

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

3pm, Monday, March 11, 2019  
Plaza Level Conference Room  
Melvin Municipal Office Building  
300 West Washington Street

**CSC Members Present:**

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

**Staff and Others Present:**

Marikay Abuzaiter, City Council	Doug Marken, The Marken Group
Dana Clukey, Planning	Kathe Latham, Ready for 100 - Greensboro
Jeff Sovich, Planning	

**1. CHAIR GREETING / WELCOME VISITORS**

Chair Foust called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm and welcomed visitors in attendance.

**2. CSC BUSINESS**

**a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: DECEMBER 7, 2018 AND JANUARY 14, 2019**

Corrections to the minutes of the December CSC meeting were recommended. Ms Phillips moved to approve the December minutes, Ms Spivey seconded, and the CSC unanimously approved the minutes as corrected.

Corrections to the minutes of the January CSC meeting were recommended. Ms Phillips moved to approve the January minutes, Ms Spivey seconded, and the CSC unanimously approved the minutes as corrected.

**b. RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS AWARDS UPDATE**

Chair Foust stated that the Marken Group has offered to sponsor and help cover the costs of holding a kickoff event for the Responsible Business Awards program and the CSC is working closely with them. The aim of the event will be to engage businesses, educators, practitioners, non-profits, and others who are interested in sustainability, and introduce them to the awards program and its criteria. The exact amount of the budget, the specific date, and location for the event all remain to be determined. Potential venues under consideration include the Science Center, Renaissance Room of Carolina Theatre, and the Greensboro History Museum. While the original intention was to hold the event around the end of April, to coincide with Earth Day, it was decided that September would be preferable, in order to allow sufficient time to work through all the details. Doug Marken stated that his firm would need a definite date in order to engage a speaker. The tentative plan is to invite Meredith Block, Senior Environmental, Social, and Governance Analyst with Rockefeller Capital Management to be the featured speaker. Chair Foust said that a subcommittee is working on developing a marketing plan for the event.

**c. EARTH DAY CSC REPRESENTATION**

Mr. Yearns asked the CSC members to sign up for shifts for the Earth Day celebration. The events will be the recycle matching game and a hands-on activity to generate electricity.

**d. CSC INFORMAL WORK SESSION LOCATION**

Chair Foust stated that options for the location of Informal Work Sessions include MMOB, NCA&T, and Deep Roots Market. Upon discussion of the pros and cons of the options, the CSC decided to hold Informal Work Sessions at NCA&T, until further notice.

**e. LEED FOR CITIES**

Chair Foust noted that the CSC and visitors held productive discussions regarding the LEED for Cities certification program during the February Informal Work Session. The draft LEED for Cities scoring system includes required and elective credits in 9 categories: Integrative Process; Natural Systems and Ecology; Transportation and Land Use; Water Efficiency; Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Materials and Resources; Quality of Life; Innovation; and Regional Priority. Each CSC members agreed to work on reviewing 1 or 2 categories, to begin developing an estimate of how many points the City could score. Ms Phillips shared that some of the data required in the application for Solid Waste is not collected by the City. Mr. King has reviewed the Natural Systems and Ecology section and feels the City will score strongly, especially since Greensboro has a large amount of open space and extensive tree canopy.

Mr. McDonald noted that the US Green Building Council has created a grant program that provides technical assistance to cities and waives the membership and application fees to become certified in the LEED for Cities program. The deadline to submit an application for this grant is March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Sovich stated that this would be a tight timeline to complete the application, but could be possible if there is a directive from the City Council or City Manager's Office to do so. While the grant provides an estimated value of \$18,000, there would still be a cost to the City in the form of the staff time to gather and organize all of the data and records that would be required for certification. Ms Abuzuaiter stated that she was scheduled to meet with City Manager David Parrish in just a few minutes, and that while there, she would ask if he would like to direct staff to proceed with the application. Chair Foust made a motion for the CSC to recommend that the City apply for the grant. Ms Finley seconded and the CSC approved.

**BREAK** – At 5:23pm, Chair Foust adjourned the meeting for a brief break, to be re-convened at 5:30pm.

**f. CITY ENERGY PLAN DISCUSSION**

Chair Foust stated that the CSC is working on a proposed process and structure for the City to use in developing a strategic energy plan. The CSC is collaborating with Bob Powell and Ray Tesiero to develop this proposed scope of work. The aim would be to produce a plan for aligning the City with the goals of Governor Cooper's Executive Order #80, with regard to renewable energy, greenhouse gas emissions, and electric vehicles, including a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2005 levels, by 2025. Chair Foust asked Mr. McDonald to work with the Energy Plan subcommittee. She also asked that the City's Energy Management Engineer, Sergey Kobelev work with this team and come to speak at the May CSC meeting.

At this point, Ms Abuzuaiter returned to the meeting. She stated that she spoke with City Manager David Parrish and Assistant City Manager Kim Sowell, who requested that the information about the LEED for Cities grant be sent to them to review. Mr. Sovich stated that he would follow up on this request.

### 3. PLANIT GSO SUSTAINABILITY CONVERSATION INPUT

Chair Foust distributed a spreadsheet compiling the input received at the *PLAMT* GSO sustainability conversation that was held on February 2. She stated that there would be discussion of the input at next month's Informal Work Session.

### 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- a. **ITEMS FROM CHAIR** – Chair Foust reminded the group of social hour after the meeting at M'Coul's Public House.
- b. **ITEMS FROM VICE-CHAIR** – Mr. Yearns had no announcements.
- c. **ITEMS FROM CSC MEMBERS** – Ms Finley stated that Steve Drew has stepped down from his role as Interim Assistant City Manager. He will continue to work on sustainability and resiliency initiatives in his role as Water Resources Director. Ms Spivey will be going to Atlanta on Wednesday to attend the Climate Reality Summit.
- d. **ITEMS FROM PUBLIC** – There were no members of the public.
- e. **ITEMS FROM STAFF** – Mr. Sovich informed the CSC of the *PLAMT* GSO 2040 Fair to be held on March 20 in the Nussbaum Room of the Central Library. Also, on April 18<sup>th</sup>, Greensboro native and urban issues journalist Kristen Jeffers will speaking at the Barber Park Events Center.

### 5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES

There were no absences.

### 6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Foust adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm.