

GREENSBORO COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL
greensboro-nc.gov/sustainability
Minutes, Regular Meeting
3pm, Monday, August 14, 2017
Transportation Conference Room, 3rd Floor
Melvin Municipal Office Building

CSC Members Present:

Faun Finley, Chair	Vicki Foust	Jacque Pierre
Kista Mansell	Hillary Meredith	

Staff and Others Present:

Jeff Sovich, Planning	Marikay Abuzuaiter, Greensboro City Council
Dana Clukey, Planning	Amanda Lehmert, Communications
Tori Carle, Field Operations	Raleigh Stout, Historic Dunleath Neighborhood
Nancy Adamson, Bee City, USA	

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

1) APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 12, 2017 MEETING

Lacking a quorum at the start of the meeting, approval of the minutes of the June 12th meeting was postponed, to be taken up during a future meeting.

2) CHAIR GREETINGS, WELCOME VISITORS

Chair Finley welcomed visitors in attendance.

3) ANNOUNCEMENTS, SUSTAINABILITY QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Chair Finley announced that during the next City Council meeting, on August 15, Jacques Pierre would be appointed to serve on the CSC, representing Council District 2, and that Vicki Foust would be appointed, to serve on the CSC At-Large.

No Sustainability Quote.

4) STAR COMMUNITIES PRESENTATION

Dr. Foust presented a summary of the STAR Communities program. The basic purpose of the program is to assess a city's current conditions, future trends, and intended goals for advancing sustainability. The program uses an extensive set of verifiable standards and objective criteria to evaluate a city's progress, processes, and policies, across eight categories. The result is a composite rating score that allows cities to compare their efforts and accomplishments with other cities and track their relative standing over time.

The verification and certification process takes approximately one year to complete. The program does not require that the application be prepared by, or even led by the City of Greensboro. Among the benefits of participating in the program are the marketing and publicity value of attaining a STAR Community rating; engaging in the continuous improvement efforts encouraged by the program; and gaining valuable information about the City's level of sustainability from the formal independent assessment. Mr. Sovich pointed out that some of the source information needed to complete the initial application may already compiled in Greensboro's recently submitted CDP Cities report.

5) VOLVO ENERGY FAIR – FAUN FINLEY & BILL MCNEIL

Chair Finley reported that representatives of Volvo Trucks contacted her with an invitation for the CSC to participate in the Volvo Energy Fair, which will take place on Thursday, August 17. At this event, the CSC will host an informational table, including the NC A&T Dashboard for Energy and Water. The Center for Energy Research and Technology will also provide a hand-cranked electric generator to demonstrate the amount of energy used by different types of lighting. The Planning Department created and printed a banner for the CSC to display at the event. As a point of discussion, Chair Finley inquired how many such events should the CSC participate in per year, and what types of displays or activities should be presented.

BREAK - The CSC adjourned for a brief recess, then reconvened.

6) DEBRIEF: MEETINGS WITH CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- **Justin Outling** – Hillary Meredith met with City Council member Justin Outling, who stated that if the CSC has major items to present, they can request to be added to the agenda for an upcoming City Council work session – this is a helpful way of getting an issue or request onto the Council’s collective radar. He recommended that the CSC continue to work with Mr. Sovich and other City staff as far as possible, then contact him. He pointed out that there will be greater support from the Council when the CSC brings forth an item during “Speakers from the Floor” if the CSC has gone through other channels first.

Mr. Outling asked whether it would be possible for the Mayors’ National Climate Action Agenda to be integrated into the City’s other education and outreach efforts, since there had been no discussion about this agreement among the City Council regarding implementation or future milestones, prior to the announcement that Mayor Vaughan had become a signatory. He cautioned however, that there are limits to what the City can do, especially with regard to staff and funding resources. He recommended that the CSC touch base with Nancy Hoffmann to let her know what the CSC is currently working on and get her buy-in.

- **Marikay Abuzaiter** – Chair Finley met with City Council member Marikay Abuzaiter. During the meeting they discussed various issues related to the appointment of CSC members, and listing of interested citizens in the Boards and Commissions databank. Chair Finley stated that Ms Abuzaiter really gets sustainability and understands the big picture. Going forward, Ms Abuzaiter would be in favor of items the CSC might submit to the City Council.

7) UPDATE / DISCUSSION: SUSTAINABILITY SPEAKER PROJECT RECOMMENDATION

Ms Meredith discussed the Sustainability Speaker initiative with Planning Director Sue Schwartz, who in turn spoke with Mayor Vaughan. Mayor Vaughan would like to organize an event around the Mayors’ National Climate Action Agenda. The CSC will need to research potential funding sources and commitments, and collaborate on the planning of other details of the event, to be held in March or April of 2018. Mr. McNeil has researched some of the other cities that have signed onto the agreement. Gaining speaking commitments from the sustainability staff of other cities would be an excellent step to pursue. Ms Meredith and Mr. McNeil will continue to research various possibilities for the event, develop concepts, and assemble a detailed proposal, including location, format, topics, marketing strategy, budget, etc., to present in a future meeting.

8) UPDATE ON CITY/SUSTAINABILITY WEBSITE

Mr. Sovich stated that the CSC webpage had been updated to include the most recent roster of CSC members and their biographies, and recent sustainability initiatives.

9) INCIDENTAL ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. ITEMS FROM CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR** – Chair Finley stated that during the scheduled September CSC work session, a student from Elon Law School would be speaking about her capstone project, which will be mural project that will tie in with the theme of sustainability. During the October CSC meeting, local members of the Citizens Climate Lobby will present. During the December CSC meeting, representatives of Bee City USA will give a presentation about the importance of pollinators. Chair Finley stated that she is now being contacted regularly about opportunities to partner and coordinate on sustainability related initiatives and projects.
- B. ITEMS FROM CSC MEMBERS** – None.
- C. ITEMS FROM PUBLIC** – Nancy Adamson announced that a “Be Friendly to Bees” day event would be held from 9am to 1pm on Saturday, August 19, at the Master Gardener Center at the NC Cooperative Extension Office, 3309 Burlington Rd.
- D. ITEMS FROM STAFF** – Mr. Pierre asked whether the City has a composting program. Ms Carle replied that the City currently has a yard waste composting facility at the White Street Landfill, but no food waste composting program. She stated that she is currently developing an education and outreach strategy related to food waste composting.

10) ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ABSENCES

Chair Finley moved to acknowledge the excused absence of Ms Ritter-Lipscomb, Ms Swain, Mr. McNeil, and Mr. Yearns; Mr. Pierre seconded the motion. The CSC acknowledged these excused absences.

11) ADJOURNMENT

Chair Finley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:57 pm.