

**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 13, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, February 13, 2012 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, commencing at 3:15 p.m. The following members were present: Co-Chairs Joel Landau and Bob Powell, Derrick Giles, Terri Hancock, Marlene Sanford, Carolyn Allen, Tom Duckwall, Tom Clary, Eric Hoekstra, Art Davis, and Bob Kollar. Staff present included Jamal Fox, Valencia Roner, Caitlin Warren, and Steve Randall.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 9, 2012 MEETING:**

Mr. Davis moved to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2012 meeting as amended, seconded by Mr. Clary. The Council voted unanimously 9-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Giles, Hancock, Sanford, Duckwall, Clary, Hoekstra, and Davis. Nays: None.)

**WINSTON-SALEM SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AND COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES:**

Ms. Allen joined the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

Wendell Hardin, Sustainability Manager for the City of Winston-Salem, gave an overview of the City's community and internal operations programs for sustainability.

Mr. Hardin stated that Winston-Salem has a Sustainability Council consisting of 11 members. The Internal Operations office is in-house and there is an Energy Manager as well.

Mr. Hardin is also President of the Winston-Salem Sustainability Resource Center, a non-profit organization. The non-profit organization establishes connections to the community through academic institutions, community organizations, and foundations. The Sustainability Resource Center has worked on educational programs with Piedmont Environmental Alliance and they also reach out to local churches to provide educational training in the community,

Mr. Hardin discussed energy programs being conducted in Winston-Salem including a joint effort between the City and the non-profit Sustainability Resource Center for energy audits.

Mr. Kollar joined the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

Mr. Hardin stated that the non-profit Sustainability Resource Center is made up of a different group of individuals than the Winston-Salem Sustainability Council. There is also an Advisory Council made up of 30 individuals from financial, business, and educational institutions who act as mentors to the staff of the Resource Center.

Mr. Hardin addressed the possibility of creating synergy between Greensboro and Winston-Salem relative to sustainability. Mr. Hardin stated that the needs of the business community were being overlooked and he felt it was important to reach out to businesses to discuss energy issues.

**ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Hazel Landers, Vice-Chair of the Sierra Club, discussed her efforts to organize a Sustainability Speakers Bureau. She gave a brief sample of her talks on *Moving Beyond Coal* and *Living Without Chemicals*. She asked members for their help by joining the group and promoting information to City Council. Ms. Landers can be contacted at 336-545-0717.

Brooks Mullane, City of Greensboro Parks and Recreation, updated the Council on the identification and creation of community gardens as requested in the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP). Ms. Mullane indicated that her work plan is to create two new community gardens each year. A community garden is scheduled to open within the next few weeks at Keely Park. A state of the art educational greenhouse will be located at the site.

Ms. Mullane informed members that a workshop on invasive plants was recently held at Guilford Woods. Another workshop will be held at Guilford Woods in March, 2012.

**FOLLOW-UP ITEMS FROM INTERIM CITY MANAGER:**

In a letter to Interim City Manager Denise Roth, dated February 6, 2012, Co-Chairs Powell and Landau referenced four highlighted activities for the Community Sustainability Council (CSC) to pursue. These activities are as follows: (1) research and report on economic development opportunities in the area of "Green Technologies"; (2) monitor implementation of the recommendations in the SAP, and measure progress towards achieving its goals; (3) develop the next round of recommendations to build upon these initial ones; and (4) help with Education and Outreach.

It was suggested that the CSC should make a presentation during a briefing session to City Council. Co-Chair Powell felt that the briefing session should occur following receipt of the Interim City Manager's recommendations for the CSC. The CSC should also be prepared to provide recommendations of its own during the briefing session for City Council to consider.

Members discussed priorities and the role the Sustainability Council should play moving forward. It was decided to follow-up again with the Interim City Manager to see when a briefing session with City Council can be scheduled. In addition, members expressed their support of the four highlighted activities referenced in the letter to Ms. Roth.

Ms. Sanford reiterated the importance of the CSC justifying its existence to City Council. She suggested not proceeding to a briefing session with City Council until a status report of the accepted SAP was completed. The status report would reinforce the value of the plan and its implementation.

Mr. Duckwall left the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

**BETTER BUILDINGS FOR GREENSBORO UPDATE:**

Ms. Roner informed members that 833 residential applications have been received and 220 energy assessments have been performed to date. In addition, contractors will be ready to begin scheduling upgrades by the end of the week. She stated that the upgrades must be completed by May, 2013.

**EECBG UPDATE:**

Ms. Roner reported that a letter was received recently from the Department of Energy indicating that nine months remain to spend the allocated funds from the formula grant.

Ms. Roner stated that the Education and Outreach portion of the grant consists of the Elsewhere Collaborative, Guilford County Schools, Environmental Solutions Group, Advanced Energy, and the library totaling \$143,000 in terms of all the work that has been done.

Ms. Roner introduced the newest intern, Charla Gaskin.

Mr. Giles left the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Mr. Hoekstra left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

**ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:**

Mr. Davis moved to support the four highlighted activities suggested as the focus for the CSC as forwarded to the Interim City Manager for appropriate action, seconded by Mr. Kollar. The Council voted unanimously 8-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Hancock, Sanford, Allen, Clary, Davis, and Kollar. Nays: None.)

Ms. Allen moved to direct Co-Chairs Landau and Powell to follow-up with the Interim City Manager to see where she is in this process, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously 8-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Hancock, Sanford, Allen, Clary, Davis, and Kollar. Nays: None.)

Mr. Clary moved to table the discussion on transitioning the CSC to a non-profit organization until a later date, seconded by Mr. Kollar. The Council voted unanimously 8-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Hancock, Sanford, Allen, Clary, Davis, and Kollar. Nays: None.)

Co-Chair Landau suggested that a City Council member be approached to make a motion requesting that the CSC return with a status report showing the progress made on SAP activities.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE:**

Co-Chair Landau reported that at the last City Council meeting it was decided to set up an advisory task force on waste reduction and recycling. He pointed out that further educational outreach was needed as no mention of the section in the SAP on Waste Reduction and Recycling was mentioned at the meeting. In addition, no mention was made to use the CSC as part of the advisory group.

Ms. Sanford moved to send a copy of the section of the SAP referencing Waste Reduction and Recycling to every City Council member with a brief cover letter supporting the creation of an advisory task force, pointing out it is part of the SAP, and asking how the CSC can help, seconded by Mr. Kollar. The Council voted unanimously 8-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Hancock, Sanford, Allen, Clary, Davis, and Kollar. Nays: None.)

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES:**

Ms. Allen moved to acknowledge the absence of Mr. McClough, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted unanimously 8-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Hancock, Sanford, Allen, Clary, Davis, and Kollar. Nays: None.)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau  
Co-Chairman

JL:sm/jd