

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

**JANUARY 17, 2012**

The Franklin Sustainability Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at 4:00 p.m., in the Community Development Conference Room.

**Members Present:** Adam Ballash, Chuck Barber, L.K. Browning, Teresa Harris, Libby Marley, Brian Miller, Mayor Ken Moore, John Saxton, Ken Scalf, and Lisa Smith.

**Members Absent:** None

**Visitors Present:** Mindy Tate, Alderman Brandy Blanton, Barbara Sturgeon, Claudia Henneberry, Mary Ellen Redford, Claudine Batson, Chris Templeton

**Staff Present:** Jonathan Langley, Andrew Orr, Catherine Powers, Brenda Woods, Kelly Dannenfelser, Katy Daugherty, Kevin Lindsey, Anna Shuford

The agenda read as follows:

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Chairman Scalf** called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**Chairman Scalf** presented the November 15, 2011, minutes for consideration.

**Ms. Browning** moved to approve the November 15, 2011, minutes.

**Ms. Marley** seconded the motion to approve.

The minutes were unanimously approved by the Committee.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Sustainability Commission and staff introduced themselves to the citizens who were in attendance at the meeting.

**Mr. Orr** stated that a ten minute time limit had been set for public comments and asked if anyone wanted to address the Commission.

**Ms. Barbara Sturgeon** stated that she was at the meeting to find out what is going on.

**Ms. Mary Ellen Redford** asked what was the Sustainability Commission, how and when did it originate.

**Mayor Moore** explained the background of the Sustainability Commission.

**Ms. Sturgeon** asked if the Sustainability Commission had come up with this or had someone else done it before.

**Mayor Moore** stated that other communities across America had created community action plans. Franklin has been a real leader in green initiatives. He also stated that this Commission did rely on Pasadena, California's, Community Action Plan. However, the Commission did not copy their Plan because many of the things that Pasadena was interested in were not the things that the City of Franklin were interested in.

**Ms. Sturgeon** asked if there was a site that individuals could go to see how this Commission started and who all was involved in it.

**Mr. Orr** stated that they could go to [www.franklintn.gov](http://www.franklintn.gov) and click on the Live Green button, located on the bottom right-hand side.

**Mayor Moore** explained that ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) was an organization that was established a number of years ago that could advise communities on sustainability. They are a non-profit organization and only offer advice. The City joined ICLEI primarily for one purpose and that was because they had a program to help the City evaluate its energy usage in the City. The City could have gone to an outside consultant and spent hundreds of thousands of dollars, but by being a member of ICLEI the City was able to access their computer software and find out ways that the City could decrease its usage of electricity.

**Mr. Orr** stated that the study was on the City's website.

**Mayor Moore** stated that another fruit of the work of the Sustainability Commission was paying attention to solar energy. The City has signed a contract with a private entity to lease some land at the Waste Water Plant to build a 200 kW solar array, which the City will benefit from financially.

**Ms. Sturgeon** asked how this would be handled financially.

**Mayor Moore** stated that he assumed she was talking about the initiatives that the City does, and the programs pay for themselves. The programs that the Sustainability Commission brings forward show conservation measures.

**Ms. Redford** stated that, as she understood it, the citizens had to go out and purchase the blue bags for trash pick-up. As a homeowner in Franklin, this was an extra cost to her when there used to be bins where she could take her recyclables. She also asked who made the blue bags.

**Mayor Moore** stated that the City had asked all of the merchants in town to carry the blue bags. The reason the City went to the blue bags was due to the cost savings for the City.

**Chair Scalf** stated that from a homeowner's prospective, he was not using his gasoline to go to the convenience center. He was putting out two bags of recycling every week and putting his trash on the street every other week, therefore reducing the number of bags used for trash.

**Mr. Ballash** explained that it was an additional burden on the City to carry the garbage trucks to the landfill in Murfreesboro, so the tipping fees to dump each of the trucks continue to go up, based primarily on some of the freight costs or the costs to transport the garbage back and forth. The more money that the City can divert to recycling, the fewer trips they are making to Murfreesboro. Some of the savings that could be attributable to the citizens could ensure the rate stays the same as opposed to the rate continuing to escalate because of appreciation, fuel and things of this nature.

**Mr. Ballash** also stated that he recycles at his home, and he had noticed that he had blue bags from Hefty to some off brand label that was purchased at Lowe's. There were a multitude of national manufacturers that produce the blue bag.

**Ms. Sturgeon** asked if the City operated on grants.

**Mayor Moore** stated that a grant paid for the LED lights in Jim Warren Park, and that Mr. Orr's annual salary was paid for with savings, which he generates for helping to find grants.

