

**GREENSBORO COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes, Regular Meeting**  
**March 9, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council (CSC) was held on Monday, March 9, 2015 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, commencing at 3:08 p.m.

**CSC Members Present:**

Joel Landau, Co-Chair	Bob Powell, Co-Chair	Stephen McCollum
John Kavanagh	Tom Duckwall	
Chad Carwein		

**Staff and Others Present:**

Jeff Sovich, Planning	Hanna Cockburn, Planning
Greg Johns, Advisor	Steve Randall, Planning
Art Davis	Mark Kirstner, Piedmont Together
Raven Brown	Alexa Powell, PART
Randy Welch	
Sigrid Marks, Triad Reporting	

**1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2014 MEETING**

Mr. Kavanagh moved approval of the November 10, 2014 meeting minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Carwein. The Council voted 5-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Kavanagh, Carwein, McCollum, Duckwall. Nays: None.)

**2) INTRODUCTION OF NEW CSC MEMBERS**

Co-Chair Landau stated that Stephen McCollum has been appointed to the District 1 seat, replacing Art Davis. Mr. McCollum introduced himself and described his interest in sustainability.

**3) APPOINTMENT OF GREG JOHNS AS AN ADVISOR**

Co-Chair Landau announced that Greg Johns has been recommended by the Chamber of Commerce as an Advisor to the CSC. He introduced himself and described his interest in sustainability.

Mr. Duckwall moved to appoint Mr. Johns as an Advisor to the CSC, seconded by Mr. McCollum. The Council voted 5-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Duckwall, McCollum, Kavanagh, Carwein. Nays: None.)

Co-Chair Powell joined the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

#### **4) REVIEW OF CSC EXPIRATION DATES**

Co-Chair Landau explained that there are nine voting positions and three positions expire each year. The terms are for three years.

The terms that expire at the end of 2015 are held by Co-Chair Powell, Co-Chair Landau, and the vacant District 2 seat appointed by City Council.

Expiring at the end of 2016 are the terms of Mr. Carwein, Mr. Kavanagh, and the vacant At Large seat.

The terms that expire in 2017 are held by Mr. Duckwall and the seats for District 1, District 4, and District 5.

Co-Chair Landau reported that Nancy Hoffmann is in the process of appointing Bill McNeil to the District 4 seat previously occupied by Carolyn Allen whose term expired.

#### **5) ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2015**

The Chair will preside over meetings and serves communication functions on behalf of the CSC. The Vice-Chair assumes the duties of the Chair if the Chair is unable to fulfill the duties.

The Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected to a term of one (1) year. Officers may be elected to a maximum of two consecutive terms of office.

Co-Chair Landau opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair.

Mr. McCollum moved to nominate Co-Chair Landau as Chairman of the CSC, seconded by Mr. Kavanagh. The Council voted 6-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, McCollum, Kavanagh, Carwein, Duckwall, Powell. Nays: None.)

Mr. Duckwall nominated Co-Chair Powell as Vice-Chair of the CSC. Co-Chair Powell declined the nomination.

Mr. Kavanagh nominated Mr. McCollum as Vice-Chair of the CSC. Mr. McCollum did not decline the nomination but stated his preference to nominate a member who has been involved in the CSC and more integrated into the infrastructure of the group.

Mr. Carwein indicated his interest in the position and nominated himself as Vice-Chair of the CSC.

Mr. Kavanagh moved to close the nomination process. The CSC voted by acclamation in favor of the motion.

Chair Landau agreed with comments made by Mr. McCollum that it would be better to have a Vice-Chair who is currently more up-to-speed with what is happening with the group.

The CSC voted 6-0 in favor of Mr. Carwein as Vice-Chair of the CSC. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Carwein, Kavanagh, Duckwall, McCollum. Nays: None.)

## **6) UPDATE ON GREENHOUSE GAS PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL**

The Greenhouse Gas Inventory presentation will be made to City Council at their work session this Thursday in the Plaza Level Conference Room at 12 p.m. by Co-Chairs Landau and Powell. Grow Solar is also presenting to City Council at the same time to encourage the City to embrace solar technology and facilitate solar installations.

