

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

4pm, Monday, September 9, 2019
Plaza Level Conference Room
Melvin Municipal Office Building
300 West Washington Street

CSC Members Present:

Vicki Foust, Chair	Jacques Pierre	Nicole Gaines
Veda Howell	Jonathan King	Susan Phillips
Sophia Dubrovsky		

Staff and Others Present:

Marikay Abuzuaiter, City Council	Gray Johnston, Transportation
Kimberly Sowell, Assistant City Manager	Hope Manly
Jeff Sovich, Planning	Sean MacInnes, UNCG
Sergey Kobelev, Engineering & Inspections	Trey Gowdy
Steve Drew, Water Resources	Raleigh Stout
Laine Roberts, Field Operations	

1. CHAIR GREETING / WELCOME VISITORS

Chair Foust called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm and welcomed visitors in attendance.

2. UPDATES ON CURRENT PROJECTS

- a. LEED for Cities (L4C) – Jeff Sovich: Mr. Sovich stated that the LEED for Cities staff team has been diligently gathering all of the data and documentation needed in order to demonstrate that Greensboro has met the various prerequisites and credits in the LEED for Cities rating system. Although the original target was to complete and submit the data and documentation to USGBC by the end of August, we were not able to reach that target. There has been such an enormous amount of data, that our team has needed additional time to organize it all and put it into a clear and consistent format that will effectively communicate the requirements we've met.

The team is now aiming to complete the submission by the beginning of October. Once USGBC has received the submission they will review the documentation for accuracy, clarity, and completeness. They'll respond with detailed comments identifying any errors, omissions, or needed clarifications, at which point we will revise the documentation in order to address the comments, and re-submit for final review and certification.

Mr. Sovich added that once the initial documentation submission to USGBC has been made, the staff team will work on arranging further public engagement events to raise awareness, involvement, and buy-in among residents, businesses, and other stakeholders.

- b. Update on Responsible Business Awards – Chair Foust: Chair Foust stated that the Award program committee is working on refining the award categories and will aim to have a final proposal ready for review by the full the CSC at the November meeting. The general concept has evolved so that the categories are aligned with those in the LEED for Cities rating system: Natural Resources & Ecology, Transportation & Land Use, Energy & Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Water Efficiency, Materials & Resources, and Quality of Life. The committee will then begin arranging a “launch event” for the program and distributing a call for nominations. Mr. Drew stated that he can assist by connecting the CSC with the city staff persons who can arrange marketing and publicity for the event and the call for nominations.
- c. City of Greensboro Strategic Energy Plan – Steve Drew: Mr. Drew recommended, as a timely follow-on from the LEED for Cities process, that the CSC submit a proposal to the City Council to begin development of a citywide strategic energy plan. The plan would identify specific steps that will enable City operations to meet the greenhouse gas reduction goals and other objectives of Governor Cooper’s Executive Order 80. The plan could include a public conservation education program. Chair Foust stated that she would prepare a draft that the CSC can review and revise, in advance of the November CSC meeting. The recommendation could then be submitted to the City Council for consideration during a December meeting.

3. Break – At 5:15 pm, Chair Foust adjourned the meeting for a brief break, to be re-convened at 5:28 pm.

4. Review Notes from July 8 CSC Meeting (Convergence of Stakeholders)

The CSC briefly discussed the notes from the Convergence of Stakeholders meeting that was held as an initial public engagement event in the LEED for Cities process. The meeting formed working groups organized around 6 topic areas: Transportation, Waste, Water, Energy, Natural Environment, and Quality of Life. The working groups brainstormed a wide variety of innovative and potentially useful ideas for advancing sustainability in Greensboro.

5. Acknowledgement of Absences

Chair Foust noted the absence of Vice-Chair Yearns.

6. Incidental and Announcements

- Items from Chair – Chair Foust noted that the advocacy organization Solar Power Now had placed an advertisement in the Sunday edition of the News & Record urging the City Council to adopt a resolution establishing a goal of achieving 100% renewable energy use by 2040.
- Items from Vice-Chair – None.
- Items from CSC Members – None.
- Items from Public – None.
- Items from Staff –None.

7. Adjournment

Chair Foust adjourned the meeting at 6:10 pm.

