

GREENSBORO COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL
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Minutes, Regular Meeting

3pm, Monday, January 14, 2019
Plaza Level Conference Room
Melvin Municipal Office Building
300 West Washington Street

CSC Members Present:

Faun Finley, Chair	Jacques Pierre	Nicole Spivey
Vicki Foust, Vice Chair	Jonathan King	Susan Phillips
Will Yearns		

Staff and Others Present:

Dana Clukey, Planning	Miki Salamon, Renew GSO
Jeff Sovich, Planning	Jess Pusch, Renew GSO
Richard Phillips	George Wissmiller, Sierra Club
Carol Bloom	Kathe Latham, Ready for 100-Greensboro
Dick Mearns, Sierra Club	Shawn Berry, Sierra Club
Raleigh Stout	Margaret Rowlett, GSO Solar Power Now Coalition
Danica Heflin, PTRC and Stormwater SMART	Beth McKee-Huger
Will Grant, Renu Energy Solutions	Eyvonne Thomas, Citizens Climate Lobby GSO
Michelle Rozek, Timberlake Earth Sanctuary	Ginger Mandel
Jessica Cudney, Renew GSO and Timberlake	

1. CHAIR GREETING / WELCOME VISITORS

Chair Finley called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm and welcomed visitors in attendance.

2. CSC BUSINESS

a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: DECEMBER 7, 2018

Minutes of the December CSC meeting will be available for review and approval at the next meeting.

b. MOTION: BY-LAW CHANGES TO ARTICLE V

Mr. Yearns suggested that the current members of the CSC be subject to the current by-laws. Mr. Yearns suggested that the by-laws allow the CSC to change location and not be limited to the Melvin Municipal Office Building or HQ Greensboro. It was decided that the by-laws not specify a meeting location for the work sessions. He also suggested changing responsibility of agenda creation to Chair and Vice-Chair with input from City staff. Dr. Foust suggested that the text reflect Chair, Vice-Chair, and City staff collaborate to create the agenda. Chair Finley recommended that the CSC refer to meetings as either "Formal Meetings" or "Informal Work Sessions." The CSC continued discussion related to whether the bylaws should specify the number of meetings held per calendar year, and issues related to cancellation of meetings. Mr. Yearns asked if voting by telephone or proxy are allowed. Chair Finley suggested that they move further discussion to Bitrix24. Ms. Spivey seconded the motion and the CSC unanimously agreed.

c. DISCUSSION: WAYS FOR COMMUNITY TO ENGAGE MORE DEEPLY WITH CSC AND HAVE MORE ACCESS TO PRESENTATIONS

Ms Phillips suggested that some people aren't able to attend meetings that are scheduled for later in the evening, due to family obligations or concerns about driving after dark. Ms Spivey thought

that it was a good idea to hold the meetings after 5pm. Chair Finley suggested that a possible compromise could be reached by starting the meetings at 4pm and being mindful to organize the agenda so that informational presentations are made during the second half, beginning after 5pm. Mr. Yearn's recommended that a social hour following the meetings be instituted to create an opportunity for the CSC to interact and network with each other, the speakers, and the public. Chair Finley asked the CSC and visitors what they thought of a time change. After feedback, Chair Finley made the motion that CSC formal meetings and informal work sessions be held from 4:00 to 6:00, Ms. Spivey seconded and the CSC agreed. The schedule will change starting in February.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair Finley opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Mr. Yearn's nominated Dr. Foust, Chair Finley seconded, and the CSC agreed. Chair Finley asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Chair Finley nominated Mr. Yearn's as Vice Chair and Ms. Phillips seconded the motion. Mr. Yearn's accepted and also nominated Chair Finley. Chair Finley declined, with the intention of focusing her energy on the Responsible Business Owner and Speaker Event to be held in April. The CSC agreed to elect Mr. Yearn's as Vice Chair. Vice Chair thanked Chair Finley for the fabulous job that she has done and the CSC for all the work that they have completed in the past year. She stated that the Council is poised to move forward with major accomplishments. Mr. Yearn's stated that he is excited for the direction of the CSC.

