

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

3pm, Monday, December 17, 2018
Development Services Conference Room
Melvin Municipal Office Building
300 West Washington Street

CSC Members Present:

Faun Finley, Chair	Jacques Pierre	Kevin McDonald
Vicki Foust, Vice Chair	Jonathan King	Susan Phillips
Will Yearns		

Staff and Others Present:

Marikay Abuzuaiter, City Council Member	Franca Jalloh, City International Advisory Committee
Dana Clukey, Planning	Jess Pusch, Interested citizen
Jeff Sovich, Planning	Page Hyers, Interested citizen
Sergey Kobelev, City of Greensboro	Raleigh Stout, Interested Citizen

1. CHAIR GREETING / WELCOME VISITORS

Chair Finley called the meeting to order at 3:03pm and welcomed visitors in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2018

Chair Finley requested one edit to the minutes and called for a motion. Vice Chair Foust moved for approval of the minutes, Mr. McDonald seconded and the CSC approved unanimously.

3. BRIEF UPDATES

- a. STAR Communities & SAP Update** - Vice Chair Foust gave an update on the STAR Communities program, stating that the group would dive in at the next work session. While reviewing progress on implementation of the Sustainability Action Plan, the CSC decided to use the STAR Communities criteria as an organizing framework. STAR Communities is being merged into the LEED for Cities certification program under the direction of the US Green Building Council – no further certifications will be processed under the STAR program. There will need to be a formal decision for Greensboro to pursue LEED for Cities certification, and resources (budget and staff time) will need to be dedicated for that purpose.

Chair Finley took a moment to welcome new CSC member Susan Philips.

- b. Responsible Business & Award Recognition Program & CSC Annual Speaker Event** – The Responsible Business & Award Recognition Program task force is working to rename the group. Chair Finley announced that the Marken Group would like to sponsor an event with the CSC. Meredith Block, VP and Environmental Sustainability and Governance Analyst with Rockefeller Capital Management has been identified as the prime candidate to be the CSC's annual featured sustainability speaker. Chair Finley asked the group what they thought of combining the annual speaker event and an awards program into one event. Vice Chair Foust thought it was a great idea. Mr. Yearns was initially thinking that it should be two different events to give prominence to both events and that a speaker event should be held numerous times throughout the year. Since this has evolved, the CSC agreed that this would be a great opportunity to combine the two events with a grand start. Discussion was held regarding specific details of the event and venue, with the idea to move further discussion

to the Bitrix24 platform, and during the next CSC work session. The Marken Group has generously offered to cover the speaker fees, the venue expenses, and hors d'oeuvres, but Chair Finley will check on the specific budget that Marken has in mind. The CSC and City will need to promote the event heavily, in order to ensure its success.

- c. **Mayor's National Climate Action Agenda Summit/EDF Cities Initiative** – Chair Finley stated that Mr. Pierre and Ms Spivey were initially working on organizing a summit related to the Mayors' National Climate Action Agenda when the EDF Cities Initiative was announced, which seemed to have significant similarities to what the CSC was attempting. Vice Chair Foust said the EDF effort brought together representatives from the largest cities in North Carolina to discuss actions they could take and high level changes that could be made collectively, in order to help move the state forward in sustainability. Governor Cooper signed Executive Order #80, with the goal to provide clean energy and for cities to increase energy efficiency by 40% among NC government. The EDF Cities Initiative will aim to provide strong support for the state in implementing EO80 and for cities to follow suit. Sergey Kobelev mentioned that there is a statewide interdepartmental meeting being held today and no matter what is brought about, this will be a great start point. Mr. Sovich stated there were 12 specific action steps the group identified as priorities for collective action; Chair Finley will post these on Bitrix24.

4. GUEST SPEAKER: FRANCA JALLOH

Chair Finley stated that the CSC has not spent much time around the issue of equity, which is a part of sustainability. She welcomed Franca Jalloh, founder and executive director of Jalloh's Upright Services of North Carolina, Inc. and member of the City of Greensboro's International Advisory Committee. Ms Jalloh began her presentation with explaining some of the aspects of immigrants and refugees. The City of Greensboro is a Welcoming City and is very proud to have that designation in recognition of its efforts to welcome immigrants and refugees. Ms Jalloh spoke on the eligibility of public benefits for immigrants and some of the challenges they experience. Chair Finley mentioned that many of these issues are closely related to criteria in the STAR Communities rating system: health systems, affordable housing and poverty control. One of the things that Ms Jalloh's business does is to help immigrants and refugees settle into the community.

