

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FRANKLIN SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

OCTOBER 18, 2011

The Franklin Sustainability Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 2011, at 4:00 p.m., in the Community Development Conference Room.

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

Members Absent: Chuck Barber, Teresa Harris

Visitors Present: James Green, Alderman Mike Skinner, Kevin Walters

Staff Present: Dan Allen, Katy Daugherty, Milissa Reierson, Andrew Orr, Catherine Powers, Brenda Woods

The agenda read as follows:

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Scalf called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Scalf presented the September 20, 2011, minutes for consideration.

Mr. Miller moved to approve the September 20, 2011, minutes.

Mr. Saxton seconded the motion to approve.

The minutes were approved by the Commission 7-0.

RECYCLING SURVEY RESULTS

Mr. Orr introduced Milissa Reierson and stated that she had compiled the survey results of a recycling study, which the citizens of the City of Franklin participated in.

Ms. Reierson discussed and showed graphics of the survey results. She, Ms. Marley, Ms. McCullough, and Mr. Orr met to discuss ways to encourage residents to participate in the blue bag recycling program. The group wanted to know why the residents who were not participating were not participating, so they conducted a survey and had about 140 people respond. Ms. Reierson talked about and showed some of the reasons why residents were not participating, and one of the highest ratings was that the blue bags

are too expensive. The second highest was, "I take my own recyclables to the Williamson County Recycling Bins and Convenience Centers." She also discussed some of the other excuses that individuals gave for not recycling. Ms. Reiersen thought that the residents who were participating were going to continue to participate. The rate of recycling has continued to be at around 40 percent. At first, the group thought that a neighborhood contest would help participation. They, however, did not know if this would get new individuals to participate or would just continue to keep the participating individuals. The group will do a campaign to address the main reasons individuals are not participating. Ms. Reiersen stated that this was a work in progress.

The Sustainability Commission had a discussion on the reasons why individuals were not recycling. Some members will talk with store owners to see if recycling bags can be placed in areas more intuitive to where individuals would likely look for the recycling bags.

Chairman Scalf asked about the two girl scouts from Fieldstone Farms and their project to get more people recycling.

Ms. Reirson stated that they did a really nice job. They had a garage sale and handed out recycling educational materials to Fieldstone Farms. They visited their Neighborhood Association meeting, and it was well received. They were also going to have a blue bag welcome packet to go with the welcome information, which is given to new residents.

Ms. Marley asked Mr. Walters if there would there be a way to write a story about the two girl scouts' efforts in Fieldstone Farms?

Ms. Reiersen stated that the two girl scouts are looking for a Silver Award.

Mr. Miller asked where he might get the blue bags.

Mr. Orr will check with Solid Waste regarding Mr. Miller's request for blue bags.

Mr. Miller asked what the diversion number was for the blue bag recycling if participation was at 45 percent.

Mr. Orr stated that the diversion was around 12 percent.

Ms. Marley stated that the City's goal was to increase the participation in the blue bag recycling by, at least, 10 percent, which would get us over 50 percent.

Mayor Moore thought the Commission should explore number 22, the credit. He was unsure how this would be worked out, but it might incentivize more individuals to recycle.

Ms. Reiersen stated that the City was hoping to come up with something at the beginning of 2012.

SOLAR STUDY UPDATE

Mr. Orr stated that the last time the Commission had met the City's solar study had been discussed. The City had an update on the activities taking place surrounding it. He stated that Dan Allen would give a brief overview of the solar study.

Mr. Allen stated that the City had signed a non-binding agreement for a 200-kilowatt installation at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Since this had been announced, the design plans are 90 percent complete. The City's Building and Neighborhood Services Department has just a few more things to add, and they should be turned in by the end of this week. The contract is being reviewed by the City's Legal Department. He hoped to have it on the Board of Mayor and Aldermen work session agenda by the first part of November. The City is looking at a 20-year lease agreement, and based on what is being reviewed; year seven is when pay back will happen for the investor. From the initial investment to pay back, it is an 80-20 split, 80 to the investor and 20 to the City. When payback is hit, for the rest of the life it switches and goes 20/80. The only catch is that in year ten those incentives for the TVA Generation Partners Program will expire and terms will have to be re-negotiated. It is unknown what the purchase rate will be. Although we get a bigger cut on the back end, those last ten years won't be as big a piece of pie, but the City will still be making a nice amount of money.

Chairman Scalf asked if the first 10 years were under the previous Generation Partners Program.

Mr. Allen stated that the City had not heard from TVA, but we are assuming we will get TVA approval, which covers 10 years.

Chairman Scalf: When does this go before the Board of Mayor and Alderman (BOMA)?

Mr. Allen: It should go to the BOMA on November 8th.

Discussion ensued regarding the solar study update.

WALK/BIKE FRIENDLY UPDATE

Mr. Orr introduced Katy Daugherty and stated that Katy had helped put together the Walk/Bike Friendly Update presentation

Ms. Daugherty discussed and showed (via a PowerPoint presentation) slides of the Community Report Card on Franklin, Tennessee. She discussed the following:

- A walk friendly community is a city or town that has shown a commitment to improving walkability and pedestrian safety through comprehensive programs, plans and policies. Despite having the highest score in Williamson County, Franklin is still not a walk friendly community.
- Walk Score is a website, which scores neighborhoods based on their proximity to amenities in various categories. On average, people who reside in walkable communities weigh 6-10 pounds less than those who don't.
- Walk Score awarded Franklin a combined score of 33, which falls on the low end of the classification "Car-Dependent" with only a few amenities within walking distance.

- In 2011, the City of Franklin applied for recognition as a Walk Friendly Community and received an Honorable Mention.
- Franklin was complimented for the following:
 - Growth Management
 - Heritage Tourism
 - Streetscape Improvements
 - Wayfinding/Signage
 - Few crashes in past 5 years
- Some primary recommendations for more walkability are to –
 - Increase trips made by walking
 - Promote density and infill development
 - Expand the Safe Routes to School Program
- A bike friendly community is a city or town that has shown a commitment to improving bikability and bicycle safety through comprehensive programs, plans and policies.
- Out of the 50 states, the League of American Bicyclists places Tennessee 27th.
- The application submitted by the City to the League of American Bicyclists was not awarded and we are still awaiting the analysis.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

EV Project Update

Mr. Orr stated that last month the BOMA voted to place two electric vehicle car chargers in the Second Avenue Parking Garage and also two in the parking deck by the courthouse on Fourth Avenue. At this point, the contract is still in City Administration getting processed. Mr. Orr stated that he would appreciate if Mayor Moore would check with Administration regarding the status of these chargers.

Energy Conservation Efforts

Mr. Orr stated that about two months ago a group of energy conservation experts visited the City's wastewater plant. The City's wastewater plant is going to be part of a program that EPA, TVA, Middle Tennessee Electric, and TDEC sponsor to help wastewater plants save some energy and money. The City's wastewater plant is part of that, and staff is excited about this.

LED Street Lights at Jim Warren Park

Mr. Orr stated that some LED street lights just came in the other day. Thirty will be retro-fitted at Jim Warren Park. Mr. Orr will notify this Commission when they go in. It will be a nice pilot project, and some lights will also be installed along First and Second Avenues. These lights are comparable to the acorn lights that the City is presently using.

Harpeth River Study

Chairman Scalf passed around something that is from Harpeth River Watershed Association. He was assigned a project for two weeks, and he was going to the river every morning around 6:00 a.m., noon, 6:00 p.m., and midnight and taking samples.

Box City Update

Mr. Orr stated that City staff is doing an activity with second graders at Oakview Elementary. It is called Box City. It starts next week and will finish in November. Mr. Orr will send out some information regarding the time and date of the culminating event where the children place their “boxes” and build the city. The children are making boxes that represent buildings that can be found in Franklin. There is a large template, and the children will place the boxes on the canvas, according to some zoning rules.

December Meeting/Social Event

Mr. Orr stated that Chairman Scalf wanted to pose that we do a social event in December as opposed to a regularly scheduled meeting.

Ms. Browning stated that she would be happy to have it in my home.

Chairman Scalf asked if the Commission should bring covered dishes.

Ms. Browning stated that she would provide the refreshments and the Commissioners could provide the food.

Adjourn