

**Community Sustainability Council
Greensboro, North Carolina
November 10th, 2008**

A meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, November 10th, 2008 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Members present were: Co-chair Joel Landau, Co-chair Bob Powell, Art Davis, Kim Yarbray, Eric Hoekstra, Bob Kollar, Joe Venable, Marlene Sanford, Tom Duckwall, and Carolyn Allen. Staff present were: Dan Curry, HCD, Steve Randall, Engineering and Inspections, Jeryl Covington, Director of Environmental Services, and Pat Boswell, Director of Public Affairs.

1. Approval of minutes from the October 13th Regular Meeting

Mr. Hoekstra requested a change in the second page, last paragraph to add an apostrophe to the word 'months'; the third page, fifth paragraph change of the name to Morgan Glover; and the third page at the bottom, a change of the name to Kauber, and a change to wording to include 'Peak Oil presentation by Peter Kauber of Guilford Solar'; on the fourth page, last paragraph to change 'ticket' to 'tickets'; and on the fifth page to change 'Mid-east' to 'Mideast'. Co-chair Landau requested a change in Item 3, the fourth paragraph to remove 'either', and the last paragraph changing the spelling of 'Randle' to 'Randall'; a change in Item 6 the spelling of 'Triponi' to 'Tricoli'. Mr. Kollar moved to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Yarbray. The Council voted unanimously to approve the motion 9-0.

Co-chair Landau asked if there was any objection to sending minutes to the whole group after grammar and spelling corrections were made by Mr. Curry and himself. Through discussion the Council agreed to the delivery of minutes after simple corrections were made.

2. Items from the public

Brian Higgins, 1007 Haywood St., Sustainable Greensboro, gave the Council a brief overview of the nonprofit he represents. He stated that, in light of the upcoming gathering, he wished to inform the Council about the new nonprofit that he was helping to establish. He has been coordinating 'Green Drinks Greensboro' since May or June. The Idea behind Sustainable Greensboro is that Greensboro is doing a lot of great things for sustainability, but sole reliance on business and government does not complete the picture. Citizen participation, through nonprofits, is necessary and critical. The role of the nonprofit fits into the same category of support as PTAs, Greensboro Beautiful, etc. He is proposing a group that is not a traditional activist environmental organization, but rather a collaborative group. A group that will work with the City, businesses, and citizens to put forth proactive projects. He presented the Council with a draft statement and mission. He stated there was an agreement with Piedmont Conservation Council which will allow the group to start securing tax deductible funds for operation. The 501-C3 will be established over the next three to six months. He stated he would be attending the gathering on Thursday.

3. Report and Planning for the November 13th Community Sustainability Gathering

Co-chair Powell gave the Council an overview of the plans for the event. He stated that he and Mr. Curry did a walk-through of the site on Friday, and based on that a couple of adjustments were made. The plan includes an arrival period, where groups and individuals would come in, identify where they live on a map, and place responses to the question "What examples of the

big ideas you have seen, imagined, or working on that represent the things we need to do in Greensboro in the next five years?" on a cloth board. Individuals will be asked at sign-in if they represent an organization, and a list will be compiled of the groups in attendance. Ms. Yarbray asked if Mr. Curry would be bringing the sign-in sheets, and if there would be room for contact information including mailing address, emails, and other contacts. Mr. Curry stated that he would.

Co-chair Powell stated that there were four parts to the meeting; the arrival, welcome and introduction of attendees, break-out sessions, and plenary session at the end. After the arrival Co-chair Landau will do the initial welcoming and introduce the Mayor. Following the Mayor's remarks, Co-chair Landau will give a historical background to the event. Then Co-chair Powell will review the GIS map of the different areas represented, and cover the list of groups represented. Then everyone in attendance, or at least one representative from each group, will be given a minute or two to share information about themselves and the group.

Co-chair Powell stated that the next section, the break-out sessions, would be where the work begins. The objective of the gathering is to gather ideas about what everyone is doing and what everyone hopes to do, to share that among the groups, and to develop that into a form that the Council can take to the City Council. There will be a number of posters, approximately ten, associated with the topics that come from the U.S. Mayors' Climate Agreement. There will be students from Co-chair Powell's class to record the break-out sessions. The ideas from the cloth board will be put on the corresponding poster boards, and will be the seeding of the different groups' discussions. He presented the Council with a list of the proposed discussion topics. Then participants will be asked to add ideas to the different posters.

Then the gathering will be broken into small discussion groups. The topic for the groups will be 'What will it take to make these ideas happen?'. Facilitators and recorders will help guide the discussions using a template of questions revolving around what activities are needed, possible roadblocks and solutions, what specific skills and resources are in Greensboro, etc. Then the gathering will discuss the ideas from the various groups during the plenary section. Co-chair Landau will then wrap up the meeting and end the gathering.

Co-chair Landau stated that under topic 9. the area of local food supply and community/local gardens and agriculture should be included. He also asked Co-chair Powell to clarify the distinctions between topics 4,5, and 6. Co-chair Powell stated that topic 4 deals with any and all buildings, and topic 6 deals with industrial energy use and conservation. Topic 5 was focused more towards small businesses, concerning areas of energy use other than buildings.

Mr. Randall asked where hospitals and other institutions would go, and if Co-chair Powell knew if they would be represented at the gathering. He stated that they might fit within topic 5 as commercial/institutional. Ms. Covington stated that the hospitals did have energy managers, but she did not know if they were planning on being at the event.

Ms. Yarbray stated that today would be a good time to send out reminder emails to all that have been contacted.

Co-chair Landau stated that it might be best if topics 4, 5, and 6 were better clarified, and expanded to include the topics just discussed. Co-chair Powell asked for anyone else that had suggestions to let him know.

