

GREENSBORO COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL
Minutes, Regular Meeting
3:00 pm February, 2017
Transportation Conference Room, 3rd Floor
Melvin Municipal Office Building

CSC Members Present:

Faun Finley, Chair	Bill McNeil	Hillary Meredith
Kelli Swain, Vice-Chair	Kista Mansell	

Staff and Others Present:

Jeff Sovich, Planning	Maura Conley, UNCG Sustainability
Dana Clukey, Planning	Jack Martin, Triad Electric Vehicle Association
Hart Crane, Planning	Jacques Pierre, NC A&T Energy & Sustainability Office
Chris Marriott, Field Operations	Raleigh Stout, Historic Aycock Neighborhood
Tom Clary, Past CSC Member	Vicki Foust, NC A&T Center for Energy Research & Technology

Chair Finley called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

1) APPROVE MINUTES OF December 12, 2016 MEETING

There being no changes to the minutes of the December 12 meeting, Chair Finley called for a motion. Ms Mansell moved to approve the minutes and was seconded by Ms Swain. The CSC voted unanimously approve the minutes as submitted.

2) WELCOME VISITORS

Chair Finley welcomed visitors in attendance.

3) CHAIR GREETINGS, MEMORIES OF ART DAVIS, SUSTAINABILITY QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Chair Finley offered a moment of silence and members and guests shared memories of Art Davis, who had served on the CSC from its inception, was a long time employee in the City of Greensboro Planning Department, and served the community in many other ways.

Ms Finley mentioned that a new category has been added to the Sundance Film Festival for entries dealing with Climate Change related themes. Commenting on this addition, festival founder Robert Redford stated "I'm not a left wing person, I'm just a person interested in the sustainability of my country."

4) UPDATES

Ms Swain stated that she has requested her appointment to the CSC be modified to represent District 1, as opposed to serving as an At-Large representative.

Ms Mansell gave an update on preparations for the City of Greensboro Earth Day celebration to be held on April 1st at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Library branch. Among the ideas suggested for activities at the CSC's table were: a blind water taste-test to demonstrate that City tap water is just as good as bottled water; a solid waste sorting challenge, based on the amount of time it takes for items (styrofoam, paper, etc) to decompose; a sustainable lifestyle choices card game; opportunities for Cub Scouts to fulfill various portions of required or elective Adventure Loops; and providing a sticker or picture that kids could color. Discussion followed on the options and CSC members agreed to host a sustainable lifestyle choices game at the April 1 event.

Mr. McNeil reminded the group that the CSC has been promoting the idea of getting refillable water bottles with the City of Greensboro logo and distributing them to city staff. He would like to have bottles to give out at the Earth Day celebration.

Ms Meredith updated the CSC on the overlap between their efforts and those of the Solid Waste Commission. Mr. Marriott stated that the Solid Waste Commission (SWC) has a specific range of responsibilities assigned by the City Council: to reduce the amount of solid waste and to examine the options for reuse of the White Street Landfill. The SWC supported an idea by city staff to establish a textile recycling program, which Mr. Marriott discuss a future CSC meeting.

During the CSC's informal work session in January, members discussed attending meetings of other City of Greensboro boards and commissions having possible relevance to the CSC's mission, in order to be informed of their work and share with other CSC members. Members will sign up to attend meetings that might interest them.

5) SUSTAINABILITY SPEAKER SERIES

Chair Finley stated that she will continue to work on coordinating the CSC's plans for an annual sustainability speaker event with the upcoming TEDx Greensboro series. June 14th is a potential date for the TEDx Salon, which would consist of viewing a recorded TED Talks presentation, followed by a group discussion. Mr. Sovich suggested Stan Meiburg, former Acting Deputy Administrator for the EPA, as a possible speaker. Meiburg was recently selected by Wake Forest University as Director of Graduate Programs in Sustainability. Ms Meredith and Ms Swain will work on options. Mr. Sovich stated that the City Manager's Office envisions the annual speaker event as a way of raising the profile and general awareness of one of the CSC's other initiatives, an annual Sustainability Awards and Recognition Program. Ms Finley and Ms Meredith stated that they would continue working to partner and coordinate funding sources with the Planning Department, Action Greensboro/SynerG, the Greensboro News & Record, and TEDx Greensboro.

6) SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS & RECOGNITION PROGRAM

This item was continued due to the absence of Mr. Yearns.

7) BREAK

The CSC adjourned for a brief recess, then reconvened.

8) MEMBER BIOS/TERMS OF SERVICE

Chair Finley asked new members to send their brief biographies to Mr. Sovich. She also asked for clarification regarding district representation and membership expiration dates, such as whether members are automatically re-appointed when their initial term expires, and whether members' appointments should be modified to reflect their place of residence if they move. Mr. Sovich will check on those issues.

9) PROGRESS REPORT FOR CITY COUNCIL

Mr. Sovich stated that the City Council has requested that the CSC present an update twice a year at a meeting, to keep the City Council informed about what CSC is working on, the progress being made, and upcoming initiatives. The CSC discussed the items that would be presented to City Council. Ms Swain suggested adding the three recommendations that Alex Arnett (Waste Reduction) covered in December, regarding improvements to the City's solid waste collection and processing methods.

10) MICRO PLACEMAKING & A FRESH APPROACH TO COMMUNICATING SUSTAINABILITY

This item was continued.

11) INCIDENTAL ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Finley thanked Ms Swain for handling last month's meeting. Ms Finley has extended a personal invitation to City Council Member Nancy Hoffmann to attend a CSC meeting.

On February 27th at HQ Greensboro, Ms Finley will host a Lunch and Learn event for businesses interested in becoming more sustainable, to provide a global to local context on why sustainability is important, and how small and big businesses are benefitting from sustainability practices.

For the next CSC work session (scheduled for March 13 in the Engineering Conference Room), Ms Finley asked members to bring ideas for a purpose and mission for Sustainability Awards Program.

The Sierra Club has established a MeetUp Group and they will be hosting a stream clean-up and a hike within the next month.

Mr. McNeil stated that Environmental Stewardship Greensboro (ESG) will host a "Faith in Solar" workshop in partnership with NCWARN at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church downtown (211 West Fisher Avenue) on Sunday, February 19th at 2pm. ESG is also exploring finding partners for a People's Climate March on April 29th in Greensboro.

Maura Conley stated that a UNCG representative will host Green Drinks Greensboro at Scuppernong, this evening from 5 to 7pm.

12) ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ABSENCES

The CSC acknowledged the excused absence of Mr. Yearns.

13) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 pm.