

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

April 9, 2013

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Fruehstorfer, presiding, Steve Dentel (arrived 7:47pm), Cara Lampton, Bob McDowell, Ajay Prasad, Carol Riggs, Kass Sheedy

STAFF PRESENT: Charlie Emerson, Parks & Recreation Director

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

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

"Plastic bags may be removed from the single stream recycling."

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. GREEN TRANSPORTATION

There was nothing to report at this time.

Action: Mr. Fruehstorfer will check to see what items have been uploaded all from Ms. Bangerter to the Commission's drop box. Ms. Sheedy will contact Mr. Fortner of the Planning & Development Department to see where Ms. Bangerter left it with him.

3. ANTI-IDLING GRANT

Mr. Fruehstorfer reported the final report was completed and sent. Mr. Fruehstorfer reported he will continue having the Anti-Idling signs assigned to him installed. Currently signs had been installed at Downes, Newark Charter. Per Mr. Fruehstorfer, Ann Morrison had contacted Jeff Lang and he was agreeable to install signs on his properties around the City. Mr. Fruehstorfer had emailed Mr. Lang with some proposed installation locations and was awaiting a response. Mr. Fruehstorfer has also contacted Roy Simonson, Public Works & Water Resource Director about installing signs on the entrances to the City.

Mr. Prasad contacted Rich Rind (Facilities UDEL). Currently 25 signs had been installed and have requested additional signs. UDEL did not require the posts as they use existing posts or by bolting onto walls/loading docks. Mr. Prasad dropped off 15 more signs for installation on UDEL property.

Mr. Emerson reported Parks had installed 50 signs. Ms. Riggs delivered 6 to Park Place Elementary school and they were installed. The elementary school also accepted a display from Ms. Riggs which will be at the school. Ms. Riggs had recently contacted Roy Simonson to find locations for the banners and was waiting for a response. Mr. Emerson suggested Code Enforcement be contacted to make sure installation or display of banners fall within the confines of the Code.

Action: The Anti-Idling survey will be re-done at a later date to help determine the success of the new signs, promotion of Anti-Idling, etc. Banners and displays will be present at the upcoming Community Day/Newark Day. Mr. Prasad will contact UDEL about installing signs in their lots. Ms. Sheedy will contact Debbie Hegedus about contacting NCCL.

5. GREEN ENERGY

Per Mr. Fruehstorfer, as of now the Solar Park at McKees will be discussed at the April 22, 2013 meeting.

6. RECYCLING

Mr. Fruehstorfer reported he had spoken to Roy Simonson about carpet recycling; it would not be able to be separated out of a normal recycling pick-up. It would have to be set up as a special pick-up if a location to take the carpet can be found. Mr. Fruehstorfer also inquired about a metal recycling dumpster be placed near the maintenance yard. The City has a "metal pickup." Mr. Fruehstorfer will get more information and report back.

Action: Mr. Fruehstorfer will touch base with Roy Simonson to check on the success of the citywide recycling program. Mr. Fruehstorfer and Ms. Sheedy will attend Community Clean-up on April 20, 2013.

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. Fruehstorfer will contact Greg Gagliano of the Delaware Nature Society to find out if any of the backyard habitats in Newark would qualify for the award. Mr. Prasad suggested nominating UDEL for the following:

- 1. Rain gardens**
- 2. Solar installation**
- 3. Landscaping using native plants**
- 4. Stormwater management**
- 5. Local food (U Dairy)**
- 6. Coburn Lab (green roof)**

Mr. Prasad will follow-up with Mike L. at UDEL. Mr. Fruehstorfer will contact Jerry Kaufman and report back. Ms. Lampton will review Adam Deutsch Eagle Scout project and report back.

8. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

- Mr. Fruehstorfer mentioned two new townhouse development projects in the works: Rupp Farm and a project near the George Wilson Center. Both projects meet City regulations.
- It was suggested to contact Mr. Simonson regarding City stormwater regulations and requirements to obtain an overview of current regulations. Mr. Emerson reported the LEED standards are being considered with each new project.

9. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Fruehstorfer completed the summaries for the 2012 Annual Report.
 1. Ms. Lampton will complete Green Transportation.
 2. Backyard Habitat will be reviewed by Mr. McDowell.
 3. Mr. Fruehstorfer will handle litter.
 4. Mr. Prasad will do A Better Newark Award
 5. Ms. Sheedy will handle Green Energy.
- Ms. Riggs reported DNREC will coordinate directly with Newark High School regarding including a rain barrel sale at their annual plant sale sometime in May
- Ms. Riggs mentioned efforts to curtail plastic bag usage (by charging 5 cents per bag) in the state of Maryland had met with resistance due to the impact on low income residents.
- Mr. Fruehstorfer spoke with Councilman Markham regarding ways to reduce the use of plastic bags. The concept of offering incentives (if you utilize reusable bags) you could use a stamp system that could be redeemed for local parking, etc.
- Mr. Dentel suggested diminished plastic bag use may only be a reality if a ban/limit was eventually put in place.

Due to Mr. Dentel's resignation from the CAC, this was his last meeting. The Commission wished him well and thanked him for his many years of hard work, leadership and service over the last 15+ years.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 7:00 pm in the City Manager's Conference Room.

11. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:20 PM

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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