

Greensboro Community Sustainability Council
Minutes, Regular Meeting
March 10, 2014

The regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council (CSC) was held on Monday, March 10, 2014 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, commencing at 3:15 p.m.

CSC Members Present:

Joel Landau, Co-Chair	Bob Powell, Co-Chair	Carolyn Allen
Steve Armstrong	Art Davis	Tom Duckwall
John Kavanagh		

Staff and Others Present:

Hanna Cockburn, Planning	Dana Clukey, Planning
Jeff Sovich, Planning	Jason Earliwine, Planning (Intern)
Steve Randall, Engineering & Inspections	

1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 13, 2014 MEETING:

Ms. Allen moved approval of the January 13, 2014 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously 5-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Davis, Allen, Kavanagh. Nays: None.)

2) SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

(a) Economy

This topic will be discussed later in the meeting during Items from Co-Chairs.

(b) Environment

▪ **Update on Bike-Sharing Task Force and NC Bike Summit**

Mr. Sovich stated that although the bike-sharing task force has not met as a group since December, 2013, several activities have taken place since then. Several CSC members have participated in a series of webinars on bike-sharing hosted by the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycling Professionals that concluded last week. The webinars provided good information on various bike-sharing systems, practices, and factors contributing to success or failure. Action Greensboro staff has been working on putting together a feasibility study report on bike-sharing that is nearing completion. In addition, the North Carolina Active Transportation Alliance has selected Greensboro to host the 2014 NC Bike Summit that will be held October 9 through October 12 on the campus of UNC-Greensboro. Mr. Sovich felt that the summit would be a good opportunity for a presentation on the feasibility study about Greensboro's exploration into bike-sharing.

Mr. Duckwall joined the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Co-Chair Landau stated that Tom Clary will continue to be the CSC's representative to the Bike-Sharing Task Force.

- **Greenhouse Gas Audit Update**

Dana Clukey provided an update on the possibility of securing an intern from UNC-Greensboro to help with the audit. She stated that Jason Earliwine, a graduate student from UNC-Greensboro, is present in the audience to learn more about the audit update and what would be expected to complete the project.

Providing background information, Co-Chair Landau stated that the City prepared an audit in 2008, based on 2007 data. The audit was divided into two broad sections. City government operations were inventoried by Jerri Covington, the former Environmental Director. Ms. Covington is no longer with the City; however, Steve Randall, Sustainability Coordinator has indicated he can take over the inventory of City operations. Co-Chair Powell had an intern from A&T who did the City-wide part of the audit. Mr. Randall has indicated he has the software necessary for the audit. Mr. Earliwine indicated interest in participating with the City-wide portion of the audit and plans to discuss the matter with Co-Chair Powell after the meeting.

Mr. Armstrong joined the meeting at 3:30.

Co-Chair Landau indicated that the internship for the audit could be a paid position. Co-Chair Powell estimated that approximately 60 hours would be required for the project.

Co-Chair Landau discussed the need to make the City Green Team functional. Conversations have been held with several City Council members who were in support of the idea. Mr. Randall stated that issues regarding the Green Team's scope of work and membership have come up in City conversations. Co-Chair Landau's understanding was that each City department would elect their representative to the Green Team toward the goal of developing practices to save energy and supplies, and make work more efficient. Mr. Randall noted that the CSC's scope was much broader and community-based than what most of the City departments do. The Environment Committee will continue to work toward resolving these issues.

(c) Equity

- **City Sponsored Community Gardens Program**

Brooks Mullane, Program Support Supervisor in the Parks and Recreation Department, was unable to attend the CSC meeting. Co-Chair Landau spoke with Ms. Mullane and shared information on her behalf. There are currently five community gardens on City properties in Greensboro. The Parks and Recreation Department anticipates creating new gardens at a pace of two per year. In terms of the work plan, the Equity Committee has asked the City to identify City-owned parcels that could be used for community gardens. Ms. Cockburn discussed vacant parcels owned by the City for the purpose of redevelopment that may be a good fit for a community garden. The Planning Department has been working on strategies to merge their data with that of the Engineering and Inspections Department because they manage the other City lands that might be available for community gardens, even on a temporary basis. Co-Chair

Landau stated that Ms. Mullane has indicated that she would not want to set up a community garden on a parcel unless there were no other development plans for it for at least five years.

