

GREENSBORO COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL
greensboro-nc.gov/sustainability
Minutes, Regular Meeting

3pm, Monday, June 11, 2018
Plaza Level Conference Room
Melvin Municipal Office Building
300 West Washington Street

CSC Members Present:

Faun Finley, Chair	Jacques Pierre	Kevin McDonald
Vicki Foust, Vice Chair	Will Yearns	Nicole Spivey
Kista Mansell		

Staff and Others Present:

Russ Clegg, Planning	Marikay Abuzuaiter, City Council
Dana Clukey, Planning	Kathe Latham, Sierra Club Ready for 100 Campaign
Jeff Sovich, Planning	George Wissmiller, interested citizen
Judson Clinton, Planning	Ellis Russell, interested citizen
Sergey Kobelev, Engineering & Inspections	

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Finley called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2018 meeting. Vice-Chair Foust moved for approval; Ms Mansell seconded. The CSC unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

2. WELCOME VISITORS

Chair Finley welcomed visitors. She then added an item to the agenda related to the mural being painted on the exterior of the Mitchell Water Treatment Plant.

3. MITCHELL WATER TREATMENT PLANT MURAL

Chair Finley gave an update on the mural and activities surrounding the project. The project has been moved up, in order to accommodate the schedule of artist David "Mr. June" Louf. She stated that the main goal of the mural is to communicate the importance of water stewardship. There will be a "Water is Life" event at LeBauer Park on June 15th at 7:00pm, to educate about the vital importance of clean water for all living things, and get children involved. Vice Chair Foust offered to try to borrow a display on the water cycle from her colleague. She asked whether the Water Resources Department may have any informational resources that can help raise awareness about the City's water treatment processes, as opposed to the natural hydrologic cycle. Mr. Pierre will schedule and coordinate volunteers to staff the CSC table. Ms Spivey asked if there was opportunity for other tables or sponsors. There will be more opportunities to educate the public once the mural is completed. Ms Mansell asked if we could get the event posted on the DGI website.

4. STAR COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The CSC reviewed the project proposal Vice Chair Foust prepared to summarize the STAR Communities Program, which has been posted on the Bitrix24 site. The project proposal is a follow-up document to the analysis of this topic previously submitted by the Chair and Vice-Chair. The project proposal is meant to highlight and persuade others on the concept of STAR Communities. The CSC felt that the document may need further refinement, which can be dealt with outside of the meeting. Ms Mansell offered to work on revisions, and Vice Chair Foust will share the revised

document on Google Drive. City Council Member Abuzuaiter stated that she is working with City Manager David Parrish on determining how best to move forward regarding the STAR Communities program.

5. CSC ANALYSES

Chair Finley asked if these documents should be written in a neutral tone, or if they should be written in a persuasive manner. Ms Mansell said it depends; for example, an analysis of the Winston-Salem STAR Communities presentation, should be more of an objective summary. For the document that Mr. Yearns wrote on Missing Middle Housing and other action items that go to the City Council, should employ a more persuasive style. Ms Mansell will reformat the document template (Project Recommendation Sheet).

6. SUSTAINABILITY SPEAKER EVENT UPDATE

It was suggested that a potential speaker could be Peter Calthorpe, a leader in the “New Urbanism” movement and expert in sustainable urban design and construction. The tenets of New Urbanism align well with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals. Mr. Sovich noted that the selection of a speaker should be based on consideration of his or her ability to speak persuasively on the benefits of sustainability beyond the natural environment, cleaner air, and reduced resource consumption, and how making Greensboro more sustainable will support our local economy. Eric Tomlinson, president of Wake Forest Innovation Quarter may be a good resource on transforming a city and making it sustainable. Further discussion highlighted the importance of staying broad with the potential speakers, in order to align with the *PlanIt Greensboro* comprehensive plan update. Vice Chair Foust stated that the Director of the Office of Sustainability of Louisville, KY, Maria Koetter, should be considered. Bruce Cole of the University of South Carolina, was able to influence sustainability in Columbia, SC. With the many suggested speakers, it will be difficult to decide whether it would be better to select someone from a similar southeastern city, or someone from someplace very different, where sustainability is internalized and accelerating. Mr. Sovich stated that the CSC should be looking at dates in the next three to four months.

After a short break, Ms Spivey gave information on the proposed “Mayor’s Climate Change Summit.” She suggested that we invite the Mayor of Columbia, SC. She has also heard that Hillsboro, NC and Carrboro, NC mayors may be good to invite. Vice Chair Foust suggested that the CSC look at programs and people from Durham and Raleigh. Kathe Latham suggested with the Sierra Club’s aggressive push for cities to reach the goal of obtaining 100% of their energy from renewable sources by 2050, attendees don’t have to specifically be a mayor. Ms Latham also said the film “Reinventing Power” will be shown June 27th at 7:00pm at Scuppernong Books. Chair Finley clarified that the idea is to organize a “Mayor’s Summit” because members of the City Council have expressed interest in becoming more involved with sustainability and learning how it works in other cities. Vice Chair Foust has put together a matrix of NC Cities and their sustainability efforts. Vice Chair Foust stated that we should look locally at Mayors that have signed the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda and if their cities have moved forward towards a sustainability plan.

7. SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS & RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Discussion of this item was postponed for a future meeting. Chair Finley made a motion to establish task forces in order to advance several key CSC initiatives. Ms Spivey seconded and the CSC unanimously agreed. Mr. Sovich stated that two years ago, City Council tasked the CSC with two items: to organize an annual Sustainability Speaker Event and to create a Sustainability Awards and Recognition Program.

Sustainability Award Program – Will Yearns (lead) and Kevin McDonald
STAR Communities – Vicki Foust (lead), Kista Mansell and Faun Finley
Mayor’s Climate Action Agenda Summit – Nicole Spivey (lead) and Jacques Pierre
Sustainability Speaker Event – Vicki Foust, Faun Finley, and Kevin McDonald

8. REGIONAL COLLABORATION POSSIBILITIES WITH THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM

Discussion of this item was postponed for a future meeting. Chair Finley stated that Winston-Salem was very interested in collaborating with the CSC.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- A. ITEMS. FROM CHAIR** – none.
- B. ITEMS. FROM VICE-CHAIR** – none.
- C. ITEMS. FROM CSC MEMBERS** – none.
- D. ITEMS. FROM PUBLIC** – none.
- E. ITEMS. FROM STAFF** – none.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES

Chair Finley acknowledged the excused absence of Ms Swain. Ms Mansell seconded the motion and the CSC unanimously approved.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Finley adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.