Mr. Powell has taken comments made at the last meeting in response to the 2007-2013 greenhouse gas estimates and incorporated them into the City Council presentation. The inventory was done based on a format developed by a national organization using formulas to take energy use of different fuels and converting it to CO2 equivalent greenhouse gas production. The greenhouse gas usage is based on energy from residential, commercial, transportation, and industrial energy use as well as the waste put into the landfill.

Mr. Powell presented the breakout of greenhouse gas production by sector as follows: (1) Commercial sector: 33%; (2) Residential sector: 25%; (3) Transportation sector (oil and gasoline): 24%; and (4) Industrial sector: 16%. By combining the residential and commercial sectors he arrived at a little over 50% for the greenhouse gas production in buildings.

In terms of fuels, electricity usage is 60%; natural gas is about 13%; and transportation (oil and gasoline) is 25%. These percentages were shown to City Council in 2007.

In 2007 the CSC suggested actions the City could take to bring down energy use and greenhouse gas production. Mr. Powell presented a slide representing percentages in 2013 compared to 2007. Since 2007 there has been an 18% reduction in greenhouse gas production in Greensboro. The breakout by sector is still virtually the same; however, the overall emissions have gone down. Looking at the different fuels, the greenhouse gas production from electricity and natural gas actually dropped by a significant amount, transportation dropped by a little bit, and waste was the same. He pointed out that the number of residential users of natural gas went up by 4%; the number of commercial users went down by 1%, and the number of industrial users dropped by 46%. Therefore, the economic output in Greensboro has gone down by a significant amount during that period. It is also the case that there has been conservation. There has been a 7% energy savings in residential, commercial has had a 9% savings, and industrial has seen an 86% per capita use drop. It appears that the businesses currently in Greensboro are much less energy intensive than those

previously here. There was a 29% drop in natural gas use over the period. Economics clearly played a part in the drop, along with conservation.

In transportation there has been a slight drop in vehicle miles travelled although the population has gone up by 13%. The per capita miles travelled have gone down by 14% which is a good number.

Steve Randall, City of Greensboro, reported that electricity usage at City facilities went down overall. Referring to a chart, he said that electricity usage by City facilities includes not only buildings like City Hall and libraries, but also water treatment plants, street lamps, traffic signals, etc. The total square footage of City facilities increased approximately 10% between 2007 and 2013, mainly resulting from the construction of the Greensboro Aquatics Center and Greensboro Transit Authority Operations and Maintenance facility. During the same period, natural gas usage increased approximately 18% due to the combined effects of the increased City facility square footage and a significant increase in the heating degree days (colder weather). However, when adjusted for these factors, the natural gas use per square foot actually decreased.

Mr. Powell stated that electricity usage was flat like natural gas. The City used the same amount of electricity in 2007 as it did in 2013. Residential and commercial usage went down due to energy conservation and industrial went down due to the drop in the number of industries in the City. He noted that Duke Energy has been changing over their fleet from coal to natural gas and based on that, their production of CO<sub>2</sub> has gone down by 20% over that same period. The fact that electricity is flat combined with Duke's change in fuels has actually dropped the City's CO<sub>2</sub> production by 20% which represents a large number.

Mr. Powell summarized that there has been energy conservation in residential and commercial sectors and there is a reduced number of industries that are less energy intensive. In addition, the conversion of the Duke Energy system away from coal fire plants and reduced vehicle miles travelled in the City have all contributed to the 18% reduction in greenhouse gas.

It was suggested that the City Council presentation should include two separate bullets noting (1) a reduced number of industries in Greensboro, and (2) the industries that are here are less energy intensive.

Members commended Mr. Powell for his work on the Greenhouse Gas Inventory over the past year.

## **7) GREEN TECHNOLOGY FORUM**

Mr. Kavanagh indicated that the committee has been meeting for several months to put together a Green Tech Forum. The committee's original goal was for a clean technology forum that would include sustainability, industry, and transportation. It was discovered that the State has been doing community forums and the only difference in what they are doing is that they are focusing on energy. The committee has decided to be a local cosponsor to partner with

the State group since they have an infrastructure in place guiding their operation. One of the focuses of the planned event will be the solar sector. The event will be a Clean Technology Forum with a focus on leadership. A meeting room has been obtained at the Gateway Campus in the Nanotech Building from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on April 29, 2015. The session will accommodate 30 people. The presenters will be the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources and the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association.

