

**City of Clemson Sustainability Committee Meeting
June 11, 2025**

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

Public comments: One observer (Gladys Vaughan) but no comments.

Andrew Evans opened the meeting in the absence of Reeta Singh.

Motion to approve May minutes by Eunice. Robert seconded. Unanimous vote to approve.

Eunice was nominated as vice chair with the resignation of Elaine Richardson. Shelly seconded. Unanimous vote. Eunice took over chairing the meeting.

Discussion Items:

1. **Working group reports:**

National Wildlife working group report: Tony and Bob spoke to First Friday at the Downs. Talked about the benefits of joining the National Wildlife Federation. Have certified 5 more parks for a total of 9.

Had news programs, with mention of the website and National Wildlife Federation. Received letter of recommendation from Mayor Halfacre and are submitting that.

Currently have 121 out of 200 needed points for habitat certification.

John is willing to go to Clemson Downs and meet with additional interested folks.

Discussion of No Spray list and how to get on that. Jordan Popham (864-784-2144). Discussion of Dragonfly habitats and bats and hummingbirds.

Savannah Jordan did a workshop in Anderson that John attended. She is the statewide person for SC Wildlife Preservation.

Tree Preservation working group: Andrew got 3 different lots from Pickens County Tax GIS and is working to get plats printed out to preserve those trees. He would like to work with Pacolet Milliken to get the old growth trees on their property protected. He suggested changing the name of the working group to Natural Resources. He is working with someone who does stream preservation and is looking at possible grants.

2. **Staff Report, CU Sustainability** - Tony Tidwell. Public Works director Cody Lingerfelt will be here in August to speak about mosquito spraying, recycling.

Joan Rossini (Arts Center) wants to come in September to discuss public art bike racks.

The skate park is almost complete. Trying to keep people off of it until it's finished. Grading and sidewalks to be worked on, then fences will be moved.

Pickleball courts to be reconfigured to give 8 feet between the courts and the fences.

Abernathy Park: Plans are coming along; redevelopment kickoff to meet with contractor. There will be public meetings coming up.

Clemson One Development: Trees planted inappropriately. Some are straightened out; still working on it. He also visited Grange to check the trees there.

Future plans: Final approval of trees at Vickers.

3. Sustainability Summit:

Vote to approve verbiage:

To cultivate stronger collaboration and shared vision among sustainability-minded individuals and organizations across greater Clemson, the Clemson 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 a 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 groups working in Clemson to protect the earth and circulate a dynamic contact list of local change makers and resources to empower ecological stewardship here in Tiger Town.

Shelly moved that we have a sustainability summit on **October 8 at 6:30 here**. Andrew seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. Currently have 10 or so groups in our invite list, on an editable Google doc.

Sustainability Fun Walk/Bike to be held off for another month or two.

Discussion of downtown restaurants and composting. Andrew and Eunice and Cody (Public works director) plan to meet with GOODR before the August meeting.

Discussion of watershed issues and stream preservation.

John moved to adjourn. Shelly seconded. Eunice adjourned the meeting.