

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 6, 2019
4:00 P.M.
THIRD FLOOR, PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM
CITY HALL

Committee Members Present: Angela Young, Allison Bowling, Dane Kuppinger, Keyra Williams, Rajesh Kapileshwari, B. Lee Stackhouse, Stephanie Friede, Amber Baker

Committee Members Absent: Sara Pesek (Chair), Leah Lavin, Denise Terry

Attendance of City Staff: Johnnie Taylor, Jennifer Chrysson, Helen Peplowski

MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order by Helen Peplowski filling in for Chair Sara Pesek at 4:05 p.m.

Helen officially welcomed committee members followed by a round of introductions of members and present city staff members.

Helen mentioned that for all meetings in the future, she would try to share as many files as possible through a shared folder rather than making hard copies, except for a few extra agendas that may be used by the public if necessary.

Helen introduce Johnnie Taylor, Director of Operations. Johnnie thanked everyone for participating and mentioned that he looked forward to their work.

Helen reviewed the city resolution that created the Community Sustainability Program Committee and highlighted the areas of the resolution pertaining to the purpose and responsibilities of the committee. She noted that while the resolution mentioned a specific responsibility related to STAR Communities, that the goal would now apply instead to the LEED for Cities and Communities program.

Helen began review of past and current efforts of the Office of Sustainability. She showed the results of the most recent CDP results and compared them to the results from 2017 to show changes. She then moved on to talk about the STAR Communities program and show the framework that program used. She noted that STAR recently became part of the US Green Building Council (USGBC) organization and the LEED for Cities and Communities platform, discussing how the new platform measures certification of cities.

A note was made by Rajesh Kapileshwari with the correct certification level possibilities in the LEED program. He then asked about STAR being a self-certifying group versus the pay structure of LEED to which Helen clarified that STAR was something the City of Winston-

Salem paid to certify under but that they have provided us financial support in the transition to LEED for Cities and Communities.

Helen then introduced the topic of Bee City USA and suggested Jennifer Chrysson give the overview of this program.

Jennifer discussed the resolution that made us a Bee City USA, gave details about pollinator and events and efforts planned for this year such as putting up signage, a social media campaign and a pollinator party. She then reviewed long term goals of the program, such as more public education and an expansion of events. Several committee members asked questions and made suggestions for the program around topics such as further education and local collaborations.

Helen continued the discussion of efforts made by the Office of Sustainability. Those topics included:

- The layout and purpose of the annual greenhouse gas and sustainability reports that the Office of Sustainability produces. Rajesh pointed out that the reports seemed to be more of a snapshot of ongoing work, but that there have not been any targets set for the reduction of greenhouse gases.
- The three electric vehicle charging stations the city is responsible for around town. She also made note to mention that the information can be found online and where on the City of Winston-Salem website the Office of Sustainability information is found.
- Social media efforts, with examples provided from Facebook.
- A review of the Southeastern Sustainability Director's Network as a potential resource for the committee
- A review and summary of the 2008 Local Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Action Plan report

Helen moved on to the next agenda item, the review of city goals and priorities as they pertain to sustainability. The first goal was from the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan from City Council which referred to increasing the STAR Communities score. It was noted again that this was now going to be LEED for Cities and Communities. Helen also shared with the committee members the most recent goals from City Council from their strategic planning session, which included more specific goals. Finally, she reviewed the Legacy 2030 plan with emphasis on Chapter 7 which applies mostly to sustainability areas and potentially relevant goals to our committee.

At this time, Helen called for any general questions or comments from committee members. Rajesh takes the opportunity to mention wanting to support the Paris Climate Agreement, which leads to a short discussion about the topic of implementing a reduction goal for the city.

Committee member Stephanie Friede briefly discussed her interest in getting more Wake Forest students involved and interested in the city. This led to a brief discussion about the mutual resources that could be provided between universities and the city.

Director of Operations Johnnie Taylor takes this time to ask if anyone on the committee has been to tour the MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) and suggests setting one up to help future conversations around recycling.

Committee member Allison asks if the committee will have any ability to do solar photovoltaic projects. This leads to a discussion around the logistics of solar at the city-scale.

Helen takes this time to make final comments regarding future meeting times being decided through an online poll since the chairperson of the committee was unable to attend this first meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.