4. BREAK

5. PRESENTATION: SIERRA CLUB READY FOR 100 COMMUNITY INITIATIVE AND THE SOLAR POWER NOW COALITION RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOLUTION

Ms Latham from the Sierra Club presented information related to groups and initiatives supporting transitioning to 100% renewable energy use by the City, and to raise the urgency for people to get involved. Phase 1 has been community mapping, to listen to the public, talk with community leaders, and college students. One of the ways they did this was through the Green Drinks social events to gather and talk to the public.

Ms Rowlett, representing the broader Solar Power Now coalition, spoke to the urgency of 100% renewable energy being used in Greensboro. The coalition selected solar power because it is the most accessible renewable energy source that is readily available in Greensboro. They have put together a resolution to take to City Council that proposes a goal of shifting to 100% renewable energy use by 2035. The proposed resolution also calls for establishing a one-year task force to determine how to achieve that goal. There will need to be technical members of the task force, but also dedicated community members to move the initiatives forward.

Mr. Yearn's asked if the renewable energy goal in the Coalition's proposed resolution was referring to the City government operations, or to community-wide energy use. Ms Rowlett stated the coalition would like for the City to apply the resolution in the broadest sense possible. Mr. Yearn's also asked if the number of kilowatt hours of electricity used by the City is known. Mr. Sovich said the number of megawatt hours used citywide in 2013 is known. Ms Rowlett stated that the idea of the task force would be to bring together the people who could figure that out. Dr. Foust stated that it is hard for the City to obtain 100% renewable energy when state statutes currently make efforts to do so very difficult. Mr. Sovich stated there is the possibility for the City, through participation in the EDF Cities Initiative, to push for the needed changes at the state level. Chair Finley asked if the Solar Power Now Coalition was working on state legislation to facilitate achieving the proposed renewable energy goal. Ms. Latham stated that there are 17 NC cities that have adopted similar resolutions, which also include establishing a local task force to determine how to achieve the goals.

There was discussion related to whether or not the resolution included City operations only, if it could include residential uses, or if the resolution could include a stipulation that the goal would only be achievable if NC statutes change. Chair Finley asked for more information related to the organizations that came together to create the Solar Now Coalition and more details of the proposed task force and who those people might be. She also asked if and how it relates to Governor Cooper's Executive Order 80. Ms Latham stated that this Coalition was a grassroots advocacy group that sought to build community support and to ask to move this effort forward. Dr. Foust asked Mr. Sovich if it was a possibility to form a task force and Mr. Sovich felt like it is a possibility if it were approved by the City Council, but that forming a volunteer task force does not seem to be the right mechanism for developing such a plan. Ms. Spivey stated that there has been a lot of work put into this effort and didn't want things to be halted with details. Chair Finley stated that the CSC wanted to be behind this effort and will need additional detailed information in order to do so. Dr. Foust thanked the presenters and the efforts of the Coalition. At the CSC's next informal work session members will discuss and make a recommendation.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- a. ITEMS FROM CHAIR** – Dr. Foust said the CSC needs to discuss their participation in the City's annual Earth Day celebration. At their work session, the CSC will be talking about the last item on the agenda and breaking into the sub-groups.
- b. ITEMS FROM VICE-CHAIR** – None.
- c. ITEMS FROM CSC MEMBERS** – Ms. Finley asked if the CSC would like to have a social hour tonight and determined that anyone interested could join the CSC at M'Coul's following adjournment.
- d. ITEMS FROM PUBLIC** – Addressing the room, Jess Pusch of Renew Greensboro stated that there must be unprecedented change in order to avert global environmental catastrophe. A resolution for 100% renewable energy by 2035 will be the unprecedented change that is necessary.
- e. ITEMS FROM STAFF** – Mr. Sovich asked that currently in the *PLAMT* GSO process, leading up to Valentine's Day, Planning Department staff are asking people what they love about Greensboro. Also, he stated that there will be an event on February 2nd for a community conversation about issues of sustainability and how to weave a sustainable approach into the Comprehensive Plan.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES

Dr. Foust acknowledged the excused absence of Kevin McDonald, Vice Chair Yearns seconded the motion and the CSC unanimously approved.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Finley adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.