



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Rebecca Keefer, City Planner

Date: January 13, 2014

Subject: Sustainability Commission Refocus

ITEM DESCRIPTION

The Sustainability Commission requests Mayor and City Council consider amending the name of the City's sustainability advisory body to "Sustainability Committee," as well as approve changes to the charter.

DISCUSSION

When the City of Dunwoody incorporated on December 1, 2008, one of the Mayor and Council's first official actions was to establish a permanent advisory board on sustainability, the Dunwoody Sustainability Commission. Furthermore, the Mayor and City Council directed the City Manager to develop a plan for the pursuit of the Atlanta Regional Commission's Green Communities certification.

In May 2013, the Commission submitted the City's Gold Level Green Communities application to the Atlanta Regional Commission, the highest attainable certification. As the process for final certification for Green Communities winds down, the Commission continues efforts for reducing Dunwoody's environmental footprint by recommending policies and practices, developing educational and outreach programs for the community and its residents, and will continue ongoing maintenance of the Green Communities certification in the future. A reduction in the efforts toward certification have shifted focus to a public education, outreach, and awareness campaign, where the Commission feels it will be the most effective and aligned with the expectations of their role by the Mayor and City Council.

This change in focus also merits a change in the name and charter for the Sustainability Commission to better suit the advisory and educational role that is fulfilled by the group. As such, the Sustainability Commission is asking Mayor and Council to adopt a resolution to amend Resolution 2008-12-31 to amend the name to "Sustainability Committee" that is more consistent with the organizational role established by the amended charter and the function of the group working in an advisory capacity.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adopting the resolution to amend Resolution 2008-12-31, authorizing the Sustainability Commission's new name and charter.

A RESOLUTION CHANGING THE NAME AND CHARTER OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY RESOLUTION 2008-12-31 TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES IN THE CITY OF DUNWOODY, GEORGIA

WHEREAS, the City Council of Dunwoody, GA recognizes environmental stewardship as one of its long-term obligations to the citizens and businesses in Dunwoody; and

WHEREAS, a community that values the environment and takes steps to protect our natural resources creates a more desirable place to live, work and play; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Commission has achieved its charter to pursue and obtain ARC Green Communities Certification at the highest attainable level; and

WHEREAS, the Commission continues to operate with a mission to protect and preserve natural resources through education and outreach efforts as well as having an advisory role in relevant policy decisions of Mayor and City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Commission wishes to re-organize and re-charge by clarifying its mission and role in the City’s sustainability efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has determined the name “Sustainability Committee” better identifies with the revised charter and operational function of the organization.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Dunwoody that the Sustainability Commission shall henceforth be known as the “Sustainability Committee.” This charter for the Sustainability Committee is as follows:

“Enable *smart choices* for our community and its residents by promoting, through education, outreach, and awareness efforts, the conservation of energy, water, and fuel; investment in renewable energy; reduction of waste; and protecting and restoring the community’s natural resources. To advise and assist the City of Dunwoody to develop sustainable measures, practices, buildings, and fleets that are environmentally, economically, and socially responsible.”

SO RESOLVED AND EFFECTIVE, this 27th day of January, 2014.

Approved:

Michael G. Davis, Mayor

Attest:

Sharon Lowery, City Clerk

Seal