

Community Sustainability Program Committee Report

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Introduction:

The Community Sustainability Program Committee (CSPC) is pleased to present its report for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024, highlighting our efforts in promoting sustainability within our community and addressing the challenges encountered along the way.

Meeting Overview:

Despite facing some logistical hurdles, the CSPC continued to convene throughout the fiscal year, with both in-person and online meetings. In the calendar year 2023 AND fiscal year 2023-2024, the CSPC encountered challenges regarding meeting frequency and quorum attendance. The committee convened in person only three times in 2023: in February, April, and November 2023, due to difficulties in achieving quorum and a temporary lack of staff coordinator. However, in March 2024, the committee successfully conducted an online meeting, marking the first-time quorum was reached since November 2023. This transition to virtual meetings proved beneficial in ensuring continued engagement.

By-Laws Update:

A significant development occurred in January 2024, as the City Council approved an update to the committee's by-laws. Previously, the CSPC was established via resolution, leading to certain procedural discrepancies. The update aligned the committee's operations with other boards and committees on Muni-Code. Notably, it removed the requirement for appointment by ward and granted members the authority to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. Following this update, two new members were appointed to the committee, leaving three vacancies yet to be filled. This update streamlined our processes, empowering members to elect leadership and ensuring greater efficiency in our decision-making.

Resolution Recommendation:

During the spring of 2023, the CSPC proposed a resolution to the council advocating for the hiring of a consultant to aid in the development of a strategic sustainability plan and energy initiatives. Although the resolution did not pass council, we remain optimistic about exploring alternative avenues to achieve our goals and are committed to pursuing initiatives that benefit our community.

Engagement with North Carolina A&T Climate Lab:

We were thrilled to receive an invitation in March 2024 to collaborate with the North Carolina A&T Climate Lab, underscoring the recognition of our committee's expertise and dedication. Embracing this opportunity, we formed a sub-committee to facilitate community engagement and are currently working with staff support to plan an event that will promote sustainability awareness among residents.

Conclusion:

Despite encountering challenges, the CSPC remained steadfast in its commitment to advancing sustainability within our community. Through strategic planning, collaboration with external partners, and adaptation to evolving circumstances, the committee continues to play a vital role in promoting

environmental stewardship and community engagement. Looking ahead, the CSPC remains dedicated to its mission and looks forward to further achievements in the coming year.

CSPC unanimously adopted this report on April 4, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Shaleen Miller

Director of Sustainability

Staff Support for CSPC