

**Greensboro Community Sustainability Council**  
**Minutes, Regular Meeting**  
**January 13, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council (CSC) was held on Monday, January 13, 2014 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, commencing at 3:07 p.m. The following members were present: Co-Chairs Joel Landau and Bob Powell, Art Davis, Maurice Allen, Carolyn Allen, John Kavanagh, and Steve Armstrong. Staff present included Hanna Cockburn, Jeff Sovich, and Dana Clukey (Planning); Josh Sherrick (Parks & Recreation).

Co-Chair Landau introduced the newest members of the CSC, John Kavanagh and Steve Armstrong. Mr. Kavanagh and Mr. Armstrong described their interest in sustainability.

**1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 9, 2013 MEETING:**

Mr. Armstrong moved approval of the December 9, 2013 meeting minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted 6-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Davis, C. Allen, M. Allen, Kavanagh, Armstrong. Nays: None.)

**2) 2014 CSC MEETING SCHEDULE:**

It was determined that the CSC will meet every other month on the second Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m. in the Plaza Level Conference Room.

The next meeting of the CSC will be held on March 10, 2014. Remaining meetings for the year will be scheduled on May 12, 2014; July 14, 2014; September 8, 2014; and November 10, 2014.

**3) SUBCOMMITTEE WORK PLANS FOR 2014:**

Following a discussion of terms, Ms. Allen moved to change Co-Chair Powell's term expiration from 2014 to 2015, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted 6-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Davis, C. Allen, M. Allen, Kavanagh, Armstrong. Nays: None.)

Co-Chair Landau stated that City Council's retreat is planned for January 26, 2014.

Co-Chair Powell joined the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

Ms. Cockburn shared relevant information relating to subcommittee work plans. She announced that Mike Cusimano has retired from the City of Greensboro as Urban Forester. The new Urban Forester is Judson Clinton. In addition, she commented that Karen Neill of the Guilford County Agricultural Extension Office has an inventory of community gardens in Guilford County. In addition, there are 50 community gardens in Greensboro that are separate from the County.

Ms. Cockburn informed members that other groups are actively working on the bike sharing program. Action Greensboro is taking a lead role in the program.

Ms. Cockburn advised the CSC that the unsold housing bonds have been identified for other uses and are not available to extend the BetterBuildings program.

Members formed a group for each of the three subcommittees to fill out work plans developed at the last meeting. Representatives from the subcommittees gave highlights of their work plan for purposes of creating a summary of priorities for review by City Council at their upcoming retreat.

- **Subcommittees Report-Out**

Environment Subcommittee

Mr. Armstrong stated that the bike sharing program is well underway. He described Co-Chair Landau's plan to talk to City Council members who are interested in sustainability to discuss the proposed City Green Team. In addition, Steve Randall will be putting together data to monitor the City's energy usage. Ms. Clukey offered to follow-up with staff at UNC-Greensboro to locate an intern willing to help the subcommittee in their efforts.

Co-Chair Landau summarized that the subcommittee is stressing energy monitoring and a City Green Team to City Council. The 2012 Emissions Audit will be compared to the 2007 audit to gauge the City's progress in reducing emissions. The audit could be an effective tool to market the City of Greensboro and to address quality of life issues. An outcome of the City Green Team would be to share best practices in terms of energy efficiency and spread usage incentives.

Equity Subcommittee

Josh Sherrick, City Special Events Coordinator, stated that the subcommittee plans to focus on the community gardens inventory and the Tree Ordinance in their report to City Council. The community gardens inventory would include information on location of the gardens, type of food produced, how the produce is accessed and distributed, and the identification of City-owned property that could potentially be developed as a community garden. Relating to the Tree Ordinance, members discussed identifying issues that went to the utility commission, the extent of tree coverage in the City, and the need for a new overall inventory of existing trees. A potential outcome would be the development of a consensus agreement with Duke Energy. In addition, it was suggested that the new Urban Forester be asked to evaluate if the Tree Ordinance is working.

Economy Subcommittee

Co-Chair Powell stated that the subcommittee's focus is to conduct a forum to help small businesses get into the sustainability area and to identify economic development potential for the City. The workshop would allow participants to network, learn what is currently happening in sustainability, and to describe to conveners what is needed in terms of capital and assistance in order for them to grow. Possible partners to help facilitate the forum include individuals from the economic development branches at A&T University, UNC-Greensboro, and Guilford College along with the Business Journal.

- **Prepare Summary of Priorities for City Council Retreat**

Mr. Sovich will prepare a summary paragraph from each of the three subcommittee reports for submission to City Council for review at their retreat.

**4) ITEMS FROM CO-CHAIRS:**

Chad Carwein introduced himself to the Council and stated his interest in filling the seat designated for an individual less than 30 years of age. Mr. Carwein works at UNC-Greensboro as an Education and Outreach Specialist for the Office of Sustainability. He

described his experience in sustainability and indicated that he has submitted his resume and application to the City Clerk's office for consideration.

Co-Chair Powell moved to recommend Chad Carwein as a member of the CSC. The Council voted unanimously 7-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Davis, Powell, C. Allen, M. Allen, Kavanagh, Armstrong. Nays: None.)

**5) ITEMS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

- **Update on Community Gardens Ordinance** - Ms. Cockburn reported that City Council has approved the community gardens ordinance. Mr. Sovich explained that the ordinance allows for a storage shed as a principal building for community garden purposes on a residentially zoned property. The first project under the new ordinance will be considered by the Zoning Commission next month. A community organization, EDGE (Eastern Development Growth Enterprise), is requesting a Special Use Permit for an urban garden on Phillips Avenue.

**6) ITEMS FROM PUBLIC:** None.

**7) ITEMS FROM STAFF:** None.

**8) ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES:**

Ms. Allen moved to acknowledge the absence of Mr. Duckwall, seconded by Mr. Armstrong. The Council voted unanimously 7-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Davis, Powell, C. Allen, M. Allen, Kavanagh, Armstrong. Nays: None.)

**9) ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau  
Co-Chairman

JL:sm/jd