

**MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council (CSC) was held on Monday, November 19, 2012 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, commencing at 3:04 p.m. The following members were present: Co-Chairs Joel Landau and Bob Powell, Bill Barker, Tom Clary, Tom Duckwall, Carolyn Allen, Marlene Sanford, Don Blackstock, and Art Davis. Staff present included Valencia Roner, Caitlin Warren, and Steve Randall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 13, 2012 MEETING:

Mr. Barker moved to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2012 meeting as amended, seconded by Mr. Davis. The Council voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Barker, Duckwall, Allen, Sanford, Blackstock, Davis. Nays: None.)

Co-Chair Powell and Mr. Clary joined the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

STATUS OF CSC MEMBERS:

Mr. Davis introduced the newest member of the Community Sustainability Council, Mr. Don Blackstock. Mr. Blackstock was appointed by Councilman Kee to fill the open District 2 seat.

Co-Chair Powell referred to a list distributed to members and reviewed the status of the CSC. He stated that Councilwoman Yvonne Johnson reappointed CSC members based on the date their last term ended. Mr. Barker requested that new expiration dates be placed on the next list of current CSC members. In addition, Mr. Blackstock was asked to provide his contact information so that the CSC website can be updated.

REPORT ON REVISED CSC STRUCTURE:

Co-Chairs Landau and Powell reported that they recently met with Denise Roth, City Manager, and other staff to discuss the proposed role and structure of the CSC.

Co-Chair Powell reviewed the document presented to the City Manager and staff, as distributed to members.

The current structure consists of 14 members made up of two members per district; two co-chairmen; two members at large, consisting of one representative each from TREBIC and the Chamber of Commerce; and two advisory positions consisting of one representative each from Duke Power and Piedmont Natural Gas.

The proposed structure would consist of 13 members made up of one member per district with four at-large appointments. There should be no more than two at-large representatives from each district. In addition, the number of subcommittees would be reduced from seven to five to work more efficiently. Co-Chair Powell proposed that the Nature in the City, Transportation Land Use, and Education and Outreach subcommittees would remain the same while City Operations would merge with Waste Reduction and Recycling and Green Technologies would combine with

Green Buildings and Jobs. To create a link between the subcommittees and CSC members, he proposed that the experience of the at-large appointees should relate to the focus of the five subcommittees.

During discussion it was decided that the five at-large seats should be referred to as "expertise" seats. The areas of professional expertise should match the five subcommittees. Members discussed the fact that although members must be appointed by City Council, there is no official process for nomination. However, a CSC member could find a qualified individual to fill an expertise seat and nominate them to a City Council member for appointment.

It was proposed that to provide more flexibility in filling the five professional expertise seats, nominees should have expertise in any of the following categories: (1) Sustainable Transportation and Land Use, (2) Sustainable Urban Environment, (3) Sustainable Business Products and Services, (4) Sustainable Business and/or Municipal Operations, and (5) Sustainability Educator.

The professional expertise category would relate to the five subcommittees as follows:

- (1) Sustainable Transportation and Land Use: Transportation and Land Use Subcommittee
- (2) Sustainable Urban Environment: Nature in the City Subcommittee
- (3) Sustainable Business Products and Services: Green Technologies and Green Buildings Jobs Subcommittee
- (4) Sustainable Business and/or Municipal Operations: City Operations and Waste Reduction and Recycling Subcommittee
- (5) Sustainability Educator: Education and Outreach Subcommittee.

Following further discussion, Ms. Sanford moved to propose that the City Council restructure the CSC as follows: (1) to have one representative from each of the five districts appointed by that district City Council member; (2) to have one member appointed from TREBIC and one member appointed from the Chamber of Commerce; (3) to have five members with special expertise from any of the following categories: Sustainable Transportation and Land Use, Sustainable Urban Environment, Sustainable Business Products and Services, Sustainable Business and/or Municipal Operations, and Sustainability Educator; (4) to retain the two advisory positions, one from Duke Energy and one from Piedmont Natural Gas; (5) to have two co-chairs separate from the other 14 members; seconded by Mr. Davis. The CSC voted unanimously 9-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Barker, Duckwall, Blackstock, Davis, Clary, Allen and Sanford. Nays: None.)

