

**MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council (CSC) was held on Monday, August 13, 2012 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, commencing at 3:05 p.m. The following members were present: Co-Chairs Joel Landau and Bob Powell, Bill Barker, Tom Clary, Tom Duckwall, Terri Hancock, Carolyn Allen, Marlene Sanford, and Art Davis. Staff present included Steve Randall, Jamal Fox, and Valencia Roner.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CSC MEMBER:

Co-Chair Landau introduced the newest member of the CSC, Mr. Bill Barker. Mr. Barker described his background and experience in sustainability. He is replacing Mr. Hoekstra from District 3.

Members thanked Mr. Hoekstra for his service to the CSC.

Co-Chair Landau stated that there are currently openings in Districts 1 and 4.

Ms. Sanford asked for an update on the CSC's vote last summer to recommend changing the basis for the way seats are filled from district to expertise and district. She felt that before the new openings are filled with district seats, the recommendation should be discussed with City Council. Co-Chair Powell indicated that membership reorganization will be addressed at the next quarterly meeting of the CSC in November, 2012.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 21, 2012 MEETING:

Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2012 meeting as amended, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously 9-0 in favor of the motion.

ENERGY GRANTS UPDATE:

Ms. Roner stated that the formula grant came to an end in August, 2012. Co-Chair Powell requested that staff provide a summary report of EECBG projects.

Ms. Roner informed the Council that 1,242 applications have been received for the BetterBuildings grant and 730 assessments have been made. There have been 327 upgrades to-date.

Ms. Roner cited leveraging with Cone Health Systems and Guilford County Schools as highlights of the program. In addition, there is a data collection program in place to transfer paper files to an online system. She reported that monitoring visits from Washington, D.C. for the EECBG and BetterBuildings grants were both highly favorable.

Ms. Sanford asked if the \$1 million housing bond passed by the City, that has never been issued, can be used to help with energy upgrade efforts. Ms. Roner indicated that she will inquire about the funds and report back.

Ms. Roner updated members on progress being made with neighborhood sweeps. Outreach teams have conducted sweeps in the Kirkwood, Neiltown, and Random Woods communities. The final two neighborhood sweeps will occur in the Ardmore Park and Cottage Grove communities.

REPORT FROM TRANSITION GREENSBORO ON PLANNED OCTOBER MEETING:

Mr. Tom Guthrie and Ms. Kathe Latham, members of Transition Greensboro, distributed flyers highlighting the organization.

Mr. Guthrie gave an overview of the transition movement. Transition is a model for positive social change in response to three global concerns: (1) climate change, (2) the end of cheap oil, and (3) economic instability. His belief is that by re-localizing the community, all these issues can be addressed. Their focus is on strengthening local communities making them more resilient.

Ms. Latham discussed some of the projects recently undertaken by Transition Greensboro. They worked on the "bring your own bag" campaign in conjunction with the Sierra Club and planted an edible garden in partnership with the Interactive Resource Center. In addition, Transition Greensboro held a Re-skilling Fair at the Farmer's Market.

On October 13, 2012, Transition Greensboro is planning a gathering of numerous organizations working on similar issues to facilitate communication and share resources and ideas. A trainer from Transition Sarasota, who is an expert in environmental leadership, will be present. The meeting will take place at the Interactive Resource Center from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

UPDATES FROM THE FOUR ACTIVITIES PLANNED SINCE LAST MEETING:

- **Green Technologies Committee (Tom Clary)**

Mr. Clary reported that the subcommittee has changed its name to Green Sustainability Technologies. He distributed and reviewed a summary of the meetings held by the subcommittee. The group clarified the definition of green/sustainability as used for green business technologies, established goals, identified local green businesses, and listed methods and strategies used elsewhere to achieve goals. In addition, they plan to hold a workshop to engage local businesses to create an economic development plan for green businesses.

During conversation it was suggested that Mr. Dan Lynch, Chamber of Commerce, would be a good contact for recruiting green businesses. Co-Chair Landau added Deep Roots Market and Weaver Cook Construction to the subcommittee's list of possible cosponsors.

- **Green Fair/Fun Fourth (Bob Powell)**

Co-Chair Powell reported that the subcommittee was not able to achieve the purpose of having several groups participate in the Green Fair. Members commented that the time constraint was a major factor.

Ms. Sanford felt that since the groundwork has been laid for setting aside a section of the Fun Fourth celebration for green companies and organizations, getting the word out as early as October to potential participants would be helpful.

Co-Chair Powell indicated that he plans to speak about organization for the next Green Fair/Fun Fourth event at the Transition Greensboro's October meeting.

- **Waste Management Task Force (Terri Hancock)**

Ms. Hancock stated that she has attended several Waste Management Task Force meetings and she gave an overview of their work. The Task Force will give their final recommendations for the City in October, 2012. She said that they have been focusing their efforts on researching waste conversion and waste-to-energy technology.

Ms. Hancock felt that the Education and Outreach Subcommittee could be helpful to the Task Force in their efforts to get information out to neighborhoods to improve recycling.

- **Cash Flow Sustainability Account (Joel Landau)**

Co-Chair Landau updated members on the status of the cash flow sustainability account. He said that Councilwoman Hoffman is supportive of the idea; however, efforts are still ongoing to get City Council to adopt the measure.

Mr. Randall stated that he will follow-up with Mr. Wendell Hardin in Winston-Salem to learn how they have structured their cash flow sustainability account.

REVIEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURE ESTABLISHED AT LAST MEETING:

The plan established at the last meeting was to have the subcommittees arrange their own meetings to follow-up on the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) and items that still need to be addressed.

Chair Landau reviewed the seven subcommittees and their members, including volunteers.

Transportation/Land Use:

Mr. Clary, Chair; Ms. Sanford; Mr. Bill McNeil

Green Jobs and Buildings:

Co-Chair Powell, Chair; Mr. Giles; Mr. Justin Leonard

City Operations:

Co-Chair Landau, Chair; Mr. Duckwall

Waste Reduction and Recycling:

Ms. Hancock, Chair; Ms. Allen; Mr. Barker; Ms. Gay Chaney; Ms. Beverly Willingham

Nature in the City:

Ms. Allen, Co-Chair; Mr. Kollar, Co-Chair; Ms. Sanford

Education and Outreach:

Mr. Davis, Chair; Ms. Hancock; Ms. Valerie Vickers

Green Technology:

Mr. Duckwall, Chair; Co-Chair Powell; Mr. Clary; Mr. Barker

Co-Chair Landau instructed the subcommittees to put together their recommendations as to the next steps to be taken.

Co-Chair Powell stated that the main work at the November meeting will be to look at the SAP and make a recommendation to City Council as to productive areas to go forward with next year.

There was a discussion regarding a recommendation to City Council on how the group is constituted. CSC members voted at an earlier meeting to recommend changing the way seats are filled. Co-Chair Powell volunteered to write-up a recommendation and Co-Chair Landau stated that they would report back to the whole group at the November meeting.

Co-Chair Powell recently spoke with the City Clerk about by-laws for the CSC. The City Clerk agreed to follow-up on the issue. Ms. Roner plans to contact the legal department to find out their process.

Ms. Sanford commented that it should be included in the report to City Council that if the CSC stays in existence, staff time should be allocated to help with the creation of by-laws and permanent structure.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES:

Ms. Allen moved to acknowledge the absences of Mr. Kollar, Mr. Giles, and Mr. McClough, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously 7-0 in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau
Co-Chairman

JL:sm/jd