

MINUTES  
CITY OF CLEMSON SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

May 12, 2025  
6:30-8:00PM  
CLEMSON CITY HALL

**Present:** Shelley Geer, Bob Fennel, Reeta Singh, Eunice Lehmacher, Cindy Hekking, Nancy Spitler, John Heiliger, Andrew Evans. Tony Tidwell representing the City.

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Reeta Singh.

**Approval of minutes from the April 9 meeting.** Shelly Geer made a motion; Eunice Lehmacher seconded. Unanimous vote in approval.

**Action Items**

**Vote to disband subcommittees:** Bob Fennel moved to disband all subcommittees that had been formed. Recommendations and results of working groups will still be reported to this group. Andrew Evans seconded. All voted in approval.

**Discussion Items**

**1. Working group reports and discussion:**

NWF Wildlife Certification: met on 4/28; discussed certifying rest of parks. Cindy gathered that info and is submitting it. Looking at a variety of ways to move toward city certification: residences, schools. Daniel High school RISE program is working on their certification. Tony is working with the Mayor on a letter of recommendation. Two tv spots coming up about pollinator garden and NWF can be included. Shelly Geer is contacting University Baptist. Bob Fennel is contacting Holy Trinity. Nancy Spitler is contacting Fort Hill Presbyterian. Other ideas suggested including social at Kite Hill Brewing to reach out to Patrick Square residents.

**2. Energy Efficiency:** Met April 18, 2025 and talked about prioritizing next steps. Eunice Lehmacher has checked into city energy audit and replacing lights in administration building with LEDs. Our committee is supportive of these but not making a motion at this time.

**3. Tree preservation:** Elaine Richardson is dropping off from the committee due to moving out of the city. The group did not work but Andrews is working with those who want to preserve their trees. Shelly volunteered to join Andrew in this working group. Plans to locate heritage trees within the city and explore preserving those.

**4. Staff report, CU Sustainability.** Tony Tidwell provided a written report of the work of the Urban Land Management. Tony has talked with Joan Rossini at the Arts Center about bike racks and Cody Lingerfelt from Public Works to talk about recycling. May want to encourage public attendance for the recycling presentation. Discussion of need for education about trees, especially after large storms.

**5. Select a date to meet with other local sustainability groups.** This will be a gathering of individuals and groups working in various areas of sustainability to explore how we can cross pollinate and enhance each other's work. This will also provide groups an opportunity to publicize and recruit for their work. Andrew is working on a structure. Committee members should provide names to John Heilinger for a spreadsheet. Decision made to hold off on selecting a date.

Mission Statement for gathering:

To cultivate stronger collaboration and shared vision among sustainability-minded individuals and organizations across Clemson, the Sustainability Committee will host a public matchmaking-style gathering in late summer or early fall. This event will serve as an open mic and networking session, where each participant, whether representing a community group, institution, or simply personal passion, will be invited to give a 30-second to 5-minute talk on what they do and what they care about. The goal is to foster visibility, identify allies, and spark partnerships across the sustainability landscape. Through this gathering, we aim to build community momentum, spotlight the work of each Sustainability Committee working group, and circulate a dynamic contact list of local change makers and resources to empower ecological stewardship here in Tiger town.

**6. Develop a schedule of what to submit to the Community Connection, Facebook and Instagram page.** Community Connection is published four times a year. Suggestion was made to rotate among the working groups. NWF and Energy Efficiency articles have already been featured. Subcommittees can send Bree Olson articles that will appear in future issues..

**New business:**

- Need at least one new member. Need to be aware of increasing diversity. Also looking toward organizing a walk that we can invite others to attend. Start at Clemson Park and tour there, then go on Green Crescent Trail.
- Working group announcements should go to entire committee so that interested members can attend.
- Shelly Geer brought up about string lights and the issue with migrating birds and butterflies. Considering promoting on social media and on trash hangers.

Nancy made a motion to adjourn. Cindy seconded. Unanimous vote in support. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.