

**City of Clemson Sustainability Committee Meeting
September 10, 2025**

Present: Reeta Singh, Bob Fennel, Nancy Spittler, John Heiliger, Andrew Evans, Nanda Edgerton, Cindy Hekking, Eunice Lehmacher. Tony Tidwell representing the City. Shelly Geer absent.

Call to order by Reeta Singh at 6:30 pm.

Motion to approve August minutes. Andrew motioned to approve. Cindy Hekking seconded. Eunice suggest a change to #4. Motion to approve with changes. Unanimous vote to approve.

Public Comment

Gaye Feree Eintenmiller spoke about the proposal to demolish the apartment complex at 203 Pine Street and the negative environmental impact of a building less than 10 years old, as well as economic costs. It would be good for sustainability commission to make a recommendation to City Council/Zoning Commission. City has committed to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Discussion of whether Sustainability should voice concerns to Zoning/City Council. More discussion under new business.

Robert Lee, spoke about city and state law regarding sunlight. DHEC considers sunlight a natural resources and the effect of high rises on other citizens' access to sunlight. In Wisconsin, the court sided with the homeowner against high rise construction. It's a valid legal avenue regarding the high rises being proposed in Clemson.

Speaker

Joan Rossini, manager of City of Clemson Arts Center spoke about the mission and the offerings of the Arts Center, as well as grants available for local artists, summer arts camp, after school programming, spring break camp, arts in wellness program in partnership with MOMA and Clemson Downs and Clemson's Institute for Engaged Aging. Memory Loss and Arts toolkit has been developed for Senior Living Communities and Artists. Working with AnMed on artists by the bedside. She also spoke on public art — fiberglass butterflies have been placed around the city on a "butterfly trail." Have done CATBUS shelters, traffic signal boxes and Verizon Call boxes, Storm Drains (1400 in Clemson that lead directly back to Lake Hartwell). Piloting storm drains with 10-20 artists to be completed by April-May 2026.

Sculptural bike racks have been discussed by Sustainability Commission, and the Arts Center would love to give artists a chance to make them. Threads in the Wild exhibition in Gateway Park is planned. Pop in the Park is in Gateway Park. Thoughts about having Community Dinners at Gateway or the Community Garden. Events coming up include Summer Camp Documentary Premiere, Pumpkin Palooza, Holiday Market, glass blowing workshop.

Discussion Items

1. Committee goal reports and discussion

Goal: NWF Wildlife Certification. 137 current points. Need 15 in Education; if website is updated, that will be 10 points. Ask those who are currently certified to invite a friend to participate.

Goal: Energy Efficiency. SC Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant matches our goals. Allie Gantt (city staff) will research and apply for that grant.

Goal: Natural Resources preservation. Staff members are very knowledgeable, Andrew spoke with Mr. Ark (?). Andrew to come up with bullet list of goals, working with Tony, then Planning Commission. Andrew will bring goals about tree ordinances to get additional tree protections in law. Discussion of new Arts Center and tree preservation.

Access will be off Porter Road. Tony encouraged members to attend planning commission to express concern.

3. **Staff report- Tony Tidwell.** Tony talked to public works about mosquito spraying. They do have a “no spray” list. They stop the fogger at your address and continue after crossing property line. Information about that has been disseminated repeatedly. Term limits. Terms go through December 31. Advertising begins in October. Members going off may reapply.

4. **Earth Forum Update**

Have received some responses. Only one positive response so far. May need to call folks or send out email each week. Would like to have at least 10 attendees. Five members agreed to make calls. Refreshments: Nancy to bring water dispenser. Eunice to bring glasses. Cyndi to bring native apples. Andrew and Eunice to bring muscadines. To ask Bree to publicize to public. **Deadline of September 17 to decide if we cancel the event if we don't get enough RSVPs. Reeta to send out email with assistance from Eunice. Andrew will emcee the event.**

5. **Toxic Burning**

Nanda reported possible toxic burning near Nettles Park (technically in Anderson County). Ongoing investigation. She shared process of how to report concern to SC Department of Environmental Services.

6. **Discuss committee by-laws**

Robert discussed a possible need for more bylaws and procedures. Planning commission has more. Concern is for transparency, so no meetings without public awareness and minutes. Police advisory committee wrote new bylaws when Chief Campos started. Can have public work session, which has no motions and no public comments, but has agenda and minutes. May want to have one in October after the forum.

Open Discussion/New Business

Ethics policy is on city website now. Neutral person is Jeremiah Johnson, city clerk, and he can be contacted by general public.

Nanda brought about issue raised by Stephanie Platt of leaf collection and leaves as animal habitat. Info to be sent to Bree to disseminate information.

Bob sent out attachment with 2045 Comprehensive Plan. Each area has sustainability statement.

Cyndi moved to adjourn. Nancy seconded. All in favor. Reeta adjourned the meeting at 8:05.