

**MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council (CSC) was held on Monday, August 12, 2013 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, Bob Kollar, Art Davis, Marlene Sanford, and Tom Duckwall. Absent: Carolyn Allen, Maurice Allen, Donald Blackstock, Derrick Giles. Staff present included Hanna Cockburn and Jeff Sovich, Planning and Community Development.

Ms. Cockburn announced that Karen Marcovics has accepted a position as a budget analyst in the City's finance department. A new planner will be hired who will be assisting the CSC.

1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 13, 2013 MEETING

Mr. Davis moved approval of the May 13, 2013 minutes as amended, seconded by Mr. Kollar. The Council voted unanimously 6-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Kollar, Davis, Sanford, Duckwall. Nays: None.)

Co-Chair Landau stated that Mr. Clary has been serving as the CSC's representative to the Bike Sharing Task Force. Although he is no longer a member of the CSC, Mr. Clary is very involved in the group and would like to continue as a representative.

Following discussion, Ms. Sanford moved to leave Mr. Clary in place as the CSC's designated representative to the Bike Sharing Task Force, seconded by Mr. Kollar. The Council voted unanimously 6-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Kollar, Davis, Sanford, Duckwall. Nays: None.)

2) DRAFT STRUCTURE AND BYLAWS REVISION

Ms. Cockburn distributed copies of revised bylaws to CSC members for their consideration. The changes to the bylaws are intended to help structure the Council, ensure there is a consistent quorum of members; and move projects from ideas to implementation.

a) Summary of Recommended Changes

The revised bylaws propose a change in the voting membership to eight members. There would be five members with one member from each council district and three at-large members. The proposal also includes the establishment of a series of non-voting advisory members that could include individuals from the business community and the building, power, natural gas, and real estate sectors. In addition, a City Council liaison has been assigned to the CSC. Terms of office for members would be three-year terms with two terms that can be consecutive.

Staff is recommending that subcommittees be narrowed down and realigned with the so-called 'Triple Bottom Line' of sustainability which are the environment, the economy, and social equity.

Staff is encouraging the CSC to add outside volunteers from the community to help with programs and projects. The CSC would provide the core leadership and initiative aided by community volunteers who could be recruited to help move projects forward.

Ms. Cockburn stated that instead of two Co-Chairpersons, the revision allows for a Chair and Vice-Chair. These positions will be elected each year. The year would begin with the first meeting of the calendar year. Staff is suggesting bi-monthly meetings rather than quarterly meetings at least for the first year to establish momentum. Provisions have been created in the bylaws to call special meetings of the CSC.

Meetings would be held with a quorum of five voting members. In addition, she reviewed voting procedures, specifics of the agenda, questions about parliamentary procedure, and provisions for the adoption of amendments to the bylaws.

Ms. Cockburn responded to questions from members about the revisions and provided further clarification.

During discussion, it was noted that the Chair would not be a voting member unless there is a tie. An alternative to this would be to reduce the overall number of members to an odd number and make the Chair a voting member.

Chair Landau felt that grounds for abstaining from a vote should be clarified in the revisions. Ms. Sanford suggested that questions regarding abstentions should be referred to the Statute. Ms. Cockburn stated that she plans to look more closely at other Boards and Commissions and make comparisons to make sure that CSC revisions are lining up with similar language.

Ms. Cockburn responded to a question from Mr. Duckwall and indicated that although e-mail voting was not permitted; participating in a meeting or voting by phone is approved in the General Statutes as a method for attendance.

During a discussion about missed meetings, it was suggested that excused absences be qualified by a notice in writing prior to the meetings to the Chair, Vice-Chair or staff person.

Ms. Cockburn stated that the first meeting of every calendar year will be the start of the organization year for the purpose of establishing member terms.

Members discussed the possibility of having six expertise members instead of the proposed three at-large members previously mentioned. It was suggested that non-voting Piedmont Natural Gas and Duke Energy advisory positions be retained. The CSC could be empowered to appoint non-voting advisory members as it sees fit.

During a discussion about terms, Chair Landau stated that an official restructuring request proposal to City Council has already been submitted. Ms. Cockburn indicated that they have turned the matter back to staff and the revision reflects their expectation. The CSC needs to put the revision in its final form and submit it again to City Council for adoption. Members reviewed their original restructuring request as submitted to City Council and discussed appointing either 9 or 11 members to the CSC, with the Chair serving as a voting member. Ms. Cockburn was asked to review comments made during discussion and bring back a draft proposal at the next meeting for consideration by the Council.

b) Organizing for Success -- Facilitated Discussion and Editing

Ms. Cockburn led a workshop and asked members to list activities that they were either participating in or that they were aware of that the Council is undertaking. Each topic was identified and categorized under one of the three areas of interest as follows:

Places: **Monitor City Energy Use**, Adopt City Green Team, Bike Share Program, Transportation and Land Use

Prosperity: **Green Business Workshop**

People: **Information and Outreach**, Community Gardens

Ms. Cockburn noted that there was one key activity in each subcommittee. At the next meeting, subcommittee leadership structure and putting together a high level work plan will be discussed.

Members revisited the previous discussion relating to the number of CSC members. It was determined that there will be five members from districts, four at large members from a list of expertise, the CSC will elect its own Chair and Vice-Chair at the first annual meeting, and there will be non-voting members as needed.

3) UPCOMING MEETINGS FOR REMAINDER OF 2013

Members felt that the next CSC meeting should be held in two months on October 14, 2013.

Mr. Davis moved to meet on October 14, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. seconded by Kollar. The Commission voted unanimously 6-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Kollar, Davis, Sanford, Duckwall. Nays: None.)

4) ITEMS FROM CO-CHAIRS

Co-Chair Powell informed the Council that the next TEDxGreensboro Talk will be held on September 20, 2013 at Triad Stage. He plans to send an e-mail to members with details of the event.

5) ITEMS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

None.

6) ITEMS FROM PUBLIC

None.

7) ITEMS FROM STAFF

Jeff Sovich stated that the Bike Share Task Force (BSTF), which has been organized by Action Greensboro, continues to meet and is well-attended. The BSTF has conducted interviews with area bicycle shop owners to gauge their receptivity to the idea of a bike sharing system being implemented in Greensboro. The BSTF has also conducted extensive research on cities and entities that have implemented bike sharing systems, to understand their direct experiences their perspectives on the advantages, disadvantages, and challenges and lessons learned from implementing bike sharing systems. The BSTF has also researched the types of systems and the available providers, and the various forms of administration and maintenance arrangements that are used. The team is currently developing an RFP for consultant services to conduct a formal feasibility study and is developing an online survey to gauge community interest. Action Greensboro will be hosting a demonstration of two different bike sharing systems on Monday, October 7, before and after a reception that will include a panel discussion about the potential for bringing bike sharing to Greensboro.

Mr. Sovich also directed attention to the Draft Bylaws document, which has been prepared using the "Spranq Eco Sans" typeface. This font incorporates tiny holes into the letter forms, resulting in a roughly 30% reduction in ink usage when printed. This is a freely available Truetype font.

8) ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES

Ms. Sanford moved to acknowledge the absences of Ms. Allen, Mr. Blackstock, Mr. Giles, and Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Commission voted unanimously 6-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Kollar, Davis, Sanford, Duckwall. Nays: None.)

9) ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau
Co-Chairman

JL:sm/jd