

Sustainability Commission

September 21st, 2010

4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

City of Franklin - Community Development Conference Room

4:00 p.m.	Early Dinner	
4:10pm—4:15 pm	Call to Order	Ken Scalf
4:15pm – 4:20 pm	*Approval of Meeting Minutes from 8/17/2010	Ken Scalf
4:20 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.	Announcements: Living Green Expo Farmers Market Scarecrow Fest	Andrew Orr
4:25 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	*Community Action Plan Update	Group Discussion
6:00: p.m. -- 6:20 p.m.	*Discussion on Priorities/Action Plan	General Discussion
6:20 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.	Adjourn	Ken Scalf

*Item contains an attachment or link

MISSION STATEMENT: The Sustainability Commission provides **guidance** to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the Planning Commission, **direction** to the Sustainability Task Force, and **leadership** for the entire Franklin Community.

The City of Franklin has committed itself to developing an ongoing strategy of sustainability for the community. This initiative will be designed to achieve viable, fulfilling, and rewarding lifestyles for our residents and business partners through responsible and innovative stewardship of the environment.

Attachment 1

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FRANKLIN SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

August 17, 2010

The Franklin Sustainability Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 20, 2010, at 4:00 pm in the Community Development Conference Room.

Members Present:	Ken Scalf, Chair	Adam Ballash, Vice Chair
	Ken Moore	Libby Marley
	John Saxton	Brian Miller
	Chuck Barber	L.K. Browning
	Lisa Smith	

Staff Present:	Vernon Gerth	Catherine Powers
	Andrew Orr	Milissa Reiersen
	Dan Allen	Carl Alexander

Visitors:	Rachel Harris	Faith Mayton
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The agenda read as follows:

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Scalf: Called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Scalf: Presented the minutes for previous meeting for consideration.

Dr. Moore: Moved to approve.

Ms. Browning: Seconded the motion to approve.

Minutes were unanimously approved by the Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Orr: The Recycling Program participation rate is approximately 25%, would like to get the rate up to 40% by Christmas.

Mr. Scalf: Johnson City Press Chronicle had an article regarding recycling and they have been recycling for years and their rate is 60%. I would like to see the City of Franklin up to 60% participation.

LEED RESOLUTION – PASSED 7-1

General discussion on the language of the LEED resolution. We need to notify the USGBC. Compile a list of achievements for the 1 year anniversary within the commission.

The living green expo is scheduled for August 28. A table will be provided at no charge if the Commission would like to participate.

General discussion on educating the public on green partnership, recruit businesses, and the participation of commission not just the committee. Mr. Orr providing a signup sheet for commissioners to volunteer.

SOLAR STUDY

Mr. Allen: Shows the solar overlay for the whole city. Explains the maps and what each color means. There are a lot of areas that can be developed for solar in the City. He showed images of downtown Franklin, Fieldstone Farms, and the wastewater treatment facility for how the overlay works and as good examples of areas with high solar availability. General Discussion on tracts of land and ways to encourage homes and businesses to take advantage of solar energy.

General discussion on solar for businesses and feasibility.

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

General discussion of evaluation matrix of 2009 Community Action Plan, timeline, and benchmarking of actions.

Mr. Scalf: I have suggested to Andrew that we figure out a time mutually beneficial to everyone to sit down and concentrate on the revisions to the 2010 plan and not try to do it during our monthly meeting. Maybe sometime this fall. General discussion on when this might take place.

General discussions on the template and suggestions on some of the status of some of the actions.

Mr. Orr: Discusses current Sustainability Indicators, 3 commercial solar installations in Franklin, 11 buildings in the process of gaining LEED certification, 3 green roofs; Police HQ has largest in Southeast, Adopted Greenways & Open Space Master Plan, 705 acres of City Parks, number of bike bollards installed downtown, 10 miles of bike lanes, 6 miles of multi-use trails (not in City Parks) and 150 Live Green Partners.

General discussion of the above mentioned sustainability indicators.

DISCUSSION ON PRIORITIES/ACTION PLAN

Mr. Orr: Action 1 of the goals is to grow the Live Green Partnership program with local businesses to 250 members. Get more Franklin Businesses to understand the benefits of being a green partner and educate them on green business practices. Also, continue public education efforts to all citizens of Franklin. Action 2 is to increase participation in the blue bag program to 40% by the spring of 2011 by creating a bluebag block party team to reward neighborhoods for increased participation and create events. Action 3, start a successful pilot program at a local school that promotes sustainable cafeteria products, recycling and composting by educating the children who in turn will educate their parents.

