

Gwinnett County Sustainability Commission**Wednesday, April 19, 2023 – 4:30pm**

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

Present: Laura Hernandez, Robert Blatecky, Krupesh Patel, Dr. Marshall Shepherd

Absent: Daniel Hilton

1. Call to Order

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

- The Environmental Sustainability Officer job description and requirements are currently at Human Resources. Posting will be soon. GCSC requested a more defined timeframe for posting. David Mogge will reach out to Human Resources.

2. Approval of Agenda

{Action: Approved: Blatecky; Second: Shepherd; Vote: 4-0; Hernandez-Yes; Blatecky-Yes; Patel-Yes; Shepherd-Yes; Absent: Hilton}

3. Approval of Minutes

The March 15, 2023, meeting minutes were approved.

{Action: Approved: Shepherd; Second: Blatecky; Vote: 4-0; Hernandez-Yes; Blatecky-Yes; Patel-Yes; Shepherd-Yes; Absent: Hilton}

4. EPA Grants Update

No update regarding the EPA Grants meeting, which has not yet been scheduled.

5. GCSC Advisory Committees Update

Jeanie Donaldson, Gwinnett County Public Relations and Marketing Division Director, Communications, extended the assistance of the Public Relations and Marketing staff with branding and distribution of the GCSC Advisory Committees recruitment flyer through social media and other county avenues.

6. Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

Gwinnett Multicultural Festival and County Government Open House will be held on Saturday, May 13 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at Gwinnett Place Mall. Gwinnett Sustainability will have a table at the festival, staffed by GCSC member Krupesh Patel, and will leverage the event as an opportunity to raise awareness of Advisory Commission volunteer opportunities among diverse constituents.

7. Presentation from Solar Energy Loan Fund (SELF)

Doug Coward, SELF Founder, Director of National Expansion and Partnerships, along with Bridgette Long, GA Community Engagement Officer presented an overview of the Solar Energy Loan Fund (SELF). SELF is a national-award winning nonprofit Green Bank – certified as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) by the U.S. Treasury Department’s CDFI Fund program. SELF is a national leader in energy equity with more than a decade of lending experience in BIPOC and LMI communities whose mission is “rebuild and empower underserved communities by providing access to affordable financing for sustainable property improvements, including energy efficiency; renewable energy (i.e., solar); storm resilience; water/sewer; health and safety; disabilities, and more.” <https://solarenergyloanfund.org/> SELF is *not* seeking any money from local partners in Georgia since they have several grants and capital. SELF is looking to partner with local organizations and governments, such as Gwinnett County Housing Corporation, to get the word out about this program.

8. Public Comments

Dr. Scott Presson invited GCSC members to the Solarize Gwinnett Official Launch & Celebration on Tuesday, May 9 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at Rhodes Jordan Park. Solarize Gwinnett is a coalition of Gwinnett County organizations advocating for more accessible solar.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47pm.

{Action: Approved: Shepherd; Second: Patel; Vote: 4-0; Hernandez-Yes; Blatecky-Yes; Patel-Yes; Shepherd-Yes; Absent: Hilton}