

Community Sustainability Council
Greensboro, North Carolina
May 11, 2009
(Final Corrected Draft)

A meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, May 11, 2009 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, beginning at 3:04 p.m. Members present were: Co-Chair Joel Landau, Co-Chair Bob Powell, Art Davis, Bob Kollar, Marlene Sanford, Tom Duckwall, Tom Clary, Valerie Vickers, Derrick Giles, Carolyn Allen, Eric Hoekstra, and Terri Hancock. 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, Terri Hancock, who was appointed by the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Hancock gave the Group an overview of her background and experience.

Approval of Minutes from the April 13, 2009 Regular Meeting:

Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2009 meeting, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously 11-0 to approve the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Davis, Kollar, Sanford, Duckwall, Hoekstra, Vickers, Giles, Allen, Hancock. Nays: None.)

Update on City's Response to ARRA Stimulus Funding and the Role of CSC:

Ms. Swartz distributed staff's proposed timeline for responding to the ARRA Stimulus Funding. She advised the Group that it would be a good idea to submit the application early. This would allow the City to access the \$240,000 funding, hire consultants to help complete the Greenhouse Gas Inventory, and focus on putting a strategy together before the 120-day deadline. One role of the Council will be to host a public discussion about strategies. Project ideas generated by public input will be put together with staff's inventory of city policies already in place to develop an overall strategic plan for submittal before the deadline. She indicated that staff will begin developing scoring criteria to appraise the strategies. These scoring strategies will be presented to the CSC for evaluation. She reminded members that there are 14 ways the funding can be spent and the key criteria is leveraging jobs and leveraging private investment.

Mr. Clary joined the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Draft Reports from the Four Active Subcommittees:

- **Green Jobs/Buildings**

Mr. Curry explained that the subcommittee's approach was to develop a list of potential strategies and actions to address the topics of green jobs and green buildings. He gave an overview of their strategies for advocacy, education, and policy actions. Mr. Curry will prioritize the list to come up with a one-year action plan for the next meeting.

Ms. Allen moved to accept the Green Jobs/Buildings report with the provision that the subcommittee will prioritize the list to identify suggestions that can be implemented more readily, seconded by Ms. Vickers. The Council voted 12-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Davis, Kollar, Sanford, Duckwall, Clary, Vickers, Giles, Allen, Hancock, Hoekstra. Nays: None.)

- **Nature in the City**

Ms. Sanford stated that the subcommittee narrowed their suggestions down to items that could be immediately pursued. She referenced a handout of the draft report and reviewed each of their five recommendations. These recommendations were (1) identification of parcels of land that could be used for demonstration garden purposes, (2) set up an urban demonstration garden, (3) incorporate wild, unlandscaped areas into parks and greenway design, (4) use low-interest rate revolving loan fund, and (5) identify opportunities to educate City Council and the community on ways to create sustainability.

Michael Roberto, a member of the subcommittee, elaborated on the recommendation to identify and provide parcels of land for demonstration garden purposes. The land would be for use by people who were trained as a result of funding money. He referenced the A&T capacity building grant that would join private and public sectors together to build a sustainable local food base.

Lucinda Gamble, 600 North Mendenhall Street, commented on urban agriculture and rebuilding the food system. She stated that when the City thinks of land use, they should be thinking in terms of food production. She discussed the concept of agricultural belts as the City expands out and separate zoning for gardens.

Mr. Kollar moved to accept the Nature in the City report and also that the alternative ideas not included in the report be typed up as an addendum, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted 12-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Davis, Kollar, Sanford, Duckwall, Clary, Vickers, Giles, Allen, Hancock, Hoekstra. Nays: None.)

- **Action Planning and Inventory**

Co-Chair Powell informed the Group that the subcommittee has focused on the Greenhouse Gas Inventory. The draft of the Inventory has been sent out and contains the energy usage and the resulting greenhouse gas production for the City. He indicated that the next step will be to complete the additional inventory of city owned facilities, and then formulate a projection. The targets will be set for these two tasks at the next meeting. Members commented on the importance of educating City Council and providing data as goals are discussed.

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

- **City Operations**

Mr. Randall gave an overview of city operations and he commented that the topic overlaps his general job description objectives. He discussed responsibilities, objectives, and requirements. He stated that his draft proposes what should be done with new and major renovations for city owned and operated facilities. He commented on the lack of individual energy measurements of city buildings and equipment, the problem of some buildings not being sub-metered, the need for assistance with data input, the effectiveness of performance contracts, and the need for software and equipment. Mr. Randall indicated that he will revise his report and prioritize his recommendations, including rationale, for the next meeting.

Discussion of Next Steps for Producing a Final Report:

The Group agreed that new drafts are needed from each of the four subcommittees in the same format. Members discussed the best way to proceed with staff's request for public input. Mr. Curry commented on the value of starting the process by holding a focused general informational meeting before projects are suggested for funding. Council members agreed on the importance of inviting people who attended the November meeting, and a focus group format was suggested. Co-Chair Landau, Co-Chair Powell, and Mr. Curry will put a proposal out to solicit input from people at the November meeting, members of CSC, and other interested individuals.

Establishing Subcommittees for Remaining Report Areas: Green Technologies; Land Use/Transportation; Recycling and Waste Reduction; Education and Outreach

Members discussed the timeline for creating the remaining four subcommittees. Co-Chair Landau will poll members on which group they would like to participate in.

Update on EPA Sustainable Skylines Proposal:

Mr. Curry informed the group that there has been no news on the proposal.

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

Co-Chair Landau stated that no new e-mails have been received.

Items from Co-Chairs:

Co-Chair Landau informed members that a new group photo is needed. The Group discussed taking the photo at the July, 2009 meeting.

Items from Group Members:

Mr. Clary updated Council members on the trolley proposal. He felt the best way to proceed would be to ask the City Council to fund a feasibility study to determine details. The Group discussed the possibility that the trolley proposal may ultimately be handled by the Land Use/Transportation subcommittee.

Ms. Sanford advised the Group that Winston-Salem also has a Community Sustainability Council and she suggested a joint meeting between the two groups.

Items from Staff:

Ms. Covington advised members that the month of May has been designated as Sustainability Month by the EPA. She also updated the Group on the Waxman Bill concerning greenhouse gas emissions.

Acknowledgement of Absences:

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

Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau and Bob Powell
Co-chairs

JL-BP:sm/jd