## **8) UPDATING THE CSC PAGE ON THE CITY WEBSITE**

Jeff Sovich reviewed updates to the CSC website. Currently on the website is general information, links to the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP), implementation items initiated from the SAP, CSC bylaws, a list of current CSC members, and agendas with updated minutes. He asked members for their input regarding items they would like to see on the site.

Mr. Duckwall suggested that the website should note that the CSC meets every other month. Mr. Carwein commented that the CSC has ties to many different groups throughout the Triad. He felt it would be good to have another page on the website that listed the various community partners to act as a clearing house of information. Mr. Sovich commented that due to Information Technology rules regarding site content and outside organizations, it might be best to provide a link to the partnering list on Mr. Carwein's UNC-Greensboro website. Another option might be to add a PDF listing partnering organizations that could be linked to the CSC website.

## **9) PIEDMONT TOGETHER REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

Mark Kirstner, Piedmont Together, stated that a grant was received three years ago from HUD (Housing and Urban Development) to do a regional sustainable community plan. The plan process was completed last year and now they are moving from vision to action through the equity lens. It is a comprehensive project designed to build a prosperous economy to better the quality of life for citizens of the Piedmont Triad. Space is provided for non-profits and government to come together to address the needs of each community in the region. He referred to data from the Regional Equity Profile and reviewed statistics on transportation and jobs in the Triad. The overall planning process came up with 16 goals, 172 objectives, and 259 strategic actions all of which can be found on the project's website. He gave an overview of the Plan's comprehensive economic strategy; housing study; land value per acre study; and scenario modeling relating to transportation, conservation, and efficiency. The Plan also looked at transportation, freight, walkable communities in terms of health and fresh food production and distribution. Included in the Plan are a green infrastructure report, an energy report, and a climate adaptation report.

There is a consortium made up of 63 different entities and organizations that have been meeting monthly since the Plan was completed. A small grant was received from the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro and there is

one part-time staff member. The Consortium is looking at a set of bylaws, a work plan and a purpose statement.

Mr. Kirstner informed members that an event called Building Bridges to a Stronger Economy, Part 2, will be held on April 2, 2015 at the Hawthorne Inn in Winston Salem, North Carolina.

## **10) SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A) **ECONOMY, *Green Technology Forum*** – The main item being pursued by the subcommittee is the Green Technology Forum which is nearing completion.
- B) **ENVIRONMENT, *City Green Team*** - Chair Landau stated that the subcommittee is currently working on several issues. They are monitoring City energy usage and plan to give a presentation to City Council later in the week. The subcommittee is also working to adopt the City Green Team. Steve Randall has been assigned to follow up on the initiative. In addition, Mr. Sovich advised members that the bike sharing program is on hold until further development of the Greenway.
- C) **EQUITY, *Tree Canopy Inventory*** - Art Davis indicated that the subcommittee plans to meet with the Judson Clinton, City Urban Forester, regarding the tree canopy inventory. Mr. Davis informed members of A&T University's plan to develop a food desert initiative for the Phillips Avenue area.

## **11) INCIDENTAL ITEMS**

- A) **ITEMS FROM CO-CHAIRS** – Mr. Powell stated that a meeting will be held in Winston Salem tomorrow with the U.S. Green Building Council at the Biotech Center. He will send out information regarding the event for anyone interested in attending.
- B) **ITEMS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS** – Mr. Carwein announced that NC State University is hosting a Home Energy Conservation Workshop in Greensboro on March 24, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. until 7:45 p.m. at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Library.
- C) **ITEMS FROM PUBLIC** – Alexa Powell, PART (Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation), informed members that the Commuter Dash will be held in Winston Salem on March 28, 2015. Bus transportation will be provided to the site.
- D) **ITEMS FROM STAFF** – Mr. Sovich said that May is National Bike Month. Numerous events are planned during the month and volunteers are needed to organize the events. Information will be sent out at a later date for anyone interested in participating in the events.

## **12) ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES**

Chair Landau noted that there are no absences to acknowledge; however, there are still three open seats on the Council.

**13) ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau  
Co-Chairman

JL:sm/jd