Mr. Davis made a friendly amendment to have the co-chairs appointed annually in May by the Mayor and that the following seats be converted to expertise seats: District 1-- the open Seat, District 2 -- Derrick Giles' seat, District 3 -- Bill Barker's seat, District 4 -- the open Seat, and District 5 -- the open Seat, and that Bill Barker and Derrick Giles continue to fill the expertise seats, seconded by Ms. Allen. The CSC voted unanimously 9-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Barker, Duckwall, Blackstock, Davis, Clary, Allen and Sanford. Nays: None.)

Ms. Sanford left the meeting at 3:48 p.m.

REQUEST FROM CITY COUNCIL RELATED TO COMMUNITY GARDENS:

Ms. Allen stated that City Council has requested that the CSC recommend a process to help guide citizens in the development of community gardens. She reported that the matter was discussed by the Nature in the City subcommittee. A City staff person recommended that the

subcommittee looks at the relationship between the development coordinates and the location and operation of community gardens. Ms. Allen pointed out that a storage shed cannot be placed on the site where a community garden has been established. A storage shed can only be placed on a property where there is a main building. The subcommittee pointed out the necessities of access and water when planning a community garden and Ms. Allen reviewed a summary of points brought out in the discussion including the Greensboro tree cover.

Co-Chair Landau pointed out that Item 9A of the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) calls for the identification of parcels of City-owned land that could be used for community gardens and for the training of citizens in community gardens. The City has committed to doing two community gardens a year. The City is willing to provide water access and to pay for the water usage. There is also grant money available for community gardens through the Building Stronger Neighborhoods program. In addition, the North Carolina Extension Service will help with the planning and planting of the garden.

Co-Chair Landau recommended that (1) the City change their Ordinance to allow storage sheds on lands being used for community gardens, (2) that there is funding through grant money available through the Building Stronger Neighborhoods program administered by the Neighborhood Congress, (3) that people be directed to the North Carolina Extension Service for assistance in planning, setting up, and providing the plants for community gardens, and (4) that the City continue to do what is in Item 9-A of the SAP and identify more parcels of City land to use for community gardens.

Co-Chair Powell stated that private groups have emerged relative to the establishment of community gardens and a way to keep track of these other groups needs to be established. It was suggested that the Nature in the City Subcommittee should serve as a clearinghouse for the groups.

Following further discussion, Mr. Davis moved to recommend possible funding through the Small Neighborhoods Program and the Building Stronger Neighborhood program, to refer groups to the NC Extension Services for expert services, to ask the City to look at changing the Ordinance to allow a storage facility on a property without a main building, and to ask the City to provide water meters, seconded by Mr. Blackstock. The CSC voted unanimously 8-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Barker, Duckwall, Blackstock, Davis, Clary, and Allen. Nays: None.)

Ms. Roner stated that she will inform City Manager Roth that the CSC's motion is the preliminary recommendation. Ms. Allen said that the Nature in the City Subcommittee will meet and have a formal recommendation prepared by the second week of December.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Transportation and Land Use**

Mr. Clary distributed a summary of the Transportation and Land Use Subcommittee Report. The focus of their first policy was to encourage increased density and a mix of land uses in transit corridors. Identified in this policy were strategies that included identification and improvement of mass transit corridors, increase development densities and mix of uses for transit corridors and activity centers, and improve housing diversity for property utilization. The second policy relates to transportation issues and the subcommittee focused on increasing bicycle infrastructure and the development of the Green Bike Program. He discussed bike rental and sharing programs that are already underway at UNC-Greensboro and A&T University.

Specific activities that could be undertaken relative to the policies would be to pursue the designation of transit corridors and cross-county connections with Planning staff, Transportation staff, and Greensboro Transit Authority (GTA). In addition, Mr. Clary referenced the High Point Road corridor and felt that a market mode may help engage and achieve implementation. He suggested that members meet with significant City staff and the Chamber of Commerce to generate action and play a coordinating role.

Mr. Clary discussed the importance of creating a critical path network to facilitate communication with the City to determine milestones for strategies. He restated the strategies articulated in the summary as follows: (1) increase transit system use by working with GTA, (2) increase bicycle infrastructure as per the City's plan using bond money, and (3) bike sharing and bike rental program requiring City Council approval. Members determined that milestones should be provided by all subcommittees at the next meeting and moving forward.

Co-Chair Landau pointed out that if the CSC hopes to tie into the current City budget cycle, items should be recommended before February, 2013 to be considered. He also noted that time and resources were limited.