Mr. Scalf: How are Williamson County Schools relative to endorsing this? Have we had any interaction with them?

Mr. Orr: With schools, yes, the Poplar Grove School has a green team and has moved forward on many initiatives.

Ms. Smith: Also, Franklin Special Schools and Centennial.

Mr. Orr: One parent from Poplar Grove School brought 2 DVDs on children acting and endorsing the program. Will show at end of meeting for those who may want to see.

General discussion on how DVD's being shown at schools to educate the children who, in turn, would educate the parents of the program.

General discussion on having action plan meetings before committee meetings to provide guidance and direction.

General discussion of land use plans for incentive base points program for the design, development and construction industries to encourage sustainable practices on new projects.

Discussion of transportation & air quality. To develop a preferred parking program for green vehicles in the two City-owned parking garages in downtown Franklin.

Mr. Orr: Water action item is to reduce potable water usage within the Franklin City Limits by 25% May through October and by 10% during the remaining months by 2013.

Mr. Orr: The energy committee met to discuss action plans. Action 1 which is to replace 5% of the vehicles registered in the City of Franklin with vehicles that use alternative fuel sources or hybrid technology by 2013. Currently we're at 3.5%. Action 2 increase participation in energy efficiency audits 25% by 2012. Action 3; reduce community-wide and municipal greenhouse gas emissions by 7% by 2014.

Discussion of charging stations and where to place them.

Mr. Orr: Miscellaneous actions such as the creation of an interactive sustainable features map accessible to the community with annual updates. Another is to restore City Cemetery and Rest Haven and also enhance visitor experience.

General discussion of concern if any of the group takes on historic preservation items such as the cemeteries. It could become a complicated item and may be out of our context, but it is important.

Mr. Orr: And third, support the Franklin Farmers Market.

General discussion of how to promote this action. The benefits of healthy food and encourage others to visit the market.

Mr. Scalf: Our next meeting is the 21st and will be used as a work session to get a draft of the Action Plan stabilized.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 5:44pm

Attachment 2

2010-2011 Goals/Actions

Public Education

ACTION 1: Grow the Live Green Business Partnership program to 250 members

TARGET DATE: March 17, 2011 St. Patrick's Day.

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

As of August 2010, 160 businesses and organizations were participating. Reports provided by Sustainability/Grant Coordinator.

STRATEGIES:

- Create a "Green Team" to visit businesses, neighborhoods and educate them "In-person"
- Hold quarterly green business mixers for networking and educational purposes
- Send Live Green Partnership mailers/cards to Businesses and Residents via utility bills
- Feature one green business quarterly in a press release and online
- Target local restaurants to use sustainable utensils, recycle and possibly compost.
- Continue raising awareness to all citizens and stakeholders of Franklin.

ACTION 2: Increase participation in the Bluebag recycling program to 45%.

Target Date: June 2011

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

As of August 2010, approximately 30% of eligible customers were participating. Reports provided by the Solid Waste Department.

STRATEGIES:

- Create a Bluebag Block Party Team to reward neighborhoods for increased participation and create events i.e. "Block Party" in neighborhoods and get participating green business partners involved to offer prizes.
- Establish friendly competitions between neighborhoods
- Utilize social media to raise awareness

ACTION 3: Start a successful pilot program at a local school that promotes sustainable cafeteria products, recycling and composting.

TARGET DATE: August 2011

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

Case Study provided by Public Education Committee & Sustainability/Grant Coordinator.

STRATEGIES:

- Create a Schools Green Team to focus on reaching out to schools
- Begin a pilot program with the assistance from a gardening or compost expert to mentor the school.

Transportation & Environmental Health

ACTION 4: Develop a preferred parking program for green vehicles in downtown Franklin

TARGET DATE: June 1, 2011.

STANDARDS OF MEASUREMENT:

- The number, percentage, and location of preferred parking spaces provided by the Long-Range Planning Supervisor.

STRATEGIES:

- Create a presentation outlining how the program will work
- Create a design for the new parking sign
- Discuss initiative with various City departments and downtown business leaders
- Consider location of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles
- Install the signs

ACTION 5: Action pertaining to environmental health

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

STRATEGIES:

ACTION 6: Document and monitor the progress of implemented actions from the 2009 Community Action Plan.