Co-Chair Landau stated that the City has provided the water hook-ups for the five community gardens currently in existence. Ms. Cockburn described the water hook-up system for the new urban farm that will be located on leased City-owned land, not land owned by the Redevelopment Commission. The urban farm will be managed and run by a community non-profit and the water hook-ups will be in the \$9,000 range. The City is providing the hook-ups but they cannot donate the water. The City can pay for the water on the five City-managed community gardens because they are located on City-owned park sites. She stated that state law directs how these services are handled by the City.

Ms. Cockburn referred to slides being shown to members and described the location of properties owned by the Redevelopment Commission that are vacant.

- **Local Food Council Task Force**

Ms. Mullane and Co-Chair Landau have been attending Local Food Council Task Force meetings. Co-Chair Landau stated that many organizations are involved with the Task Force and look to integrate producers, consumers, providers, and oversight agencies in this effort. He cited three things that have developed so far: (1) encouraging local food production, (2) getting fresh food into the food desert areas, and (3) promoting the consumption of locally grown foods.

- **NCA&T's Agricultural Outreach Work**

Co-Chair Powell brought the Council's attention to several activities and individuals doing work in relation to this area. Dr. Manuel Reyes, NCA&T University, recently gave a presentation on his work with community gardens located on the campuses of ten local schools. Dr. Reyes discussed 'natuculture,' that can be described as landscape architecture in relation to nature. In addition, a Farmer's Market was started on the NCA&T campus last fall that will begin again in a few weeks. He informed members that in two weeks, NCA&T will have a Small Farms Week. There will also be an urban agriculture documentary screening of a film called Growing Cities on Monday, March 4, 2014 in the evening. On Tuesday, March 5, 2014, there are activities at the NCA&T Farm at Coltrane Hall. There will be tours of local farms in addition to other activities. The full list of activities will be distributed to CSC members.

Mr. Duckwall asked if there was any activity with hydroponics and greenhouses. Co-Chair Powell felt certain that work was being done in these areas and he directed Mr. Duckwall to contact his colleagues at NCA&T for more information.

Howard Taylor spoke from the audience and commented on an article in the New York Times about the new Farm Bill that just passed. The article acknowledged significant changes and shifted support from agribusinesses to smaller farmers, organic farms, and local foods.

3) ORGANIZING A CITY-WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL MEETING:

A City-wide environmental meeting, including green technology matters, was proposed at the last meeting. Following a discussion, it was decided that the CSC would not follow-up on this item.

Members discussed the upcoming Earth Day celebration. Mr. Sovich stated that the event is scheduled for April 5, 2014 and will be headed by a local library branch.

4) ITEMS FROM CO-CHAIRS:

At the last meeting the CSC voted to recommend Chad Carwein to be appointed to the Council. Co-Chair Landau informed members that Mr. Carwein has submitted information to the City to be placed in the data base. Co-Chair Landau has contacted Councilwoman Nancy Hoffmann to request that Mr. Carwein be appointed. He has not received a response at this point and plans to follow-up on the matter.

Co-Chair Landau informed members that there have been a series of meetings with City Council members to discuss the CSC's work plan. Meetings were held with Mayor Nancy Vaughan; City Councilmen Mike Barber, Zack Matheny, and Jamal Fox; along with City Councilwomen Marikay Abuzuaiteer, Yvonne Johnson, and Nancy Hoffmann. All of the City Council members he spoke with were supportive of the work plan. Mr. Davis commented that he has spoken with Councilwoman Sharon Hightower who also indicated her support for the CSC's work plan.

5) ITEMS FROM CSC MEMBERS:

Mr. Kavanagh suggested that a future CSC meeting should be held on the campus of NCA&T University. Co-Chair Powell said it might be possible for some of his colleagues, such as Dr. Raiz, to make themselves available at the meeting. If a scheduled meeting is not possible, it was suggested that a fieldtrip to the campus should be arranged. A date of May 12, 2014 was suggested for the CSC meeting on the NCA&T campus.

6) ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC: None.

7) ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Mr. Sovich stated that a tree inventory was recently conducted in the College Hill and Aycock neighborhoods. The forestry consultant that conducted the inventory will be finalizing the data and presenting the results to these neighborhoods soon. A report summarizing the findings of the inventory, will be available on the City's website, as will an interactive map viewer with which users can explore the tree inventory data. He commented that the tree inventory data will require some updating due to the recent storm event.

8) ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES:

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

9) ADJOURNMENT:

Co-Chairs Landau and Powell stated that subcommittee meetings will be held immediately following adjournment of the meeting.

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau
Co-Chairman

JL:sm/jd