Mr. Duckwall moved to endorse the Transportation Land Use Subcommittee Report, seconded by Mr. Clary. The CSC voted unanimously 8-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Barker, Duckwall, Blackstock, Davis, Clary, and Allen. Nays: None.)

- **Green Technologies**

Copies of the Green Technologies Subcommittee Report were distributed to members and activities from August to October, 2012 were reviewed.

Co-Chair Powell reported that an article was published in the Triad Business Journal detailing plans for a Green Tech Business Forum sponsored by the CSC. The forum has been deferred to the spring of 2013 to allow it to be supported on a larger scale.

Mr. Clary related that a letter was sent to the Mayor and other individuals in the City asking that the Green Technology Subcommittee's green technology pursuits be acknowledged and integrated into the City of Greensboro's Economic Development Strategy and Plans. The subcommittee plans to work to incorporate ideas into strategies developed by the City and other participating organizations.

Mr. Duckwall reported that he traveled to the University of Central Florida (UCF) to attend the "Cleantech-to-Spacetech" Forum consisting of Florida area start-up companies with ideas for green technology products and services. He stated that UCF may extend their forum plans to the Carolinas.

Mr. Barker stated that a list of over 250 Triad area companies has been extracted from a 2008 report by UNC-Greensboro Professor Keith Debbage to identify local companies with potential as suppliers for renewable energy products. Mr. Barker felt that the key aspect was to increase the knowledge base of the subcommittee on the potential for companies in the Triad to contribute to green technology products that someone else might have. The subcommittee is tracking work done by Professor Debbage, the North Carolina Sustainability Association, and other data bases.

Ms. Allen moved to endorse the Green Technology Subcommittee Report, seconded by Mr. Barker. The CSC voted unanimously 8-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Barker, Duckwall, Blackstock, Davis, Clary, and Allen. Nays: None.)

- **Nature in the City**

Ms. Allen stated that the Urban Forestry Committee from Greensboro Beautiful is already working on the Greensboro Tree Cover. They are in contact with Mike Cusimano, Greensboro Urban Tree Forester. In addition, she pointed out that the Advisory Commission on Trees (ACT) is now functioning as a subcommittee of the Greensboro Planning Board on an as-needed basis.

The Nature in the City Subcommittee proposes to work in an educational role to bring attention to issues related to tree cover.

Mr. Barker moved to endorse the Nature in the City Subcommittee Report, seconded by Mr. Clary. The CSC voted unanimously 8-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Barker, Duckwall, Blackstock, Davis, Clary, and Allen. Nays: None.)

- **City Operations:**

Co-Chair Landau stated that not a lot of activity has happened since the Sustainability Audit was done. The subcommittee sees the key element in City Operations as the SAP recommendation to create a City Green Team. The team would consist of a designated representative from each department so that best practices could be shared across all departments. If this piece was in place then most items in the City Operations recommendation could be funneled through the Green Team. The subcommittee recommended that efforts be focused on encouraging the City to implement a Green Team.

Mr. Barker moved to endorse the City Operations Subcommittee Report, seconded by Ms. Allen. The CSC voted unanimously 8-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Barker, Duckwall, Blackstock, Davis, Clary, and Allen. Nays: None.)

- **Education and Outreach**

Mr. Davis reported on the Education and Outreach strategies as follows:

- (1) The Youth Energy Leadership Project has been completed.
- (2) The subcommittee hopes to promote the Neighbors to Leadership program to the Neighborhood Congress. The program promotes green initiatives.
- (3) The Environmental Network has been completed. It has been offered to teachers to show green businesses in action and to encourage them as trained green environmental educators.
- (4) The subcommittee has spoken with the Triad Business Journal in the hope of coordinating with their extensive Green Awards program.

Mr. Barker moved to endorse the City Operations Subcommittee Report, seconded by Mr. Clary. The CSC voted unanimously 8-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Barker, Duckwall, Blackstock, Davis, Clary, and Allen. Nays: None.)

ITEMS FROM CO-CHAIRS:

The next meeting of the CSC will be held on Monday, January 14, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting will be for each subcommittee to present milestones along with up to three items to prioritize.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES:

Ms. Allen moved to acknowledge the absences of Mr. Giles, Ms. Hancock, and Mr. Kollar, seconded by Mr. Barker. The CSC voted unanimously 8-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Landau, Powell, Barker, Duckwall, Blackstock, Davis, Clary, and Allen. Nays: None.)

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau
Co-Chairman

JL:sm/jd