Co-chair Powell stated that the timing of the gathering is working out perfectly. The results of the gathering will be used to make recommendations to the City Council. Also, the EPA request for applications has just come out for the Coolcities Sustainable Skylines program. The request calls for local governments to do a planning project, and the gathering works very well with that process.

Ms. Yarbray stated that a debriefing of the gathering should be an agenda item for the next meeting. Co-chair Powell stated that the proposal will have to go in on December 17th, so any support from the Council would need to come at the next meeting. Ms. Sanford asked if the RFA was for local governments, and if there was City staff working on the project. Co-chair Powell stated they were in the process of getting City approval from staff, and the A&T Sociology department would be providing the staff time to write the proposal.

Mr. Duckwall asked how the recording of the gathering would be compiled considering the use of several poster boards, etc. Mr. Kollar stated that the use of a template would help facilitate compilation. Co-chair Powell stated that the student recorders will be putting the basic drafts together from the individual groups, but the format is still unclear. Through discussion the Council decided to post the final report on the website when complete. All the information will also come back to the Council at the next meeting for comments and suggestions.

Ms. Yarbray asked Mr. Curry to give the Council an update on the survey. Mr. Curry stated that a survey was in the works that they are hoping will be on the website by the end of the week, and attendees will be asked to complete the survey after the gathering online. The survey is for the attendees and any other interested party. The survey will provide the full range of information gathered at the event, so it will help provide information from groups that were not in attendance. There will also be business cards available for the members at the gathering. Mr. Curry passed draft cards around for the members to make suggestions about.

Mr. Curry asked to run through the event assignments. Facilitators: Art Davis, Tom Duckwall, Marlene Sanford, Joe Venable, Jerry Leimenstoll, John Linn, and five city staff members. MC: Bob Powell, students will run mics. Clock: Dan Curry. Hospitality: Eric Hoekstra and students, and food and beverages have been given to staff. Greeters: Carolyn Allen and Joel Landau. Arrival: students. Setup/breakdown: Kim Yarbray, Joel Landau, students, and any others that can help.

Co-chair Landau asked if there were any suggestions for the business cards. Ms. Yarbray asked if the card would contain an email address on the card. Mr. Curry stated that there is email available on the website, and the use of outside email addresses has not been resolved yet. Co-chair Powell asked how many cards would be made, and if this would be the permanent card. Mr. Curry stated that only a nominal amount of cards would be produced for the gathering, and other changes could be made for future cards. Through Council discussion, Community Sustainability Council and the website were to be enlarged and made bolder, and the logo would be a little smaller.

4. Items from Co-chairs

Co-chair Landau stated that the Co-chairs would be appearing on the *Bottom Line* radio program on FM 90.1, A&T Radio from 10-11 am, on November 11th. He asked any members who wished to do so to call in with comments and questions. The call-in number was unknown.

Ms. Sanford asked Co-chair Powell to clarify the timing and role of the Council for the EPA application on December 17th. Co-chair Powell stated that there would clearly need to be updates to the members before the next regular meeting. Whatever official vote will be necessary will be done at the next meeting. Co-chair Powell asked if the development of the proposal was an item for the whole Council or for a subcommittee. Ms. Sanford suggested that all members of the Council who wished to participate should meet after the gathering. Co-chair Powell stated he would send a copy of the RFA to the entire Council. Mr. Curry stated the application is very broad based, asking for five possible projects out of the seven possible areas included in the RFA, and the application does not need to be very detailed due to the planning nature of the grant. Co-chair Landau stated that the group working on the RFA is not the Council, but the Council input is expected. Co-chair Powell stated that ultimately the program will move from the university to the Council and the City, with the university serving a more supportive role. At a minimum the City should be the applicant for the RFA, and the Council should work towards developing the application. Mr. Curry stated that the City has not yet agreed to be the applicant, but staff is working towards that goal.

Co-chair Landau re-introduced Steve Randall, the new Energy and Sustainability Program Manager, to the Council.

Co-chair Landau informed the Council of a state-wide movement concerning local food economies that will have regional meetings. There will be a meeting in Winston-Salem on December 10th, at SciWorks from 5:30 – 8:30 pm. Information will be sent to the Council about the event.

Co-chair Landau stated that the Mayor sent him information to forward to the Council concerning the 9th National Conference on Science Policy, and the Environment. The topic will be biodiversity in a rapidly changing world. The conference is in Washington D.C. December 8th-10th.

Co-chair Landau stated that future agendas will focus on developing proposals for the City Council on sustainability initiatives.

Co-chair Powell informed the group of Proximity Hotel's Platinum LEED certification. The Council suggested putting a link on the website to inform the public. Mr. Curry suggested linking to the U.S. Green Building Council.

5. Items from Staff

Mr. Curry stated that the UNCG film event was scheduled for the same day as the gathering. Co-chair Landau indicated the film will be pushed back to 7:30 pm.

Ms. Covington informed the Council of a group called Climate Communities, a group of cities across the country that is trying to work together with the incoming Congress on energy, environmental, and green-house-gas legislation.

6. Items from Council Members

Mr. Duckwall suggested the group include the handyman type of individual in their efforts, following a meeting with a handyman who has worked on his own to make his own solar

collectors. He has developed a system that has allowed him to reduce the amount of wood he uses by at least one third.

7. Acknowledgement of absences

Mr. Davis moved to acknowledge the absences of Tom Clary, Debbie Leiner, Maurice Allen, and Jim Brady, seconded by Ms. Sanford. The Council voted to approve the motion unanimously 10-0.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 4:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau and Bob Powell
Co-chairs