1. Monthly ridership of the express bus service from Franklin to Nashville. Reports provided by the TMA Group.
2. The number and location of bicycle parking in the Central Franklin Character Area. Reports provided by the Franklin Planning and Sustainability Department.

Urban Systems

ACTION 7: Develop a green guide for the design, development, and construction industries that identifies and encourages sustainable practices on new projects.

TARGET DATE: December 2011

STRATEGIES:

- Utilize existing programs, standards, and best practices to create a green guide unique to Franklin.

ACTION 8: Establish incentives to encourage the application of the green guide into new projects.

TARGET DATE: December 2012.

STRATEGIES:

Water

ACTION 9: Determine community-wide water usage by acquiring and combining data from all water utility districts serving Franklin.

Target Date: February 2011

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

- Consumption provided by Water Department

ACTION 10: Reduce potable water usage for residents on City of Franklin water by 25% May through October and by 10% during the remaining months using 2008 as the base year.

Target Date: December 2012.

STANDARDS OF MEASUREMENT:

- Gallons per day of water used per capita. Reports provided by the Franklin Water Department.

STRATEGIES:

- Incentivize or require the use of water efficient irrigation systems throughout the community
- Promote the Water Hog Water Hero campaign
- Promote the installation of low-cost water saving showerheads, faucets, toilets, and other fixtures.

ACTION 11: Continue implementation and monitoring of previous action items from the 2009 Community Action Plan.

1. Monitor sub-watersheds of Harpeth River within UGB by 2011
2. Establish baseline for natural stream conditions for each sub-watershed
3. Establish priority sub-watersheds and develop watershed plans based on Actions 1&2

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

- Reports provided periodically by the Stormwater Coordinator

Energy

ACTION 12: Increase the number of electric (45) and hybrid vehicles (4,800) in the community from 4,845 to 7,500.

TARGET DATE: June 2013.

STANDARDS OF MEASUREMENT:

- Reports provided by Sustainability/Grants Coordinator via the state using zip codes 37064, 37067, 37069 (150,000 cars total registered as of December 2009).

STRATEGIES:

- Install charging infrastructure at 15 different locations community wide by June 1, 2011. Ensure the locations are ideal to host vehicle chargers.
- Establish the preferred parking program in downtown Franklin
- Ensure the City considers hybrids and electrics when purchasing vehicles for the City fleet.

ACTION 13: Increase participation in energy efficiency audits.

1. For large commercial and industrial customers, conduct xx audits
2. For residential customers, the committee can promote energy efficiency audits

TARGET DATE: December 2011

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

- Total number of energy audits conducted by City of Franklin entities. TVA and MTEMC will provide data on the number of energy audits conducted in the categories of residential, commercial, municipal, and institutional.

STRATEGIES:

- Promote the incentives available for energy audits on the City's website and facebook page
- Reach out to HOAs and raise awareness about options available.
- Create handouts explaining how to get started.

ACTION 14: Establish a plan to improve energy efficiency at municipal facilities and reduce electricity usage by 5% or more.

1. Work with MTEMC to determine if phasing in energy efficient street lights throughout the community is a feasible option.
2. Determine the feasibility of reducing energy usage while still maintaining a high level of service and meeting regulatory requirements at the waste water treatment plant.

3. Implement several small energy saving initiatives at municipal facilities such as turning off lights at night, decreasing lighting usage in the parking garages, installing motion sensors, and identifying other cost saving initiatives that do not interfere with City operations.

TARGET DATE: June 2012

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

- In Calendar Year 2008 the City spent \$2.5 million on electricity, emitted 24,000 tons of ghg emissions, and used 21,000,000 kWh of electricity. Report periodically produced by Sustainability/Grants Coordinator showing total energy usage and energy costs.

MUNICIPAL STRATEGIES:

- Utilize programs offered by MTEMC and TVA.
- Make energy efficiency and reducing costs a municipal priority.
- Encourage employees to identify cost savings and efficiency improvements.

ACTION 15: Increase community-wide solar energy production 100%.

TARGET DATE: January 2012

STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT:

- Document the number and the solar generation capacity for each new installation. Currently, 3 commercial solar installations generate 38.52 kW. Reporting by Sustainability/Grants Coordinator via MTEMC.

