

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

4pm, Monday, May 13, 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

**Staff and Others Present:**

Kimberly Sowell, Assistant City Manager	Nikki Baker, UNCG
Dana Clukey, Planning	Sean MacInnes, UNCG
Jeff Sovich, Planning	Bob Powell, NC A&T
Sergey Kobelev, Engineering & Inspections	Jamilla Pinder, Cone Health
Steve Drew, Water Resources	Mark Brissan
Laine Roberts, Field Operations	Nelson Stover
Francheska Elliott, Collaborative Cottage Grove	Raleigh Stout
Emma Jablonski, Local First Bank	

**1. CHAIR GREETING / WELCOME VISITORS**

Chair Foust called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm and welcomed visitors in attendance.

**2. Approval of March 11 CSC Meeting Minutes**

Corrections to the minutes of the March CSC meeting were recommended. Chair Foust recommended “Doug Marken would need a definitive date to engage a speaker.” Mr. Yearns made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Phillips seconded and the CSC voted unanimously to approve.

**3. Updates on Procedural Matters – Jeff Sovich**

Mr. Sovich distributed copies of the newly revised Board and Commissions handbook, and copies of the Code of Conduct for each of the CSC members to sign. He then presented a summary of the revisions to the handbook. Chair Foust asked if absences would apply to CSC work sessions. Mr. Sovich said the rules would apply to the work sessions. Vice Chair Yearns asked if anyone on the CSC was directly affected by these policy changes. Mr. Sovich stated that he was not aware of any CSC members directly affected.

**4. Update on Responsible Business Awards**

Mr. Yearns said that the CSC had worked on developing more specific details for the award program during the last work session. They decided that there would be several categories of awards for businesses and for individuals. They are also still working on how nominations would occur and he looks forward to collaborating with Laine Roberts in the Field Operations Department, since they have been working on creating a similar award program. The goal is to provide a draft of the different awards categories and during the

June work session. Chair Foust stated that the soon-to-be-appointed new CSC member could join that subcommittee and asked all CSC members to look at what other cities may be doing around sustainable business awards.

## **5. Update on LEED for Cities**

Mr. Drew, at the direction of the City Manager and City Council, is marshalling the resources as Sustainable Communities Administrator in order to help Greensboro become the “greenest City in the Southeast” and the most sustainable city we can be. He and the other core team members have started working through the framework to address the metrics in the LEED for Cities categories, which include Natural Resources & Ecology, Transportation & Land Use, Energy & Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Water Efficiency, Materials & Resources, and Quality of Life. They will be unveiling a structure for the interdepartmental staff team soon. The data collection phase will proceed during the summer and early fall, and once the city has received its certification, those metrics will be available to the public. Announcements of certification levels will be made at the GreenBuild Conference in Atlanta during late November.

## **6. Sustainability Conversation - Community Feedback Review**

Chair Foust stated that the City is working on updating the Comprehensive Plan and because there were so many comments related to sustainability during *PLAMT* GSO public engagement events, a special public meeting was held in February to focus on issues of sustainability. She summarized the public comments received during that meeting, noting that the most frequently mentioned items in the comments included: adding a sustainability position to the City, promoting living rooftops, banning single-use plastics, combining land use and transportation planning, and better planning for weather-related events. Mr. Drew stated that at the direction of Mayor Vaughan, the City Council members will now be using reusable water cups at their meetings, emblazoned with the message “I Heart Tap Water”.

**7. Break** - At 5:10 pm, Chair Foust adjourned the meeting for a brief break, to be reconvened at 5:20 pm.

## **8. Presentation on Greensboro’s GHG Inventory Reporting**

Bob Powell presented information on the Greenhouse Gas Inventory reporting. A baseline was set in 2007 and the GHG emissions by sector matched national standards. In 2007, the goal was for energy usage to remain the same in Greensboro, with a reduction in energy usage per capita. Mr. Powell completed an update in 2014, based on 2013 data. The number of residential users increased, but everyone used less energy, resulting in essentially the same amount of electrical energy use. The amount of natural gas usage saw an increase in the number of accounts, but the total amount of natural gas used went down significantly due to a drop in use among local industry. Transportation and waste-related emissions stayed about the same. From 2007 to 2013, there was a net decrease of 18% in GHG emissions, which was also partly due to Duke Energy shifting more of its power generation from coal to natural gas. Mr. Powell highlighted the immediate actions that are being achieved by the City and other sources, disruptive technologies that will force us to change over time and become a 100% renewable energy community. Mr. Drew stated that water usage follows the same trendline as energy usage. Chair Foust noted

that while the changes from 2007 to 2013 weren't based on any intentionality from the City or the CSC, she saw a lot of opportunity in moving forward to reduce energy usage through a citywide strategic energy plan.

## **9. Recruiting CSC Members**

Chair Foust stated that the CSC is in need of a member appointed to represent City Council District 1.

## **10. Acknowledgement of Absences**

Chair Foust noted the absence of Sophia Dubrovsky.

## **11. Incidental and Announcements**

- Items from Chair – Chair Foust stated there was a listening session with the NC Department of Environmental Quality scheduled for Friday May 17, from 1 to 3 pm. Also, thanks to Susan, Will, and Jacques for their help with the Earth Day event. There will be a social hour at M'Coul's Public House, following the adjournment of the CSC meeting.
- Items from Vice-Chair – None.
- Items from CSC Members – None.
- Items from Public – Mr. MacInnes from UNCG stated that Friday is bike to work day.
- Items from Staff – None.

## **12. Adjournment**

Chair Foust adjourned the meeting at 6:05 pm.