

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

December 11, 2012

MEETING CONVENED: 7:00 p.m Council Chamber

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Fruehstorfer, presiding, Cara Lampton (arrived 7:10) Bob McDowell, Ajay Prasad, Carol Riggs, Kass Sheedy, Amy Smith (arrived 7:15)

ABSENT: Steve Dentel

GUEST: Councilman Stu Markham

STAFF PRESENT: Charlie Emerson, Parks and Recreation Director

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2012

MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 13, 2012 MEETING BE APPROVED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. GUEST – COUNCILMAN STU MARKHAM

Councilman Stu Markham present to provide an update on the Solar Park in McKee's Park located off Cleveland Avenue. He reported Council approved at the December 10, 2102 meeting a process to proceed where DEMEC will put out an RFP for a solar project. DEMEC had issued the RFP and proposals are due in January 22, 20123. A conference will be held on January 20, 2013 with further information on the DEMEC website. DEMEC will fund the solar park and the City will reimburse DEMEC. Once the total cost is reimbursed it will be turned over to the City as the Community Solar Project. The hope is to own it in two years. In addition, he reported there were incentives to use local labor and local panels. The expected output will be 250 megawatts a year. The system will be monitored. In addition, Mr. Markham stated he individually will purchase two panels for the solar park.

Additionally, Mr. Markham has made two suggestions to Council, the first being hydroelectric (Roy Simonson has considered this as well), but funding is an issue. The other is to utilize the larger buildings and lease the rooftops for \$1 for solar.

Mr. Markham asked the Commission to start thinking about the next project they

would like to consider/support once the solar project is due.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no one from the public that wished to speak.

4. **GREEN TRANSPORTATION**

Ms. Bangerter reported there was a Transit Sub-Committee meeting. One of the issues that was discussed at the meeting was DART was having difficulty funding regular routes due to Delaware laws are different than federal laws for Para transit. Federal law states Para transit has to be supplied within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile in both directions from a regular bus route. Therefore, Para transit is always tied to a regular bus route. In Delaware, all people have access to Para transit which creates budgetary issues. 40% of the budget is Para transit and they only have 10% ridership resulting in a lopsided funding issue.

There was some confusion where DART started that anyone can ride on a UDEL bus, which isn't accurate. The new representative from the UDEL was present and it was Ms. Bangerter's opinion the individual would be working towards UDEL and DART working together more effectively. Although there was more energy in the room, issues are still being discussed repeatedly.

There was a train station being proposed on the former Chrysler site, however, that is years away.

Mr. Emerson stated the CAC has the ability to make strong recommendations on these issues. It was proposed the CAC speak to Council and recommend the Transit Sub-Committee come up with a better transit plan. In addition, it was suggested the City ask WILMAPCO to research college towns with similar transit systems as a comparison to Newark.

Action: Ms. Bangerter, Ms. Lampton and Ms. Sheedy will research cities that are similar to Newark and how they manage their transit systems and report back.

5. **ANTI-IDLING**

Ms. Riggs reported 300 signs have been received and are ready for installation. Possible locations are as follows:

- Delaware Avenue
- Main Street
- Elkton Road
- State Roads located in the City
- City Parks
- City Parking Lots
- Rita's in Newark Shopping Center

Ms. Schiano printed additional brochures to be added to the smaller Anti-Idling displays. Additional copies will be put on the table in the City lobby. It was decided locations be found to display the smaller Anti-Idling display boards. Ideas are: Newark Library, local schools.

Mr. McDowell did not receive a response back from the school district to his inquiry about participating in the kick-off the Anti-Idling campaign. He will follow-up with his inquiry.

Advertising needs to be purchased and paid before December 31, 2012.

Action: Ms. Lampton will ask for an additional extension on the grant. Ms. Riggs will invite the Mayor, Police Chief and various organizations to attend the kickoff event. Social media should be utilized to advertise the event. Ms. Smith will finalize a list of potential sign locations. Ms. Sheedy will contact landlord Jeff Lang as he seemed receptive to installing the signs on his properties. Mr. Fruehstorfer will contact Suburban Plaza owner John Mayer. Ms. Lampton will follow up on invoices for advertising (contract a schedule of advertisements). Mr. Emerson will ask Mr. Zaleski of Parks and Recreation to supply 10 signs to the CAC members so the Commission can show property owners what the signs look like.

6. RECYCLING

Ms. Riggs reported carpet recycling was mentioned in the literature.

7. BETTER NEWARK AWARD

There was nothing new to report.

8. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

- Approximately 250 apartments are being proposed at the Bowling Alley location.
- There was a proposal in the works for a WAWA with a gas station to be located across the street from the Municipal Building.

9. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Emerson added the more the CAC can bring to the table and recommend to City Council on the issues under their authority the better chance the Commission has to get things accomplished.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 8, 2013 at 7:00 pm in the City Manager's Conference Room.

11. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:02 PM

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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