

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

JULY 10, 2007

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Dentel presiding, Steven Beard, Robert Bennett, Thomas Fruehstorfer, Kurt Philipp, Ajay Prasad, Kass Sheedy, Fred Stiegler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jennifer Byrne

STAFF PRESENT: Charlie Emerson, Parks & Recreation Director

GUESTS PRESENT: David Athey, Council Member

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON JUNE 12, 2007

MOTION BY MR. STIEGLER, SECONDED BY MR. PRASAD: THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 12, 2007 MEETING BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. VOTE: 8 to 0.

AYE: Beard, Bennett, Dentel, Fruehstorfer, Philipp, Prasad, Sheedy, Stiegler

NAY: 0

ABSENT: Byrne

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments forthcoming.

3. GREEN BUILDING INCENTIVES FOR NEWARK

According to Mr. Dentel, New Castle County Council recently passed a green building incentive resolution. Mr. Dentel planned to obtain further information to determine if anything contained in that document would be useful to Newark. Mr. Stiegler asked if NCC had a time line for implementation. Mr. Dentel anticipated Code and zoning changes would occur slowly over the next several years since there was currently a significant amount of construction underway in the county, and they would need time to determine

the best way to sell this. Mr. Dentel was scheduled to meet with Tom Sciulli, Building Director, on 7/12/07 to begin the process of incorporating in the Code the three major green building recommendations presented to Council in April. These items will be broad based rather than specific zoning changes and ultimately will go toward Code changes presented to Council by the CAC. Ms. Sheedy and Mr. Stiegler planned to attend the meeting with Mr. Dentel.

4. FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION AND STORMWATER REGULATIONS

Mr. Fruehstorfer distributed a revised report which incorporated changes suggested by CAC members. Mr. Lapointe of Public Works reviewed portions of the report and responded favorably to most of the suggestions. Mr. Fruehstorfer had discussed a previous version of the report with Council Members Pomeroy and Athey and felt they were supportive. Mr. Stiegler planned to review the report with Council Member Osborne. Mr. Fruehstorfer thought the next step would be a presentation to Council. Mr. Dentel suggested numbering or grouping the summary items which might aid discussion during the presentation. Mr. Fruehstorfer will incorporate any additional suggestions or changes emailed to him by CAC members. Mr. Athey expressed his agreement with the report. He stated DNREC was in the process of totally revamping Delaware sediment and stormwater regulations and were moving toward low-impact development. He felt the City would ultimately be required to follow any changes implemented by DNREC. Mr. Athey will put Mr. Fruehstorfer in contact with Frank Piorko, Sediment & Stormwater Program Manager for DNREC, to discuss their new regulations. Ms. Sheedy asked Mr. Fruehstorfer to email information he learned from DNREC and requested confirmation that the report was scheduled for Council's September 24th agenda.

5. REVIEW OF PLANNING DEPT. REPORTS RE POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

(a) Mr. Bennett met with Messrs. Emerson and Lopata to discuss his interest in establishing a public trail at the Newark Country Club site, and his concern was placement of the trail based on the level of development. Mr. Lopata indicated that in his opinion the plan presented by the developer did not satisfy open space requirements. He felt the buffer area bordering the existing houses along Country Club Drive should be much wider, and Mr. Bennett thought that area would be an ideal location for the trail. Mr. Emerson said the developer had set aside a significant amount of open space, and one requirement would be for them to build a neighborhood park in the subdivision. He also wanted to see some natural areas set aside for the trail system. He further stated the City would coordinate with the developer to encourage a more creative design that was aesthetically pleasing and provided the open space people would like to see. Mr. Bennett planned to discuss the Mason-Dixon trail linkage with Council Member Tuttle. Mr. Dentel suggested CAC prepare a resolution to be forwarded to the Planning Commission regarding the inclusion of open space at the NCC. He felt it would be beneficial to make the developer aware there were different bodies in the City expressing concern for open space. Mr. Emerson agreed that CAC should communicate their position as proponents of open space and public access. Mr. Bennett prepared a draft resolution for presentation to the

Planning Commission on August 7th and will email it to CAC members for their review and comments. Mr. Bennett discussed including a comment in the resolution that the City work with the developer on sustainable building practices and energy conservation measures.

MOTION BY MR. PRASAD, SECONDED BY MS. SHEEDY: TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEWARK COUNTRY CLUB AND SUBMIT IT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR CONSIDERATION AT THEIR MEETING ON AUGUST 7, 2007.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. VOTE: 8 TO 0.

AYE: Beard, Bennett, Dentel, Fruehstorfer, Philipp, Prasad, Sheedy, Stiegler

NAY: 0

ABSENT: Byrne

(b) Mr. Dentel mentioned there was conversation about the City annexing land in the area of Kirkwood Highway and Possum Park Road. Mr. Athey stated that when the City received state funds in 1998 or 1999 for the Koelig family property (now reservoir property), epilogue language was included in one of the bond bills requiring the City to reimburse \$3.4 million to the state if the Stopyra parcel was annexed. He said Mr. Funk wanted the Bond Bill Committee to remove that restriction.

6. COMMUNITY DAY PLANNING

Community Day was scheduled for 9/16/07, with a rain date of 9/23/07. Ideas were discussed for the CAC booth, and members agreed to work on the following items.

- Mr. Prasad will pursue having the University of Delaware's fuel cell bus parked by the CAC booth. He will also gather brochures and information on hybrid and energy efficient vehicles, bike trails and mass transit.
- Mr. Beard will make a poster detailing federal and state tax credits that emphasizes ways to save money while benefiting the environment. He mentioned a type of software for turning pictures into coloring pages which might be used to provide a good children's activity.
- Mr. Philipp felt people would focus on items they could take with them. He suggested using the whiteboard easel to demonstrate ways to make curbside recycling more convenient, and these ideas could then be recorded with a digital camera and sent by email to interested participants. He has cartoon software that might also be useful.
- Mr. Fruehstorfer will e-mail information to participants and will gather additional conservation ideas from Sierra magazine.
- Mr. Bennett suggested that CAC members present their favorite conservation methods and ask participants to provide input on the same. Ms. Sheedy thought this could be tied into a case study showing how much money members have saved through energy conservation practices.

- Ms. Sheedy, Mr. Prasad, and Mr. Dentel offered to work on posters.

Since the August CAC meeting had been cancelled, Mr. Dentel planned to send an email at the end of August reminding CAC members to work on their projects.

7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

(a) Mr. Dentel questioned whether curbside recycling was discussed at the July 9th Council meeting. Mr. Athey said Mr. Funk urged Mr. Luft to include some form of rebate for residents paying the \$6 monthly fee in next year's budget preparation. At that meeting Mr. Athey reported the Town of New Castle had a pilot program with the Solid Waste Authority to pick up recycling at a cost of \$2 per household. The Town of New Castle was billed for the service and was then responsible for collecting the fee. Mr. Dentel noted the Wilmington method was another option the City appeared to be excited about, but the weighing technology was not compatible with Newark's vehicles.

8. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:07 PM.

Alice Van Veen
Secretary

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