

GREENSBORO COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL
greensboro-nc.gov/sustainability
Minutes, Regular Meeting
 3pm, Monday, December 11, 2017
 Plaza Level Conference Room
 Melvin Municipal Office Building
 300 West Washington Street

CSC Members Present:

Faun Finley, Chair	Bill McNeil	Dr. Vicki Foust
Kelli Swain	Will Yearns	Jacques Pierre
Hillary Meredith		

Staff and Others Present:

Jeff Sovich, Planning	Nancy Adamson, Bee City USA / Xerces Society
Hart Crane, Planning	Nicole Spivey, Piedmont Plateau Sierra Club
Gray Johnston, GTA	Justin Vettel, Greensboro Permaculture Guild
George Linney, GTA	Raleigh Stout
Kevin Elwood, GTA	

Meeting called to order at 3:05 PM.

1. APPROVE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 9, 2017 MEETING

Mr. Sovich reported that the minutes from the last meeting are not ready for review and approval.

2. CHAIR GREETINGS/ WELCOME VISITORS

3. DISCUSSIONS/ACTION ITEMS

- STAR Communities Presentation - Dr. Foust stated that sustainability staff from the City of Winston-Salem will attend an upcoming CSC meeting and present about the process for applying to the STAR Communities program. They will discuss challenges to anticipate, and respond to questions from the CSC regarding items such as how to get started and city approval procedures.
- Citizen’s Climate Lobby – The CSC discussed the Citizens Climate Lobby and what form of endorsement or recommendation, if any, the CSC should make.
- Missing Middle Statement to City Council – Ms Meredith reported about the “Missing Middle” lecture by Dan Parolek, which was hosted by the Planning Department. She expressed interest in finding a means of communicating the CSC’s support for Missing Middle Housing to the City Council. Mr. McNeill spoke about how to best promote the Missing Middle Housing types. Chair Finley suggested preparing a quarterly report summarizing the CSC’s recommendations related to various sustainability issues and events within and near Greensboro. The Missing Middle topic may be a good starting point for these recommendation reports. Chair Finley also said that making these reports easily accessible online would help with transparency. Vice Chair Swain talked about the sensitivity of “recommending” things while representing the City. Discussion ensued about balancing between transparency and sensitivity of representing the City. Mr. Pierre suggested possibly videotaping a summary of the CSC meetings at the end of each meeting to be uploaded to Youtube. Chair Finley asked the committee what would be the best way to endorse the Missing Middle concept. Mr. McNeill spoke about how to incorporate these recommendations into the upcoming Comprehensive Plan update. Mr. Yearns volunteered to start drafting a

CSC statement on the Bitrix platform regarding the CSC's support for Missing Middle. Mr. McNeill spoke about strategies for getting this on Council's legislative agenda. Chair Finley stated that there may be other issues that need to be addressed first.

- Communication with new City Council Members - Chair Finley asked whether the CSC should reach out to City Council persons either individually or just through one message/email. Mr. McNeill said it might be most effective to do both, have each CSC member reach out to their respective council member as well having a unified message come from the CSC Chair. Vice Chair Swain suggested establishing a standard format that summarizes what they support and endorse. Dr. Foust added that this document could be added to the minutes for public consumption as well. Chair Finley moved to adopt this model proposed by Ms Swain, seconded by Mr. Yearns. The CSC voted unanimously to approve the motion.

4. PORTLAND PRESENTATION: SUSTAINABLE URBANISM (BIKING & PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION)

Chair Finley presented a slideshow detailing her experiences in Portland where she challenged herself to use public transit for three days. She described different pedestrian friendly planning strategies the City of Portland utilizes that Greensboro could possibly learn from such as, better pedestrian signage, bike boxes for left-hand turns, bike rack art, light rail and more.

5. GREENSBORO TRANSIT AUTHORITY PRESENTATION

Gray Johnston, Kevin Elwood, and George Linney of GTA presented detailed ways in which GTA operates sustainably, and also outlined different techniques GTA will be employing to become even more sustainable in the coming years. Examples from the presentation included GTA's new LEED Gold Certified building, a growing fleet of sustainable hybrid buses, the recent purchase of the first all-electric buses in North Carolina, and the ways in which the new *Get On Board 2040* Public Transportation Master Plan, which is currently in development, will incorporate sustainability.

6. CSC 2018 MEETING SCHEDULE

The CSC set the following dates for its 2018 meeting schedule:

Formal Meetings	Informal Work Sessions
Monday, January 8	Monday, February 12
Monday, March 12	Monday, April 9
Monday, May 14	Monday, June 11
Monday, July 9	Monday, August 13
Monday, September 10	Monday, October 8
Monday, November 5	Monday, December 10

7. INCIDENTAL ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. ITEMS FROM CHAIR
- B. ITEMS FROM VICE-CHAIR
- C. ITEMS FROM CSC MEMBERS
- D. ITEMS FROM PUBLIC
- E. ITEMS FROM STAFF

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES

The CSC acknowledged the excused absence of Kista Mansell, and the unexcused absence of Paula Ritter-Lipscomb.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The CSC adjourned at 4:56pm.