

Clemson Sustainability Advisory Committee

Minutes October 9 Meeting

Chair: Reeta Singh called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Members present: Cindy Dienemann Hekking, Robert Fennell, Eunice Lehmacher, Nancy Spittler

City Staff present: Chris White, Tony Tidwell

Presentations and Discussion:

Nathan Woods – Director Planning and Codes Department and Jacob Peabody – Administrator Zoning and Codes

The presentation first focused on the Tree Ordinance, which came into effect in the 1990's and the current version was updated about five years ago. Tree and canopy regulations govern major subdivisions and roadways, not minor developments. There is a conservation ordinance through which individuals can elect to protect trees on their private property. It was expressed that sustainability concerns are related to the Departments efforts in storm water management, walkability, modes of transportation, air quality, noise control and more. Next, the discussion focused on zoning protections for neighborhoods. A review of the zoning codes is planned once the current efforts on the Comprehensive Plan are complete. The view was expressed that the codes need to be better organized and strengthened and that population growth in the area is creating challenges. It was noted that for a Planned Development the City Council can make exceptions to the zoning code. A concern was expressed about apartment lease agreements. This is not an item that Planning and Codes regulates. Mention was made of the Climate Action Plan developed by the City of Clemson Green Ribbon Committee some years ago. Bob Fennell will send Tony Tidwell copies of old documents. The Sustainability Committee would like a summary of what has been accomplished and the current status of the Plan. The Planning and Codes Department welcomes inquiries from the Sustainability Committee.

Chris White – City Horticulturalist – made a presentation on the Certification of Clemson as a Wildlife Habitat Community. Individual private properties need to be certified and there are other requirements for the City to satisfy. This program is sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation. Individuals can certify their property at <http://certifiedwildlifehabitat.nwf.org>. Chris was asked to make further recommendations to the Committee on how to achieve certification.

Agenda Items

Action Items

Committee Member Term Limits. It was recommended that Elaine Richardson, Nancy Spittler and Adrew Evans serve one year terms, Robert Fennell, and Mary Jones serve two year terms, Cindy Dienemann Hekking, Eunice Lehmacher and Reeta Singh serve three year terms. This recommendation will be review and voted on at the November meeting.

The mission statement: The purpose of the Sustainability Committee is to make recommendations to City Council regarding natural resources and to promote awareness of sustainable practices within the Community. The Committee will also bring together different perspectives and expertise to ensure that sustainability initiatives are responsive to the

community's needs and concerns. The mission statement was approved unanimously by the Committee.

Discussion Items

Organization of previously discussed Committee goals : Extended discussion resulted in identification of four major goals: Promoting Energy Efficiency, Preserving Natural Resources, Reducing Waste, and Promoting sustainable development and smart growth. Included in each of these goals is the desire to increase community awareness and engagement and identification of grant opportunities for the city to pursue. Nancy Spitler volunteered to prepare a document listing these major goals and sub-goals, that had been previously discussed. It was mentioned that short-term, intermediate-term and long-term goals need to be identified. This will be an agenda item for the November meeting along with the formation of subcommittees which will focus immediate actions. Relative to grant opportunities, Eunice Lehmacher recommended the website, www.energyfundsforall.org. Relative to Committee responsibilities, Tony Tidwell indicated that actions related to policy, ordinances and grants need to be referred to City Council, while the Committee has responsibility for awareness and community engagement actions.

Tony Tidwell distributed a report of recent activities by the Department of Urban and Land Management. He emphasized the outstanding Helene recovery efforts by City staff and volunteers. The possibility of a recognition day for these efforts was suggested.

Adjourn