

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

MAY 1, 2007

MEETING CONVENED 7:00 p.m., City Manager's Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Dentel presiding, Robert Bennett, Jennifer Byrne, Thomas Fruehstorfer, Ajay Prasad, Fred Stiegler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steven Beard, Kurt Philipp, Kass Sheedy

STAFF PRESENT: Charlie Emerson, Parks & Recreation Director

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON APRIL 10, 2007

MOTION BY MR. PRASAD, SECONDED BY MR. STIEGLER: THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 10, 2007 MEETING BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. VOTE: 6 to 0.

AYE: Bennett, Byrne, Dentel, Fruehstorfer, Prasad, Stiegler

NAY: 0

ABSENT: Beard, Philipp, Sheedy

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments forthcoming.

3. LEED

Mr. Dentel sent Committee members the presentation he made to City Council on April 23rd. At the Council meeting, Mr. Dentel was questioned by Mayor Funk as to the number of certified LEED professionals in the State of Delaware. According to Mr. Dentel there were approximately 60, with over 400 located in the Philadelphia area. Mr. Dentel felt the presentation was positively received by Council, but expressed disappointment that no formal action was taken on LEED at the meeting. Mr. Stiegler did not believe the presentation warranted any response from Council at this time. Mr. Emerson agreed, noting that Council acknowledged the continuing work on code modifications between CAC and the Building Department, and Council considered this presentation to be a progress report.

Mr. Bennett proposed that Committee members contact their Council representatives to express support for LEED and to determine Council's level of agreement with the green energy proposal.

Mr. Dentel believed that LEED needed to be looked at as a two prong project: Determine where specific LEED items could be incorporated in City Code; and examine the Building Code to decide how to include more LEED compatible requirements. The main changes that could be codified were the green building fund, filling out the LEED or American Homebuilders Association scorecard for residential, and have new or renovated City buildings meet LEED certification. Once those items were ready to be incorporated in the City Code, the next step would be a vote by Council and, if approved, workshops would follow. Mr. Dentel commented that CAC's proposal was voluntary, but would be instrumental in educating builders and developers with green building practices.

Mr. Dentel mentioned that the American Institute of Architects and other organizations were working on a building code that was LEED compliant and some of the wording might be assimilated into our Code. Mr. Emerson remarked that at the Council meeting, Mr. Sciulli stated he would recommend that the City adopt some parts of the International Energy Conservation Code which was more energy oriented than our current Code. According to Mr. Dentel, LEED goes much further than IECC.

Mr. Emerson encouraged CAC to continue working on this project with the appropriate City staff and to follow it through to implementation.

The residential scorecard would be reviewed at a meeting between Mr. Dentel and Messrs. Sciulli and Wilson. Mr. Prasad and Mr. Fruehstorfer volunteered to attend that meeting.

4. FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION AND STORMWATER REGULATIONS

Mr. Fruehstorfer requested Committee members to review the most recent report on the Proposed Improvements to City Policy and Code for Floodplain Protection and Stormwater Management. Mr. Fruehstorfer and City staff were scheduled to meet to discuss the report, and he planned to request specific suggestions for presenting this information to City Council. All Committee members were invited to attend this meeting.

5. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

A photograph was selected for the press release and the award for the property at 116 Manns Avenue, owned by Steve and Debbie Hegedus, and will be displayed in the lobby of the Newark Municipal building.

6. ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Dentel incorporated the changes to the Annual Report that were submitted by Committee members and planned to distribute the final version shortly.

7. REPORT ON COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

Mr. Emerson was very pleased with the participation and noted a large volunteer turn out of approximately 150-200 people. Mr. Emerson thanked Committee members for their involvement in this worthwhile project. He commented that mulching at Folk Park was incorporated into this year's event, and stated that some type of park maintenance would probably be included in future clean up days.

8. REVIEW OF PLANNING DEPT. REPORTS re POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Mr. Bennett mentioned that current items of interest were the Newark Country Club development and the Downtown Transit Hub. Mr. Bennett believed some modifications were made to the plan for the Transit Hub, and he will check into those changes. He also noted that the Pomeroy bikeway was part of that complex.

9. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

(a) Mr. Fruehstorfer expressed his opinion that the City should make recycling mandatory. Mr. Emerson said Mr. Lapointe was preparing a report for recycling recommendations, although he was not aware of the time line for issuance of the report. Mr. Fruehstorfer will follow up with Mr. Lapointe.

(b) Mr. Stiegler offered to contact Scott Lynch of the Delaware Energy Office to invite him to make a brief presentation at the next CAC meeting on Tuesday, June 12th. This presentation will outline the role, mission, and philosophy of the DEO.

(c) Mr. Emerson reminded Committee members of the Curtis Paper Mill workshop scheduled for May 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

10. MEETING ADJOURNED. TIME: 8:41 PM.

Alice Van Veen
Secretary

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