**Mr. Orr** stated that there was not a line item in the budget that was allocated to Sustainability. This Commission does things that are low cost and/or no cost to the City. Anything big has to be approved by the BOMA.

**Ms. Redford** asked if there was a place on the website that citizens could read about the grants.

**Ms. Sturgeon** asked about the grants.

**Mr. Orr** stated that the grants came from a variety of sources, such as the state, TDEC, TDOT, from the Federal level, and from non-profits.

Discussion regarding how much money was involved in the grants continued.

**Mr. Orr** stated that he did not have a hard, firm figure in his head, but they could pull up the annual financial report and take a look at it after this meeting.

**Ms. Marley** stated that the item could be added to next month's agenda to give Mr. Orr a chance to actually summarize and categorize it.

**Ms. Sturgeon** asked about the giant white vans that were sitting in the former H.G. Hills parking lot.

**Mayor Moore** stated that they could be from the TMA group, which runs the Franklin Transit Authority. They run over 100 vanpools, and they are authorized through the Regional Transit Authority.

**Ms. Redford** stated that with property taxes increasing, this Commission should be able to see why they were concerned.

**Mayor Moore** agreed and stated that everything that the City did was very transparent. Some of the meetings were televised, minutes were always available, and nothing was going on in secret.

**Chair Scalf** stated that most of the individuals on this Commission were very passionate about it, and it was a quality of life issue.

**Chair Scalf** also stated that he and Mr. Orr had met with Ms. Brandy Blanton, one of the new members of the BOMA, this morning. He, then, introduced Ms. Blanton.

**Ms. Marley** stated that this would be a good meeting for the citizens to stay and learn more about the Sustainability Commission.

### **LED STREET LIGHTING CASE STUDY**

**Mr. Kevin Lindsey** gave an overview of the upgrades to Jim Warren Park. He discussed the LED lighting specifications and their estimated savings over the existing lamps.

Discussion ensued over the cost of the lights for the different parks.

**Ms. Sturgeon** asked why TVA gives the City the money and what would the City do if they did not get the money any longer.

**Chris Templeton** stated that TVA views it as their money is better invested to pay people and incentivize their energy efficient measures than it is to pay for new generation. TVA's goal is to be good stewards of the environment. With the TVA act, it is more than they are a wholesale power distributor and they sell power to Middle Tennessee Member Electric Corporation. They are also responsible for the environment and economic development in the communities to incentivize businesses to stay here and be more profitable to bring in business to TVA's area of coverage. They are trying to reduce their peak periods by reducing their base load.

**Ms. Harris** stated that the items that are being put out to the public are also more energy efficient.

**Ms. Marley** asked Ms. Harris if she could speak regarding the TVA rates and how they stand-up nationally.

**Ms. Harris** stated that generally TVA rates were below the national average on residential rates.

### **PARKS FOUNDATION UPDATE**

**Ms. Mindy Tate** stated that she was the Executive Director of Franklin Tomorrow. She gave an overview and discussed that in April 2011, Friends of Franklin Parks was created, which is a sole membership corporation of Franklin Tomorrow. They help find a means for individuals and corporations to make park improvements, park expansions, and park enhancements.

## **FRANKLIN TOMORROW RE-VISIONING UPDATE**

**Ms. Tate** stated that they had just completed the Citizen's Input portion of the Franklin Tomorrow Vision process. She gave an overview and discussed that Franklin Tomorrow was founded in 2001. They did a Vision Fair process in 2005 and have just currently completed a two and a half month process of taking the vision fair boards, holding events and taking them to places and locations to get input. She indicated the top ranked goal was to construct more greenways and trails that link to existing parks and historic sites.

The Commission thanked her for attending the meeting and making a presentation.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

#### **Tree Planting Grant**

**Mr. Orr** stated that several City staff members worked together on a grant to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to get some money to plant some trees in stream buffers. It was a \$500.00 grant and was enough to buy about 1,000 trees. Mr. Orr may send out an email this spring asking for the Commission to donate a few hours of their time to plant some trees. This project will be forthcoming later this spring.

**Chair Scalf** stated that he would put Mr. Orr in touch with some contact for the scout troops.

#### **Solar Project under Contract**

**Mr. Orr** stated that the solar project was under contract. The BOMA approved the contract at their December meeting. Site work is scheduled to begin either this week or next, depending on the weather. That project is anticipated to be completed by late March 2012. The City will not own the system and is not outlaying any funds for it. Only private capital is coming in, and they are funding, constructing, maintaining, and operating the system.

Discussion ensued on the solar project.

#### **EV Charging Stations**

**Mr. Orr** stated that electric vehicle charging stations had been installed in the Second Avenue Garage as well as the Fourth Avenue Parking Garage. They were installed in December. All of the money that was used to buy and install the equipment was grant funded through the electric vehicle project in which the entire state of Tennessee is part.

