

Commission Members:

Lissa Leege, Carolyn Altman, Melanie Sparrow, Bill Herring,
Jon Cook, Victor Dickey, Ben Morris, Kristine Yager-Rushton, Karen Sanders



50 EAST MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX
348 STATESBORO, GEORGIA
30459-0348 AGENDA

Greener Boro Commission Meeting
September 1, 2022
6:00 PM
City Council Chambers

Attendees: Lissa Leege, Chair; Carolyn Altman, Vice Chair; Bill Herring, Treasurer; Jon Cook, Karen Sanders, Marcos Trejo, Shari Barr, Jason Boyles, and Justin Williams

I. Call to Order

Chair called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. The secretary was not present, so Karen Sanders took the meeting minutes.

II. Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the August 4, 2022, Greener Boro Commission meeting were approved as distributed (Motion to Approve: Carolyn Altman; Second: Jon Cook)

III. TSW Presentation on Updating the City's Unified Development Code (UDC)

- Caleb Raciot, Principal Planner at TSW, gave a presentation via Zoom on TSW's efforts to update the UDC. He explained the focus is on the second phase: confirming direction and engaging stakeholders on the 20–30% of the code that is not effective. He explained the drilldown areas (15%) that need to be more effective are landscaping and tree protection and parking lot design. Another focus should be redevelopment. The goal is to give City Council a vetted UDC by Spring 2023.
- Chair opened the floor for discussion.
 - Lissa Leege asked for clarification on how the Greener Boro Commission can help TSW turn around the poor numbers for the drilldown areas, including runoff issues.
 - Caleb asked the Commission to give him specific environmental and sustainability concerns and TSW will figure out if and how the issues can be addressed by the UDC. Examples could include parking lot landscaping/percentage of permeable pavement for parking lots and addressing stormwater concerns.
 - Caleb confirmed the community is interested in more green space. If new standards are defined to encourage natural solutions for stormwater retention areas, such as

Commission Members:

Lissa Leege, Carolyn Altman, Melanie Sparrow, Bill Herring,
Jon Cook, Victor Dickey, Ben Morris, Kristine Yager-Rushton, Karen Sanders

bioswales, these could count toward green space. Also, the UDC could discourage the abandonment of detention areas, such as the overgrown area behind CVS.

- Carolyn Altman suggested TSW visit the Botanic Garden and consider the design of its permeable parking lot and stormwater retention area as examples for the larger Boro. She also suggested trying to preserve wetlands (which is usually delineated and regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). Caleb will investigate what a city can do.
- Lissa asked what could be done about the existing huge, impervious parking lots, such as those at Kmart, Walmart, and the mall. Caleb suggested using zoning to address these lots going forward, instead of retroactively.
- Justin Williams noted the code provides flexibility about landscaping, but no guidance, and suggested including information in the code on environmentally appropriate landscaping (native plants, plants for pollinators). Marcos Trejo suggested encouraging leaving mature trees instead of clear cutting. Jason Boyles suggested giving credits to encourage specific types of plantings.
- Bill Herring wants to be sure no zoning is implemented that would prevent or interfere with Blue Mile creek project in the future.
- Caleb suggested reviewing the City of Decatur zoning ordinances and the City of Alpharetta's code, which encourages more sustainable redevelopment using a scoring system based on sustainability points. Also, Atlanta solved major flooding in the Fourth Ward by creating the Historic Fourth Ward Park, which uses green space instead of traditional engineering to handle flooding. Caleb encouraged the Commission to send concerns and feedback on one or two areas in which to encourage the city to move forward to him, ideally by next Thursday, Sept. 8.

IV. Old Business

A. GreenFest Planning

- Lissa presented the survey created by Melanie Sparrow and suggested the subcommittee work on create a QR code and checklist of different items people may be interested in for the city.
- Jon is concerned about the exclusivity of GreenFest and suggested finding other outlets for the survey to get broader feedback, such as signage/display boards around the city. Marcos suggested putting display board/signage with survey and QR code at City Hall so people would see when they pay their bills.
- Lissa, Bill, Jon, Melanie and Karen will serve on the GreenFest subcommittee.
- Marcos will print out images for display boards when subcommittee sends him the images.
- Bill can attend GreenFest and manage the booth.

Commission Members:

Lissa Leege, Carolyn Altman, Melanie Sparrow, Bill Herring,
Jon Cook, Victor Dickey, Ben Morris, Kristine Yager-Rushton, Karen Sanders

V. New Business**A. Greener Boro Commission Goals**

- Lissa opened discussion about example goals and members helped refine the goals.
- Jon moved to accept the following Greener Boro Commission's goals as modified, Carolyn seconded, and all present approved unanimously:
 1. Advance and encourage environmentally sustainable practices and ideas within the City for all its residents and visitors. Sustainable ideas and practices include, but are not limited to, those that impact City operations and facilities, new development and re-development, green space, transportation, waste management and reduction, City ordinances, local businesses, neighborhoods, homeowners, and residents.
 2. Collaborate with City staff to implement and update these strategies and goals.
 3. Provide recommendations and suggestions to the City Council regarding laws, ordinances, rules, programs, and funding that promote sustainability.
 4. Work in cooperation with other City boards, commissions, and committees to promote sustainability policies and programs.
 5. Promote sustainability awareness at city events or at the request of interested individuals or groups.
 6. Conduct occasional community surveys to understand the local perspective on sustainability and on the progress the community feels is necessary.
- Members presented their goals. Karen's are better suited as objectives. Jon suggested collaborating with a team at GSU. Lissa's goals focus on drawing down emissions.

B. Grant Opportunities (Note: Did not have time to address during meeting.)**VI. Adjournment**

Carolyn moved to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. and Jon seconded.