

CITY OF CLEMSON SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Minutes – July 9th, 2025

6:30-8:00 PM

CLEMSON CITY HALL (Council Chambers)

Call to Order

Chair Eunice Leacher called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Approval of minutes from the June 11th meeting

Motion to approve by Cindy, seconded by Robert.

Unanimous approval.

Public Comments (3-minute limit per speaker)

- Rupert raised concern about kudzu encroaching into the Clemson Experimental Forest.
- Cindy Dienemann noted that the Master Naturalist Society conducts regular removal efforts.
- Eunice suggested creating a public-facing notice from the City next time such efforts occur to raise awareness.

Action Items

1. Motion that an Energy Efficiency Rider be added to Clemson's budget

Eunice proposed a rider to increase the allowable budget for city-owned buildings to purchase more energy-efficient appliances by 25%.

Discussion was positive; no formal vote was recorded—pending review of supporting documents.

Discussion Items

1. Working group reports and discussion

- NWF Wildlife Certification
 - 129 out of 200 homes have been certified.
 - Continued outreach encouraged.
- Natural Resources (formerly Tree Preservation)
 - Update on erosion mitigation and stream restoration work at Clemson Downs. Group is open to more private property owners participating in the tree preservation effort.
 - Parcels will be printed and submitted to Council by Kelly (recipient TBD).

2. Staff Report, CU Sustainability – Tony Tidwell

- Tree roots buckling sidewalks near Hwy 123 is creating ADA access issues.
- Tree removal in affected areas was discussed as unfortunate but necessary.
- Tony provided updates on:
 - Public Parks & Army Corps leases
 - Nettles Park and the Dog Park
 - Site management considerations referencing Martin Hamilton
 - Fireworks impacts on nature; acknowledged by the N.R. group as a discussion point

3. Discuss detailed suggestions for GCT walk – Eunice

- The committee discussed planning for the Sustainability Fun Walk/Bike Ride on Saturday, September 6 at 5:00 PM (Rain date: Sept 7).
- Key points included:
 - Confirming availability at 55 Exchange
 - Parking permission from Clemson Presbyterian Church
 - Distributing fliers with a route map
 - Assigning location leads and a photographer
 - Social media and local press outreach
 - Adding features such as a bike shop tune-up station, kid-friendly invites, or a post-walk meetup

Open Discussion / New Business

- Community Connection Ideas:
 - Natural mosquito prevention
 - Cardboard recycling awareness
 - Light pollution reduction
 - Peak energy saving tips (3–8 PM)
- New Member Nanda's Questions:
 - What is the trend in Clemson's tree canopy percentage? - Down
 - What are the best trees to plant locally? - Clemson Resources
 - Her contact: nanda.edgerton@gmail.com
- Sustainability Summit
 - Tentative date set for October 8, 2025
 - Additional planning needed

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: Andrew

Seconded by: Shelly

All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.