

**Community Sustainability Council
Greensboro, North Carolina
April 13, 2009**

A meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, April 13, 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, Debbie Leiner, Valerie Vickers, Derrick Giles, and Carolyn Allen. Staff present were: Dan Curry and Susan Schwartz, HCD; Steve Randall, Energy and Sustainability Program Manager; and Jeryl Covington, Director of Environmental Services.

Co-Chair Landau welcomed the Council's newest member, Derrick Giles, who is filling Mr. Venable's seat. Mr. Giles gave the Group an overview of his background and experience.

Mr. Davis and Co-Chair Powell joined the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from the March 9, 2009 Regular Meeting:

Ms. Sanford moved to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2009 meeting, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously 11-0 to approve the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Davis, Kollar, Sanford, Duckwall, Clary, Leiner, Vickers, Giles, Allen. Nays: None.)

2. Discussion: Do We Want to Host/Coordinate a Green Fair?

The Group discussed the possibility of holding a Green Fair. It was agreed that the concept was feasible; however, the July timetable was unrealistic. It was suggested that the fair take place next fall or spring in downtown Greensboro. Many local groups have held similar events and may be interested in participating; Council members discussed the possibility of making the fair a Triad event. Co-Chair Powell, Mr. Giles, Ms. Leiner, Ms. Vickers (after June), and Ms. Sanford (as liaison to the construction industry) volunteered their time to serve on an exploratory committee to begin talking about the Green Fair.

3. Briefing on the City's Response to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Stimulus Funding, and Discussion of the Role of the CSC:

Sue Schwartz, Planning Manager with HCD, updated the Council on Greensboro's allocation of 2.55 million dollars in the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from the stimulus package. She reviewed the application process, uses and requirements for the funding, and the timetable. Staff is reviewing all existing adopted plans and policies that may speak to the funding in addition to planning an involved public process. Points of discussion included leveraging the funds, creating permanent jobs, energy audits, revolving loan funds, and communicating ideas and recommendations from the subcommittees. Ms. Schwartz will continue to keep the Group informed about the progress of the stimulus funding.

4. Report on Joel Landau and Bob Powell's Meeting with the City Manager and their Report to City Council:

Co-Chairs Powell and Landau recently met with the interim City Manager, Bob Morgan, prior to their public report to City Council. They updated Mr. Morgan and the City Council on the Sustainability Council's activities over the last six months including the November gathering, formulating the Action Plan, RecycleBank, the Sustainability Skyline Project application, and the value of these activities in respect to the Energy Block Grant application. The Co-Chairs plan to attend City Council briefings to monitor the stimulus package.

5. Establish Staggered Terms for CSC Seats:

Co-Chair Landau introduced the possibility of establishing staggered terms to avoid having all CSC members leave at the same time. The Mayor has given her approval for the staggered terms and the City Clerk has been contacted to determine the starting date. The Group discussed possible scenarios for staggering terms and questions were raised that required further clarification. Council members agreed to table the discussion until next month so more information could be gathered.

6. Decision on Recommending Establishment of a Cash Flow Sustainability Account:

Co-Chair Landau described the rationale behind establishing a cash flow sustainability account and the need for the city to have solid bookkeeping regarding energy use. Here's how this account works: the City starts by implementing energy saving measures that have no or minimal upfront costs. Some of the money savings from these measures are set aside in the Cash Flow Sustainability Account. This is in turn used to help fund future sustainability initiatives that require some upfront money. Members commented on the importance of establishing this fund of money to promote new energy activities.

Steve Randall, Sustainability Manager, described the program he is currently developing to determine energy use by the city. He is developing an accounting system around the part of the energy that is used within the performance contract.

Mr. Kollar moved to accept and move forward with the concept of a cash flow sustainability account, seconded by Ms. Vickers. The Council voted unanimously 11-0 to approve the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Davis, Kollar, Sanford, Duckwall, Clary, Leiner, Vickers, Giles, Allen. Nays: None.)

7. Report on any Recent E-Mails to the CSC Website:

There have been no new e-mails to the CSC website.

8. Items from Co-Chairs:

- **The Mayor's Speech at the CERT Workshop on 3/19/09**

Mayor Johnson gave the keynote speech on sustainability at the CERT workshop held at A&T University. Members requested a copy of the outstanding speech and were advised that a video would also be available on the website in the future.

- **Greensboro's First Hybrid Bus**

The city is in process of purchasing a hybrid bus. They will monitor energy savings and maintenance costs compared to the diesel buses currently in use.

9. Items from Group Members:

Ms. Vickers informed the Group that Greensboro Day School recently won the Division 2 Green Cup Challenge. It is the first and only national student-driven inter-school energy challenge that builds awareness about climate change in the environment. She described the student's work in the challenge and members suggested recognizing the achievement through a City Council resolution. Ms. Vickers added that Tim Martin, a science teacher at Greensboro Day School, is currently in Siberia studying climate change. Mr. Duckwall commended the Equipment Service Department on their use of water soluble hydraulic fluid.

Ms. Leiner stated that the Page High School Environmental Club has received a Teen Challenge Grant from the Community Foundation to establish a sustainable recycling program for the school. In addition, the Grimsley Sierra Club has received a grant to perform an energy audit for the high school.

Mr. Davis informed the Group that additional community gardens are being developed through the Building Stronger Neighborhoods Council.

10. Items from the Public:

None.

11. Items from Staff:

Ms. Covington, Director of Environmental Services, indicated that Friday, April 17, 2009 is a hazardous residential and electronic waste collection day at the Guilford County Agricultural Extension on Burlington Road. She also reviewed the March issuance of the Greenhouse Gas Regulation by the Federal Register.

12. Acknowledgement of Absences:

Ms. Sanford moved to acknowledge the absence of Mr. Hoekstra, seconded by Ms. Allen. The Council voted unanimously 11-0 to approve the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Leiner, Giles, Kollar, Sanford, Duckwall, Clary, Allen, Davis, Vickers. Nays: None.)

13. Subcommittee Work Session:

Mr. Curry suggested that the Group develop a system for taking notes and sharing information within the four subcommittees. He will follow-up on the possibility of posting notes to the website. In the meantime, summary notes taken at committee meetings should be e-mailed to Co-Chair Landau. Each subcommittee will be making a full report at the next meeting. The Council broke into subcommittees to discuss meeting times, coordinate overlaps, and briefly share information.

* * * * *

14. Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau and Bob Powell
Co-chairs

JL-BP:sm/jd