

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

March 12, 2013

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Fruehstorfer, presiding, Bob McDowell, Ajay Prasad, Carol Riggs, Amy Smith

ABSENT: Steve Dentel, Cara Lampton, Kass Sheedy

GUEST: Councilman Stu Markham

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Zaleski, Parks Superintendant

Note: The recording system did not function for the meeting. Therefore, the minutes reflect notes taken by the secretary.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2013

MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 12, 2013 MEETING BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilman Stu Markham was present to give an update on the proposed Solar Park. He reported several bids had been received, some varying in amounts close to several hundred thousand dollars from both local and out-of-state companies. Scott Lynch of DEMEC was reviewing the bids. Cost will be a determining factor in the decision of what company to use. Mr. Markham recommended the CAC ask for 05-H funds for 2014 so these additional funds could be used for the Solar Park. There was a concern raised that when the drilling would be done for the necessary supports that a methane gas pocket may be hit. Initially all the land will not be used, so future expansion of the Solar Park will be possible. Mr. Markham advised the CAC the topic would be on the March 25 Council agenda.

The CAC asked Councilman Markham if he thought a ban on plastic bags would work in the City of Newark. It was the Councilman's opinion that it would not be easy to accomplish. He suggested the CAC approach the local stores that use the greatest number of plastic bags (i.e. grocery stores) and suggest other options.

Action Items: Mr. Markham suggested in the future the CAC research hydroelectric at the White Clay Creek. Ms. Riggs reported the State of Delaware

had utilized a method to use coal to absorb contamination that may be useful. Mr. Markham suggested if the CAC could follow-up with Roy Simonson if they had additional questions on the topic.

The following items would be discussed a future date:

- Solar ready homes which were discussed by the Newark Housing Authority should be considered and added to the City's LEED certification process.
- Solar powered gas pumps to alleviate the potential issues of widespread power outages (Hurricane Sandy).
- Revisit the proposed plastic bag ban in the City of Newark. Mr. Markham suggested speaking to the local grocery stores to see if the "mindset" can be changed before going to fines/penalties.

3. GREEN TRANSPORTATION

Ms. Bangerter was no longer with CAC.

Action: Mr. Fruehstorfer will check to see if she has uploaded all her documents to the Commission's drop box.

4. ANTI-IDLING

Ms. Riggs reported the report to the State on the grant is due March 30th. She will contact Crystal at the State to see if an extension on submitting the report can be granted. It was agreed the pre and post surveys need to be included in the report. Mr. Dentel was to provide the pre-survey data for the report. Ms. Riggs brought a copy of the Review to show the CAC the Anti-Idling ad that was placed in a good location (sports page). The ad will run for 8 weeks. Ms. Riggs will contact the Review to see if they will do an article on Anti-Idling in Newark. Ms. Riggs stated only approximately 50 of the 300 Anti-Idling signs have been put up. Further contact with the City landlords should be done so additional signs may be put up in areas where the student population is concentrated. Ms. Riggs provided each member a stack of small Anti-Idling posters that can be put up where they see fit (grocery store bulletin boards, etc.)

Mr. Zaleski suggested the CAC consider adopting a traffic island where a sponsorship sign from the CAC could be installed. However, Ms. Riggs raised the question of whether it was possible for the City to pay itself for the sign (the grant money essentially originates from the City).

Action: Mr. Prasad will contact UDEL about installing signs in their lots. Mr. Fruehstorfer will contact Charlie Emerson for further information about adopting a traffic island.

5. GREEN ENERGY

The topic was covered in Public Comment with Councilman Markham.

6. RECYCLING

Mr. Fruehstorfer reported plastic was no longer being recycled.

Action: Mr. Fruehstorfer will touch base with Roy Simonson to check on the success of the citywide recycling program.

7. BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Tom Zaleski, Parks & Recreation suggested Adam Deutsch; a local high school student may be a good candidate to consider. He was installing a rain garden in Fairfield Crest for his Eagle Scout Badge.

Action: Mr. Prasad will follow-up to see if he is interested in being nominated. Ms. Lampton would be able to nominate Adam as he resides in Fairfield.

8. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

- Mr. Fruehstorfer will follow up with Mr. Fortner of the Planning & Development Department regarding the upcoming St. Thomas Episcopal Church Project to see what they are proposing in the future and report back to the CAC. AC will ask the Planning Department what the process was for remediating abandoned properties with gas pumps.

9. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Fruehstorfer will send out the Annual Report this month.
- Ms. Riggs suggested having a rain barrel sale in Newark. She will follow up with DNREC to see if they would be interested in sponsoring the event. Additionally, Mr. McDowell will ask Newark High School if they would be interested in doing a rain barrel sale during their annual spring plant sale event.
- The annual spring clean-up is April 20, 2013.
- The Commission By-Laws will be discussed at a future meeting due to the absence of a few key members at the March meeting.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 7:00 pm in the City Manager's Conference Room.

11. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:15 PM

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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