

**MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council (CSC) was held on Monday, February 4, 2013 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, commencing at 3:04 p.m. The following members were present: Co-Chairs Joel Landau and Bob Powell, Bill Barker, Carolyn Allen, Marlene Sanford, Bob Kollar, Art Davis, and Derrick Giles. Staff present was Valencia Roner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 19, 2012 MEETING:

Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2012 meeting as written, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously 7-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Barker, Allen, Sanford, Kollar, Davis. Nays: None.)

STATUS OF CSC MEMBERS:

Co-Chair Landau announced that Mr. Clary and Ms. Hancock have resigned from the CSC.

EECBG UPDATE:

Ms. Roner informed members that the EECBG grant is finished and all monies have been spent. The grant is in the 90-day close-out period.

BETTERBUILDINGS FOR GREENSBORO UPDATE:

Ms. Roner stated that the BetterBuildings grant is scheduled to end on May 23, 2013; however, staff has requested an extension. If approval is issued for an extension, the grant will run through September 30, 2013.

Ms. Roner indicated that a total of approximately 600 upgrade units have been done. Highlights of the grant include leveraging of CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) dollars through the Minor Repair Program. She also described the Kresge grant, through the Greensboro Housing Authority, that is focused on upkeep and minor repairs.

Ms. Roner reported that 1,500 applications have been received, 118 homes have been approved for minor repairs, and 719 assessments have been made. In terms of active participants, approximately 1,108 applicants have been approved in some capacity.

Mr. Barker asked staff to provide a handout of data describing the grant in terms of number of applications and similar information. Ms. Roner said that she will send the data to members after the next monthly report has been completed.

CSC RESTRUCTURING:

Members discussed components of the proposed plan to restructure the CSC.

- **Membership**

A total of 14 voting members was proposed. Members agreed that the CSC should be comprised of 5 individuals from existing City Council districts nominated in the conventional way, 7 professional specialists nominated by any City Council member, 1 member from the Chamber of Commerce, and 1 member from TREBIC. The Chair and Vice-Chair would be determined by CSC members. In addition, there would be an advisor from Piedmont Natural Gas and an advisor from Duke Energy. The individuals appointed would rotate in thirds based on the original cycle. The proposed rotating date is May 31.

The current roster under this proposal is as follows:

City Council Districts

District 1: Art Davis
 District 2: Don Blackstock
 District 3: Open
 District 4: Carolyn Allen
 District 5: Tom Duckwall

Professional Specialists

1. Bob Powell
2. Derrick Giles
3. Bill Barker
4. Bob Kollar
5. Joel Landau
6. Open
7. Open

Chamber of Commerce:

1. Open

TREBIC:

1. Marlene Sanford

Co-Chair Powell moved to prepare a statement to City Council recommending that the restructure of the CSC would consist of 14 members consisting of 5 members by district; 1 member from the Chamber of Commerce; 1 member from TREBIC; 7 members would be professional specialists; there would still be an advisor from Duke Energy and an advisor from Piedmont Natural Gas; appointees would rotate in thirds based on the original cycle; the rotating date is May 31; the Chair and Vice-Chair would be elected by the CSC; and the roster, as previously listed, with the appropriate rotating dates is the starting point; seconded by Mr. Kollar. The Council voted unanimously 7-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Barker, Allen, Sanford, Kollar, Davis. Nays: None.)

Co-Chair Landau suggested that the date of the Annual Report should be December 31 to allow recommendations to tie into City Council's next budget cycle.

Co-Chair Powell amended his previous motion and changed the rotating date from May 31 to August 31. Mr. Kollar accepted the amendment.

Co-Chairs Powell and Landau plan to draft a letter to the City Manager and City Council regarding the recommendation to restructure the CSC.

- **Nominating committee**

Mr. Barker researched other Commission by-laws and shared his ideas for an Executive Board that would consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Membership Director. He discussed the function of a Membership Director.

It was suggested that the Chair or Vice-Chair send a letter of attendance to members who have missed two meetings before the matter is referred to the City Clerk for follow-up.

Mr. Giles joined the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Following discussion, members felt that a membership committee would provide more structure than was needed and the process should remain informal.

Mr. Barker commented that there is an absence of resources on the CSC from companies and educational institutions in the community who could provide technical strength.

Members decided to table further discussion of a nominating committee until the next meeting.

- **By-Laws**

Mr. Barker distributed copies of CSC by-Laws for review by members. There will be a discussion of the by-laws at the next meeting.

Ms. Roner was asked to send a copy of the by-laws to Tom Carruthers, City Attorney, for his review and comments.

SUBCOMMITTEE RESTRUCTURING:

Co-Chair Powell suggested even though there may be seven or eight subcommittees, only a few should be active to focus on a limited number of specific items. Subcommittees that are committed to doing work around some particular item of the group would be active and the other subcommittees would be inactive.

Ms. Roner identified the community garden effort and a reoccurring green fair event as two City Council priorities that can be carried out by the CSC. Members acknowledged that staff support would be necessary to accomplish these activities.

Mr. Kollar suggested that a City Council representative attend CSC meetings on a regular basis to serve as a liaison.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Co-Chair Powell stated that the Green Technology Subcommittee is working on an activity with Megawatt Ventures, a promoter of green technology businesses. Located in Florida, Megawatt Ventures has expanded into a ten-state region that includes North Carolina. The CSC plans to work with Megawatt Ventures to promote their program to engage local businesses in green technology development.

Co-Chair Landau stated that subcommittee reports will be presented and approved at the next meeting. A summary of the reports will be submitted to the City Manager and City Council as a recommendation of areas where the CSC would like to see progress.

Co-Chair Powell suggested that a special CSC meeting be held in one month. At the meeting, subcommittees will present their reports with a focus on priorities and direction. Members will also discuss how to be responsive to the City Manager's agenda.

Ms. Allen, Nature in the City Subcommittee, gave a brief overview of plans for the City's two new public gardens. She felt the next step should be conversation with an attorney as there may be complications with the City's Development Ordinance regarding access and storage sheds. It was suggested that the

subcommittee should also meet with the Planning Department to discuss issues including the possibility of a text amendment to allow accessory buildings in community gardens.

ITEMS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Ms. Allen stated that Duke Energy plans to hold a workshop on February 7, 2013 at the Lindley Park Recreation Center from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. to discuss vegetation management plans.

Ms. Allen announced that the Kathleen Clay Edwards Library at Price Park will be conducting a “No Impact Week” starting on March 9, 2013 featuring a series of activities to engage children.

ITEMS FROM CO-CHAIRS:

Co-Chair Powell gave an overview of Greensboro’s participation in the TEDx project.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES:

Mr. Davis moved to acknowledge the absences of Mr. Duckwall and Mr. Blackstock, seconded by Ms. Sanford. The Council voted unanimously 8-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Barker, Allen, Sanford, Kollar, Davis, Giles. Nays: None.)

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau
Co-Chairman

JL:sm/jd