

GREENSBORO COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL
Minutes, Regular Meeting
March 14, 2016
Engineering Conference Room
Melvin Municipal Office Building

CSC Members Present:

Stephen McCollum, Chair	Art Davis	Bill McNeil
Faun Finley, Vice-Chair	Kista Mansell	Howard Taylor
Tom Duckwall		

Staff and Others Present:

Dana Clukey, Planning	Hart Crane, Planning
Hanna Cockburn, Planning	Jeff Sovich, Planning
Chris White, UNCG Student	Raleigh Stout, Aycock Neighborhood Resident
Jack Martin, TEVA	

Chair McCollum called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2016 MEETING

Chair McCollum requested edits to the minutes. Mr. McNeil moved to approve the minutes as amended; Ms Finley seconded. The Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes, as amended.

2) CSC SUBCOMMITTEES: EVALUATION

Chair McCollum explained that this item will be best discussed at the next meeting, after Mr. Taylor's presentation today. The item will discuss the evaluation of the effectiveness of the current committees and the organizational structure. Chair McCollum moved to table this item, Vice-Chair Finley seconded and the Council voted unanimously to table the item until the next meeting.

3) EARTH DAY AT KATHLEEN CLAY EDWARDS LIBRARY, APRIL

Mr. Duckwall explained that the CSC will host a booth at the Earth Day celebration, from 1 to 5pm on Saturday, April 9th. The exhibit will allow participants to practice sorting recyclables into appropriate bins and discuss why recycling is an important activity. Volunteers are needed; CSC members agreed to staff the booth in shifts. Ms. Mansell will follow up with an exact schedule for the afternoon and needed materials, including information that will be presented at the booth.

4) SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- A) ENVIRONMENT** - Mr. McNeil updated the CSC on the proposal for reducing plastics in the waste stream. The main focus is to encourage the City to install water filling stations in all newly constructed City facilities and having a plan to install water filling stations in existing City facilities. Greg, Stephen and Bill have met with Assistant City Manager David Parrish to discuss the proposal. Mr. Parrish will let the CSC how to proceed with the item. Greg offered to donate re-usable water bottles to all City employees, as a means of promoting the effort.

Mr. McNeil suggested that a cost-benefit analysis be conducted to look at places that have enacted bans on single-use plastic water bottles and plastic shopping bags. There are other approaches that can be used to address this problem, such as requiring payment of a refundable deposit on these bottles and bags. An advertising campaign could be used to promote the stores and restaurants that do not use plastics or styrofoam.

Chair McCollum suggested that Mr. McNeil and the Environment Committee continue to be in contact with Assistant City Manager Parrish by the end of March, in order to request an opportunity to present the proposal to the Infrastructure Committee. Also, the League of Women Voters is interested in recycling and suggested that this committee work on a joint venture with the League. Mr. Duckwall suggested a photo contest showing trash that collects in places like streams and fence lines. Ms. Mansell stated that Greensboro Beautiful conducts cleanups and may be able to get volunteers to submit photos of pick up locations and the trash that they collect. Chair McCollum wants to focus on outreach for the CSC and stated that Ms. Finley will be bringing materials to future meetings to help with this goal.

- B) **ECONOMY** – Chair McCollum informed the CSC that Mr. John Kavanagh had submitted his resignation from the Council. Council Member Justin Outling, representing District 3, will make an appointment to fill this vacancy.
- C) **EQUITY** – Mr. Davis gave an update from the Equity Committee to the CSC. He spoke of some of the work being completed around community gardens in the city. Also, the Fresh Food Access Plan was adopted last fall and the CSC may be able to get the coordinator (Russ Clegg) to come and talk to the Council.

5) **STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOCUS 2016**

Mr. Taylor gave a presentation of the current status of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP). He reviewed the organizational comments, including background research conducted with Greensboro Neighborhood Congress. He noted that demographic information about board and commission candidates is not listed in the data bank that the Council uses for appointments, which complicates efforts to ensure balanced representation.

Mr. Sovich explained the basis of the SAP and the progress update measurements that were created in 2012, a year or so after the SAP was finalized. The plan includes 13 policies, 40 strategies, and 120 implementation items, but does not list any of the 160-plus action steps. The action steps were identified collaboratively by staff in preparing the progress report, based on projects or tasks already planned or in progress.

Mr. Taylor suggested that the CSC needs to be educated on the SAP, the progress report, and how the CSC's initiatives are measured. He also suggested a project initiation process, detailed the process further and gave an example of a project proposal. He detailed the next steps that would be helpful in implementing the process he detailed.

Mr. Davis stated that the CSC would need dedicated staff from the City to enact this process.

Mr. McNeil felt that it is critical to follow up on "next steps" and that everything should be driven by the SAP. The CSC needs to set priorities with a strategic thrust in mind.

Mr. Taylor said that the CSC needs to be more active in pursuing things and knowing where those are in the implementation process.

Vice-Chair Finley stated that the proposed process would be efficient, but will take more follow-up on how the process will work. She detailed a mapping system that could also lead to more success. She supports a tutorial and orientation so that all members are on the same page and aligning CSC goals with City goals.

Ms. Mansell asked if we should reevaluate remaining SAP items that haven't been initiated. Mr. Taylor agreed.

Chair McCollum asked that the CSC review the presentation and be able to discuss later. There is no high priority order to the next steps, but CSC goals do need to be aligned with City Council. Looking at the SAP, it is clear that the City has movement and progress towards sustainability. He hopes that the CSC can rediscover mission and priority in the City.

6) APPROVE 2016 MEETING CALENDAR

Mr. Sovich proposed a schedule for future meetings of the CSC. Chair McCollum suggested that members of the CSC continue to meet and have working meetings on the second Monday of months when no official meeting is scheduled. Ms. Hanna Cockburn stated that the informal meetings would not require official documentation. Ms. Cockburn also stated that all funding had been cut from the Planning Department's budget related to CSC support; therefore, staffing will be limited to six meetings a year.

Ms. Mansell made a motion that the formal meeting schedule be set for May 9, August 8, and November 14. Mr. Davis seconded the motion and the CSC voted unanimously to approve the schedule.

7) INCIDENTAL ITEMS:

- A) **ITEMS FROM CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR** - Chair McCollum will ask Mr. Sovich for an updated roster. Vice-Chair Finley suggested that the Council talk about what sustainability means to the CSC. She volunteered to prepare related material for the April working meeting.
- B) **ITEMS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS** - Mr. Duckwall asked that everyone keep the Earth Day Celebration in mind.
- C) **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC** – A member of the public asked if anyone was representing District 2. Chair McCollum stated that Mr. Taylor represents District 2.
- D) **ITEMS FROM STAFF** – None.

8) ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES

Chair McCollum stated that with Mr. Kavanagh's resignation there are two open positions. The positions are specifically for a person under 30 and for a representative from District 3.

9) **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00.