

**MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 12, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, March 12, 2012 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, commencing at 3:10 p.m. The following members were present: Co-Chairs Joel Landau and Bob Powell, Terri Hancock, Marlene Sanford, Carolyn Allen, Tom Duckwall, Tom Clary, Eric Hoekstra, and Art Davis. Staff present included Caitlin Warren, Valencia Roner, and Karen Markovics.

BETTER BUILDINGS UPDATE:

Ms. Roner reported that 866 applications have been received to-date and 300 contracts are in process to begin work. Chair Powell noted that the contracts represent an average of \$600,000 worth of work coming into the community.

Ms. Roner stated that Work Force Development Services has hired Alexandra Gardner to function as their Business Services Representative.

EECBG UPDATE:

The contract administrator for the formula grant has indicated that there are now seven months to spend the money. Ms. Roner confirmed that all the money for the grant has been obligated and is in place.

UPDATE OF SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN (SAP):

Karen Markovics gave a presentation on progress being made in meeting the policies and strategies of the SAP. She indicated that the Plan contains 12 policies around 8 topic areas along with over a hundred implementation items.

She referred to a detailed spreadsheet emailed to members and said that considerable strides have been made meeting the goals of the Plan since January 2011. Of the 41 strategies represented, 24 have been addressed. She summarized that out of 123 implementation items analyzed, 27 items are complete, 28 items are underway, 24 items are ongoing, 27 items are planned, and 17 items are in effect. She stated that this represents over 100 different policies, programs, outreach efforts that address the initiatives in the SAP.

Ms. Roner reviewed highlights extracted from the spreadsheet that are most representative of the Plan such as the Better Buildings program and numerous recycling efforts. In regard to City facilities, she noted the sub-metering project, window replacement made possible through the formula grant, green LED building efforts, and the Sustainability Audit.

Responding to a question from Co-Chair Landau, Ms. Roner said that there has been no discussion at staff level relative to the creation of a Cash Flow Sustainability Account.

Co-Chair Powell felt that there should be a measurement of the costs and benefits of energy saving efforts made by the City. He recommended that the City determine what it would take to

make a full measurement of savings as the next step and also toward the creation of a Cash Flow Sustainability Account.

Mr. Clary moved to measure energy savings, BTUs, and pollution standards and that this information be weighted against the original projections in the SAP, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously 9-0 in favor of the motion.

There was a discussion regarding the items that have not yet been addressed by the SAP. Ms. Markovics suggested it would be a good idea for community groups, or the CSC in partnership with other groups, to look at the SAP again to review the unaddressed items and determine who would be responsible for their implementation. Co-Chair Powell was in support of the suggestion and asked staff to provide a list of the 27 implementation items that have not been addressed.

WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE:

Co-Chair Powell reported that a letter was sent to the Mayor and Council members suggesting related actions between to the SAP and the Waste Management Task Force. The letter also suggested that the CSC have a role in the Waste Management Task Force. The Mayor indicated that the Task Force had already been formed and it was not appropriate to make additions at this time.

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN AND IMPACT ON CITY'S BUDGET SHORTFALL:

Co-Chair Powell informed members that budget meetings are occurring in each district. He felt it was important for CSC members to attend the meetings in an effort to insure the SAP does not fall through the cracks as the City establishes its budget.

Co-Chair Landau commented that he recently attended the District 4 meeting and learned that the savings identified in the SAP had not been factored into budget projections. He suggested that CSC members attend the budget meetings and encourage City Council members to remember that SAP action items could help address some of the budget shortfalls.

Ms. Sanford suggested that either Co-Chair Landau or Powell speak at the SAP presentation to City Council on March 20, 2012 to mention the creation of a Cash Sustainability Account in addition to plans to measure and track energy savings. She also felt it would be good to have a discussion of the 27 items yet to be addressed at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 12, 2011 AND FEBRUARY 13, 2012 MEETINGS:

Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2011 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously 9-0 in favor of the motion.

Mr. Davis moved to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2012 meeting as amended, seconded by Ms. Allen. The Council voted unanimously 9-0 in favor of the motion.

ITEMS FROM CO-CHAIRS:

Co-Chair Powell informed members of a presentation at UNC-Greensboro on March 20, 2012 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. and from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. regarding what is currently happening in sustainability. Mayor Perkins will be speaking at the first session.

ITEMS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr. Clary reported on a speech he attended given by Mayor Perkins on the waste management process. The Mayor felt that the process would yield a large savings in money in the future.

Members discussed having a CSC representative attend the Waste Management Task Force meetings to observe and report back to members. Ms. Hancock volunteered to attend the meetings.

Mr. Duckwall moved to direct Ms. Hancock to attend Waste Management Task Force meetings to observe on behalf of the CSC, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously 9-0 in favor of the motion

ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Ms. Roner shared a directive from Councilwoman T. Dianne Bellamy-Small for the CSC to come together to develop a Sustainability Fair for either Earth Day or July 4th. In addition, the CSC should develop a budget and a list of activities along with roles and responsibilities to be submitted in two weeks.

Co-Chair Powell, Ms. Sanford, and Ms. Hancock volunteered to serve on a planning committee for the event.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES:

Ms. Allen moved to acknowledge the absences of Mr. Giles, Mr. Kollar, and Mr. McClough, seconded by Mr. Hoekstra. The Council voted unanimously 9-0 in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau
Co-Chairman

JL:sm/jd