

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

4pm, Monday, February 10, 2020
Plaza Level Conference Room
Melvin Municipal Office Building
300 West Washington Street

CSC Members Present:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Vicki Foust, Chair | Veda Howell | Nicole Gaines |
| Jacques Pierre, Vice Chair | Jonathan King | |
| Sophia Dubrovsky | Raleigh Stout | |

Staff and Others Present:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Jeff Sovich, Planning | Steve Drew |
| Christine Swanson, Planning | Dr. Marcia Hale, UNCG Sustainability |
| Sergey Kobelev, Engineering & Inspections | Faun Finley, FTF Enterprises, LLC |
| Zach Peterson, Water Resources | Will Stewart, Green State Power |
| Jane Nickles, Information Technology | Will Pharr, Yellow Leaf Greensboro |
| Marikay Abuzuaiter, Greensboro City Council | Michelle Robbins |
| Madison LaMuraglia, Piedmont Triad Regional Council | Stephen Robinson, SKA Consulting Engineers |
| Paula Sieber, Guilford Urban Farming Initiative | |

1. Chair Greeting / Welcome Visitors

Chair Foust called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm and welcomed visitors in attendance.

2. Approval of November 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Gaines made the motion to approve the November minutes, Mr. Pierre seconded, and the CSC unanimously approved. Christine Swanson was introduced as the official minute taker for the CSC.

3. Updates on LEED for Cities Public Meetings

Mr. Sovich provided an update on the meetings and continuing work on the LEED for Cities certification program. Staff is waiting for a determination by USGBC regarding how they want us to meet the Materials and Resources prerequisite. One of the requirements is to collect solid waste and segregate that into four categories – recyclables, hazardous materials, organics, and all other solid waste. Organics has an additional requirement to include both food waste and yard waste. The City does not currently collect food waste and there are no plans to do so. As a possible solution, staff suggested that the City could provide a letter from the City Manager stating that we would develop a roadmap within one year to implement food waste collection and composting within 3 years after certification. Currently this is in a holding pattern. Mr. Sovich stated that the rest of the updated documentation is coming together well and the City is still on target to score in the silver range.

Chair Foust inquired how far into the future should CSC look at additional public meetings to engage the public on what has and has not been accomplished and the next steps. Mr. Sovich advised CSC should know the end result of the decision from USGBC before scheduling additional public engagements and is hoping to receive a final certification notice from USGBC fairly quickly once the food waste issue has been dealt with. Chair Foust inquired if all the other cities do food waste. Mr. Sovich stated there have only been two cities that have actually completed the certification to date: Orlando and Cincinnati. Mr. Sovich stated that Orlando does not actually collect food waste, they provide compost bins for folks to compost food waste voluntarily at home. If USGBC accepts that, it may be an easier and simpler approach for Greensboro to implement than curb side collection.

Chair Foust thanked Mr. Sovich and other city staff for their work associated with the application.

4. Review of Responsible Business Awards Update

Chair Foust advised the document from Mr. Yearns was tabled to the next meeting. A suggestion was made to use Google Docs enabling everyone to have access. A link could be sent via email or the CSC page with each of the links. Mr. Sovich advised a Google Form could be used to make the nomination form since it offers a range of functions similar to SurveyMonkey and could be set to send the entries directly into a spreadsheet. Google Forms is free, easy to use and has a very clean look. Chair Foust volunteered to create the document, have staff look at the documents from the City's perspective. Mr. Sovich advised that the City Communications Department would send notice of the link by press release, on the City website, the community newsletter, public social media outlets. The timeline for distribution and submission of the applications was discussed. The deadline of April 30 was agreed upon with the winners to be announced late summer or early fall. Ms. Dubrovsky made a motion for April 30, 2020 to be the deadline for the applications, Seconded by Ms. Howell. The CSC unanimously approved. Sponsorships, nominations, and announcements were tabled to the March work session.

5. CSC Representation at Earth Day Festival (April 18)

Mr. Pierre reviewed a sample slideshow to use at the CSC's display at the upcoming Earth Day festival. The slideshow summarizes the scale and generation sources of energy used locally, in both the residential and commercial sectors, versus nationally. Mr. Pierre suggested adding the CSC Logo on the front of the table to draw attention. Several additional ideas were discussed regarding the CSC's Earth Day display. Chair Foust requested to have the slideshow placed on Google Drive, and noted that it will be addressed at the work session in March.