**Mayor Moore** stated that part of the purpose for rolling out the infrastructure for charging was to determine usage and need so that going forward as the new infrastructure is rolled out, they will know exactly how to roll it out.

Discussion ensued on the EV project.

## **REVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS/GOALS 2009-2011**

**Mr. Orr** showed a PowerPoint presentation of the Sustainability Commission's accomplishments from 2009-2011. Some of the accomplishments were:

- Waste Reduction (including the blue bag recycling program)
- Composting Efforts (the brown bag effort)
- BOPAE Program (Batteries, Oil, Paint, Antifreeze, and Electronics) These can be dropped off at Solid Waste. They will recycle what they can and properly dispose of the rest.
- Green Business Partnership (To promote to the local businesses ways to save money, reduce energy usage, reduce water usage and other best practices).
- Map out Green Initiatives
- Fuel Hedging Program
- Energy Inventory
- Solar Array
- EV Charging Stations
- DOE Sunshot Grant

Discussion ensued on the accomplishments.

Ms. Sturgeon stated that this meeting had been very informative.

**Adjourn**

# Blue Bag Recycling Statistics

WEEK	DATES	RESIDENTIAL TONS	RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS	BLUE BAG TONS	BLUE BAG CUSTOMERS	PARTICIPATION	DIVERSION
	YEAR 1 (average)	16689.7	928,439	2053.50	368,772	40%	12%
1	7/11/2011-7/15/2011	303.68	17,784	37.45	6,819	38%	12%
2	7/18/2011-7/22/2011	322.57	18,248	42.01	7,731	42%	13%
3	7/25/2011-7/29/2011	317.28	18,175	43.23	7,592	42%	14%
4	8/1/2011-8/5/2011	303.37	17,124	43.73	7,748	45%	14%
5	8/8/2011-8/12/2011	329.41	18,539	46.31	8,099	44%	14%
6	8/15/2011-8/19/2011	332.69	18,883	45.38	7,558	40%	14%
7	8/22/2011-8/26/2011	302.13	17,603	43.77	8,109	46%	14%
8	8/29/2011-9/2/2011	366.21	17,182	44.29	7,972	46%	12%
9	9/5/2011-9/9/2011	331.5	16,872	48.35	7,808	46%	15%
10	9/12/2011-9/16/2011	300.57	18,248	44.11	7,628	42%	15%
11	9/19/2011-9/23/2011	308.06	18,434	44.76	7,958	43%	15%
12	9/26/2011-9/30/2011	310.13	18,042	46.53	7,425	41%	15%
13	10/3/2011-10/7/2011	306.91	18,018	45.18	8,077	45%	15%
14	10/10/2011-10/14/2011	293.71	17,357	43.84	8,053	46%	15%
15	10/17/2011-10/21/2011	278.29	17,161	42.12	7,982	47%	15%
16	10/24/2011-10/28/2011	291.68	17,295	44.08	8,535	49%	15%
17	10/31/2011-11/4/2011	307.51	17,537	46.74	7,781	44%	15%
18	11/7/2011-11/11/2011	322.62	18,193	49.52	8,766	48%	15%
19	11/14/2011-11/18/2011	320.72	18,183	49.27	8,026	44%	15%
20	11/21/2011-11/25/2011	287.07	15,838	45.66	7,197	45%	16%
21	11/28/2011-12/02/2011	408.82	17,809	65.06	9,239	52%	16%
22	12/05/2011-12/09/2011	333.71	18,248	55.64	8,667	47%	17%
23	12/12/2011-12/16/2011	304.57	18,011	50.32	8,042	45%	17%
24	12/19/2011-12/23/2011	310.51	17,747	48.69	8,481	48%	16%
25	12/26/2011-12/30/2011	327.59	17,663	70.76	10,847	61%	22%
26	1/2/2012-1/6/2012	354.34	17,722	50.61	8,806	50%	14%
27	1/9/2012-1/13/2012	278.47	17,582	48.23	8,384	48%	17%
28	1/16/2012-1/20/2012	318.39	18,103	49.05	9,139	50%	15%
29	1/23/2012-1/27/2012						
30	1/30/2012-2/3/2012						
36	AVG - 1st 28 wks of yr 2	8,872.51	497,601	1,334.69	228,469	46%	15%
37		16689.7	928,439	2053.5	368,772		
38							
39	AVG - beginning of program to 1/20/2012	25,562.21	1,426,040	3,388.19	597,241	42%	13%
40							
41							
42							
	AVERAGE	59,996.93	3,349,681	8,111.07	1,422,951	42%	14%