Chair Finley asked Ms Jalloh to speak on specific challenges to the Greensboro immigrant community. Ms Jalloh said that most issues are related to job availability and housing affordability. City Council Member Abuzuaiter stated that one of the hardest things for immigrants is understanding programs that are available to them, which will be the subject of a symposium in March. Mr. Yearns asked if there was a way to connect with Guilford County Schools, regarding immigrant and refugee needs. Ms Jalloh said that she has worked with specific groups within Guilford County Schools, including interpreters who work in the schools, and she is working specifically with immigrants who are looking for legal services. Along with legal services, Ms Jalloh has several other areas of focus, including: child support services, adult literacy programs, and workforce development.

Chair Finley asked, and Council Member Abuzuaiter affirmed, that the City is working on an Equity and Inclusion office in the City. Mr. Yearns asked if she was aware of solutions for affordable housing that she may have seen in other cities. Ms Jalloh stated that affordable housing is not necessarily safe housing and that fair housing is a big issue.

5. MOTIONS-

- a. **By-Law Change to clarify the meaning of "regular meetings"** – Chair Finley stated that there has been confusion regarding the need for CSC members to attend both regular meetings and work sessions. Chair Finley suggested that the CSC's regular meetings should be referred to as "official" meetings and that CSC's informal work sessions should be included in attendance requirements. Mr. Sovich also suggested that the by-laws require the CSC to

vote on excusing members' absences, when excusal is warranted. Chair Finley asked if the CSC would agree that all members should be expected to attend official meetings and work sessions. The CSC supported those changes and will vote on final language in January.

- b. **Change in meeting time from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm to 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm** - Chair Finley said that several fellow City Academy members wanted to be involved with CSC but can't attend during work hours. There had not been much discussion on Bitrix24 and Chair Finley would like to allow further discussion before calling for the CSC to vote.

- 6. **CHAIR REFLECTIONS ON 2018** – Chair Finley wanted the CSC members to realize all the existing members had applied, volunteered, and been specifically recommended for the CSC. Research on the LEED for Cities program is moving forward. She is thankful for everything Vice Chair Foust has brought to the table. The Speaker Event and Business Award Program is going to happen. Secretary Regan, head of the NCDEQ, at EDF Cities highlighted the work of the Greensboro CSC. It's a pivotal time for the CSC and the forward momentum is going to carry the CSC far.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF JANUARY 2019 SPECIAL CSC MEETING AND *PLAMIT* EVENT** –

Mr. Sovich stated the City's Planning Department is updating the Comprehensive Plan with a process called *PLAMT* GSO. The City is hoping to hold an event that will bring together people and groups in the community who are interested in sustainability, to discuss how to bring a weave a sustainable approach into the Plan. The format has not been decided, but ideally it will be held immediately following the January 14th CSC meeting.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS**

- a. **ITEMS FROM CHAIR** – Chair Finley asked that CSC members consider who will be the Chair of CSC, to be voted on next month. She let the CSC know that the Chair holds a lot of responsibility that is often unseen.
- b. **ITEMS FROM VICE-CHAIR** – Vice Chair Foust requested that the biographies for the CSC be updated on the City's website. Vice Chair Foust also asked that the CSC stay for a group photo.
- c. **ITEMS FROM CSC MEMBERS** –
- d. **ITEMS FROM PUBLIC** – Raleigh Stout noted that the BBC reported that the annual average atmospheric carbon levels have exceeded 400 parts per million. That is a big jump and may have implications locally and will ask City Council to consider those implications and what can be done. Also, Mr. Stout stated that several severe weather events have occurred in Greensboro this year. He asked Guilford County Emergency Management what are the effects of these weather events and hopes to hear a response by the beginning of 2019.
- e. **ITEMS FROM STAFF** – none.

9. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES**

Chair Finley acknowledged the excused absence of Nicole Spivey. Vice Chair Foust seconded the motion and the CSC unanimously approved.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Finley adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.