6. Vote to Approve Will Yearns as Construction and Real Estate Advisor

Chair Foust stated Mr. Yearns has agreed to continue to assist the CSC in an advisory role. Mr. King made a motion to approve Will Yearns as Construction/Real Estate Advisor, seconded by Ms. Gaines. The CSC unanimously approved.

Break – At 4:48 pm, Chair Foust adjourned the meeting for a brief break. Chair Foust reconvened at 4:58 pm.

7. Presentation on Greensboro Strategic Energy Plan

Chair Foust stated that in December, the City of Greensboro passed a resolution unanimously to develop a 20-year Strategic Energy Plan. The Strategic Energy Plan will articulate the energy goals, and allocate resources to ensure there is funding to complete the strategies. She described ten steps needed to develop the energy plan:

- Create the Scope
- Create a Leadership Team
- Identify and Engage Stakeholders
- Develop a Vision
- Assess Current Energy Prolife
- Develop Energy Goals and Strategies
- Identify Priorities and Develop an Operational Blueprint
- Develop an Evaluation Plan
- Have the Plan Adopted and Publicized for Community Involvement
- Kick off the Strategic Energy Plan

The City Council requested that the Strategic Energy Plan be presented for review within 1 year (December 3, 2020). Milestone dates accompanied each step to be completed.

Chair Foust stated that staff has developed an extensive list of interested parties that will be used in the public engagement effort. There are a lot of Greensboro residents who are very passionate about not only energy but sustainability in general. Some people may not have the expertise but can still be a valuable team player. This will be an educational opportunity to educate the community on how energy consumption baselines are determined for each device and why it important, and also provide a voice for the community. Key elements of the SEP will project future energy consumption based on current practices as well as provide strategies for reducing future energy consumption.

In the City Council resolution, 2005 is set as the base year because it aligns with the Governor's Executive Order 80. It could be there is no data for that and the baseline will need to be readjusted. Chair Foust advised she is still waiting to hear on the details of the Grant.

Mr. Drew noted that the City of Greensboro government is responsible for only 2 to 3% of the total carbon footprint of the entire City. He advised that the core staff team on the LEED for Cities project was focused on people with data expertise and who know where the needed data can be found. The core team for this effort will have more emphasis on staff who are innovative, have a passion for sustainability, and other skills. Among the team will be Karen Kixmiller, formerly of the Planning Department, now in the Budget & Evaluation Department, who is an expert in the area of budget analysis. Ms Kixmiller will be an important part of the leadership team as her skills and passion are very strong. Transforming the City's organizational culture to include sustainability as a core value will be very important moving forward.

Chair Foust advised the DEQ and State Energy Office are very supportive of what the Council is trying to do. The State Energy Office is a resource for Council. Mr. Drew stated that the City does not currently have an Office of Sustainability and Resiliency, but he will soon be taking on the role of Chief Sustainability Officer on a part time basis, with the goal of establishing such an office in the near future.

8. Acknowledgement of Absences

Chair Foust moved to acknowledge the absence of CSC member Susan Phillips.

9. Incidental and Announcements

- **Items from Chair** – Chair Foust noted that the District 3 CSC seat is open. Marcia Hale, a professor at UNCG, has completed the form expressing interest that position. Dr. Hale has a strong background in sustainability and community engagement and would be an asset to the Council.
- **Items from Vice-Chair** – None.
- **Items from CSC Members** – Raleigh Stout stated that he has begun to compile a repository of sustainability information resources and is hoping to set up community working groups on issues such as transportation, water, carbon footprint, etc.
- **Items from Public** – Chair Foust responded she was very impressed with the City of Asheville's recent update of their energy plan, becoming the first city in the state to declare a climate emergency. She read their plan and it is a good plan. Chair Foust has seen the presentations regarding how Asheville reached a 100% renewable with solar. Asheville is setting a great example that Greensboro could emulate.
- **Items from Staff** – None.

10. Adjournment

Chair Foust adjourned the meeting at 5:54 pm.