opinion that the CSC needed to reinvent itself to rethink, with either staff or a City Council member, what role it should play. In addition, she felt that expertise should weigh heavily in the criteria for being on the CSC. She suggested the formation of a list of individuals with expertise interested in serving on the Council along with a list of interested people from different districts to facilitate filling empty seats.

Ms. Vickers announced that she was resigning her District 4 seat due to scheduling conflicts with her work at UNC-Greensboro. She stated her interest in serving as an advisor relative to Education, Nature in the City, and Awards for the CSC.

Co-Chair Landau summarized CSC objectives determined at the last meeting as follows:

1. Set up Cash Flow Sustainability Account.
2. Revisit Green Technology.
3. Perform monitoring function as implementations occur.
4. Education and Outreach follow-up.
5. Once the Cash Flow Sustainability Account is set up, address the next round of measures.

Members proposed that Co-Chairs Landau and Powell meet with the Interim City Manager, the Mayor, or the Mayor Pro-Tem to present the CSC objectives for their feedback. It was suggested that the Co-Chairs ask for a liaison to the CSC and request that a readily available process for nominations be developed. In addition, a list of potential CSC members along with a list of Advisory Committee members will be created. Ms. Vickers asked that her name be placed on the list of Advisory Committee members.

The Council expressed their thanks to Ms. Vickers for her time and contributions to the CSC.

Mr. Giles and Ms. Vickers left the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

WATER QUALITY AUDIT:

Mr. Duckwall stated that the water audit, the topic of a seminar he attended in October, 2011, was represented in terms of quantity. He discussed discrepancies in water usages as gauged by billing information gathered from water meters along with other points of interest. In addition, Mr. Duckwall discussed the contributions of George Kunkle in the field of water audits.

ECO TOUR:

MaryEllen Etienne, ReUse Alliance and Green Drinks, described the November 4, 2011 Eco Tour sponsored by The Fund for Democratic Communities at the Catawba EcoComplex. The EcoComplex consists of 800 acres and is viewed as an ecosystem. The main component of the complex is their resource recovery facility. Another tour is being planned for spring, 2012 and she encouraged members to attend. She was asked to send the Eco Tour link to staff for distribution to CSC members.

ITEMS FROM CO-CHAIRS:

Co-Chair Landau informed members that a Transition Town group is working on organizing another Sustainability Summit. They have expressed interest in working with the CSC on the project. Co-Chair Landau plans to invite the group to the next meeting to discuss ways to partner together.

ITEMS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Kollar is a member of the Environmental Review Board. The Board asked him to speak to the CSC about engaging in cooperative activities. Mr. Kollar offered to act as a liaison between the two groups.

Mr. Kollar introduced Brice Byornson, Sustainability Engagement Consultant at Guilford College. There was a conversation regarding sustainability and conservation efforts currently underway at local colleges.

Co-Chair Powell informed members that the Sustainability Project will hold their first county-wide meeting in each of the 12 counties between January 16, 2012 and February 27, 2012.

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC:

MaryEllen Etienne, ReUse Alliance and Green Drinks, informed the Council that the next Green Drinks event will be held on January 18, 2012 at Habitat Restore on High Point Road from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

ITEMS FROM STAFF:

None.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES:

Mr. Kollar moved to acknowledge the absences of Mr. Hoekstra, Ms. Allen, Ms. Sanford, Ms. Hancock, and Mr. McClough, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously 6-0 in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau
Co-Chairman

JL:sm/jd