
**Gwinnett County Sustainability Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30046
Conference Room C (Second Floor)

Present: Laura Hernandez, Daniel Hilton, Krupesh Patel, Dr. Marshall Shepherd

Absent: Venus Singh

1. Call to Order

Laura Hernandez, Chairperson, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 4:30pm

2. Approval of Agenda

{Action: Approved: Patel; Second: Shepherd; Vote: 3-0; Hernandez-Yes; Patel-Yes; Shepherd-Yes; Absent: Hilton; Singh}

3. Approval of Minutes

The April 20, 2022, meeting minutes were approved.

{Action: Approved: Shepherd; Second: Patel; Vote: 3-0; Hernandez-Yes; Patel-Yes; Shepherd-Yes; Absent: Hilton; Singh}

4. Staff Update on Green Communities Application and Online Public Survey on Sustainability

David Mogge, Department of Support Services, Deputy Director, presented an overview of Gwinnett County's recent application for Platinum level recertification through the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Green Communities program. A decision by ARC on recertification for Gwinnett County will be made in late fall 2022. Mr. Mogge also discussed next steps in the development of Gwinnett's first sustainability plan and provided prompts for the GCSC's discussion on preliminary public survey results.

5. Review and Discussion on Online Public Survey on Sustainability Results

Results to date from Gwinnett County's online public survey on sustainability were reviewed. The GCSC recommended keeping the survey live through Friday, July 8, 2022 to gather final responses. Commission members will promote the survey in an effort to

increase participation by stakeholder groups that are underrepresented in the survey thus far. Mr. Patel, GCSC member, presented a preliminary analysis of the public comments submitted in the survey. Needs most commonly highlighted in the public input so far are recycling education and access, measures to address overdevelopment and loss of trees and greenspace, and transportation alternatives. Final results of the survey will be shared at the next GCSC meeting on July 20, 2022. The GCSC also discussed the potential need for additional surveys and/or focus groups/listening sessions to continue gathering public input on sustainability on an ongoing basis.

6. Discussion on Next Steps for Sustainability Commission

Per the GCSC's bylaws, an annual written report is expected to be submitted to the Board of Commissioners. The GCSC discussed a target delivery date of August or September for the first report. The outline for the report will be defined at the next meeting and disbursed between members for development.

7. Public Comments

Scott Presson congratulated the GCSC for the progress they have made and the inclusion of citizen opinions through the sustainability survey. Hopes that the BOC will include sustainability in 2023 annual budgeting to move the county forward.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm.

{Action: Approved: Shepherd; Second: Patel; Vote: 3-0; Hernandez-Yes; Patel-Yes; Shepherd-Yes; Absent: Hilton; Singh}

Staff Update to Sustainability Commission



Gwinnett

Overview

- Green Communities Application
- Next Steps with Sustainability Strategy
- Online Public Survey on Sustainability

Green Communities Application



- Submitted May 2022 (602 pages!)
- Recertification of 55 measures previously awarded (330 points)
- 6 New Measures (35 additional points)
- Total of 365 points (10% increase over 2018)
- Final Results in Late Fall 2022



Sustainability Strategy/Plan

- Online Survey
- Timeline for Drafting of Sustainability Strategy/Plan
- Plan Approval
- Updated periodically



Online Public Survey on Sustainability

1. Does this survey, along with information from other plans, fulfill the desire for public input on sustainability?
2. Given the response, has enough information been collected to move forward and close this survey?
3. What key themes emerged from the survey?
4. Aside from the general themes and concepts on environmental sustainability, did any new ideas surprise you?
5. What other insights should we draw from this survey?

Questions?