STRATEGIES:

- Analyze specific municipal sites for renewable energy generation to determine feasibility; seek grant opportunities to help fund installations.
- Incorporate the solar overlay into planning documents.
- Raise awareness for the incentives available for solar installations.
- Highlight residents and businesses that have solar installations.

Sustainability Commission

Ken Scalf
Ken Moore MD
L.K. Browning
Theresa Ashworth-Harris
Libby Marley

Adam Ballash
Brian Miller
John Saxton
Lisa Smith

Task Force Members

Public Education

Natalie Dodd
Libby Marley
Milissa Reierson
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Urban Systems

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Energy & Alternative Energy

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Dan Allen
Lynn Borum

Transportation & Air Quality

John Saxton
Erin Williamson Reinders
Preston Elliott
Debbie Henry
Phil Scharre
Lisa Smith
Carl Baughman

Attachment 3

The Sustainably Commission has been asked to list their top priorities going forward. These priorities will be used to help shape the discussion for the next 12 months. The responses received are listed below. Alternative strategies were also suggested and should be considered.

Top Priorities to Address :

Theresa Ashworth-Harris:

1. Energy Conservation
2. Public Education
3. Waste Reduction - Decrease waste to landfill

I recommend we rethink the committee structure to focus on the top 3 priorities identified by the Commission. We could incorporate subcommittees as needed to ensure we are continuing to consider everything included in the original sustainability plan. However, our concerted efforts for the year should be more focused toward the 3 identified areas and specific steps (actionable, achievable – short-term and longer-term goals) to achieve successes in those areas.

Libby Marley:

1. Reduction of landfill waste.
2. Establish a baseline and set reduction targets for energy consumption in existing City facilities.
3. Expand the energy reduction program into the private sector with specific information about energy usage reduction and challenge businesses, schools, homeowners.

LK Browning :

1. Lighting retrofits in city buildings if project pays back in 3 years or less
2. Solar on city buildings
3. Recycling glass and anything else Blue Bag does not currently recycle

Ken Moore:

1. Energy Conservation and Development of Alternative Energy
2. Waste Reduction - Decrease waste to landfill
3. Public Education

Adam Ballash:

1. Adopt the goals and agendas from the “Urban Design” section of the Sustainable Community Action Plan, including the creation and adoption of an ordinance to promote “Smart Growth”. I think the adoption of this ordinance to mandate Public Construction be done under LEED certification and incentivize private business to construct under LEED. I think the utilization of LEED will generate the necessary benefits in the water and stormwater arenas, as well as benefit the transportation sector.

2. The City needs to conduct, adopt and execute the COF Integrated Water Resources Plan. I think this study should in turn assure that the water and stormwater goals are met that are a part of the 2009 Sustainable Community Action Plan.
3. Adopt, fund and construct the parks and greenway plan associated with the Greenway/Open Space Master Plan.

Ken Scalf:

1. Focus on existing initiatives, to ensure success in what we have committed to and put before the public and citizens. IE, Bluebag, Green Business Partners
2. Utilizing the Carbon study, make a impact in GHG reduction by picking a potential issue and work for a solution (Recommendation)
3. Re-work the community action plan (work session other than the monthly mtg) to be more appropriate and reflect where we are now, taking accomplishments into consideration. Re-vitalize the committees to work on the determined goals. Will this require approval from BOMA?

Lisa Smith:

1. Public Education – Increase awareness and educate citizens and developers in sustainability.
2. Alternative Fuel & Energy –Encourage locating one ethanol and one bio-fuel station within Franklin City limits.

Brian Miller:

1. Instituting an Irrigation Ordinance
2. Instituting a methodology and procedure for monitoring all City of Franklin residents water consumption on a monthly basis for establishing a baseline and then proving improvement
3. Allowing alternative water conservation measures, ie: making it easier for individuals and companies to utilize grey water, rain water harvesting, low flow and non water using fixtures, etc...

Andrew Orr:

- Ensuring the success of the blue bag recycling program and other initiatives that have been implemented. Continue to improve the existing structure and process for initiatives.
- Development of a brief, but detailed Energy/Alternative Energy Plan that focuses on efficiency upgrades, the generation of renewable energy on municipal property, and contains a strategy for encouraging the former throughout the community.
- Encourage infill and redevelopment projects in built-out areas (include sustainability features).

I like Theresa's comment about focusing on the Commission's priorities and believe the existing structure is evolving into this scenario.

John Saxton:

Chuck Barber: