Re: Smart Growth America Sustainable Land Use Code Audit - One Month Report

The City of Charlottesville is proactively working on ways to incorporate recommendations from the Smart Growth America Sustainable Land Use Code Audit Workshop that was held April 28th and 29th, 2015. Prior to the Workshop, the City was engaged in multiple projects addressing sustainable development through land use practices. With the Workshop recommendations for guidance the City is involved in the following actions:

- **Energy Conservation/ Outdoor Lighting:** The City is currently undertaking a Lighting Study in key parts of the City. This is a joint effort with the University of Virginia that is examining pedestrian lighting standards along West Main and the Corner districts of the City. Developing a prioritized improvement plan and developing photometric lighting details of selected intersections will be outcomes of the study.

The City has put into place a policy that expedites reviews of site plan amendments for multifamily developments that upgrade lighting or other CPTED criteria.

Charlottesville is currently competing as a semifinalist in the Georgetown University Energy Prize, for a grand prize of $5 million. This prize would be rewarding for the community as it continues to achieve energy savings. The competition is based on reducing residential and City building energy consumption (electricity and natural gas) and will be judged both quantitatively and qualitatively. More information on the Energy Prize can be found at guep.org.

- **Stormwater Management and Green Infrastructure:** The City is in the process of updating the West Main Street Zoning District. As part of that update, commercial sites 5,000 square feet and under will not be required to have additional parking.

The City is currently undertaking a parking inventory and utilization analysis in the Downtown and University Corner sections of the city. Key concerns examined in that study included the adequacy of parking availability, the designation and allocation of parking spaces, and the ability of other techniques to reduce overall parking demand. A report will be going to City Council in September 2015.
City staff is currently working with the Tree Commission to craft regulations that are tree focused. In addition, a Heritage Tree Program has been established. Citizens can nominate trees throughout the city for designation as “Heritage Trees.” To date three trees have received the designation.

• Community Health and Safety: New robust bicycle and pedestrian requirements are key components to the updated West Main Street Zoning District. In July 2015 the City Council is set to adopt an updated Bike Plan.

City Council adopted a Sidewalk Waiver Provisions Resolution. The resolution provides developers the option of contributing to a sidewalk fund rather than dedicating land and constructing sidewalks for residential lots on existing streets.