

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

June 11, 2013

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Fruehstorfer, presiding, Cara Lampton, Bob McDowell, Ajay Prasad, Carol Riggs, Kass Sheedy, John Wessells

GUEST: Scott Lynch, Energy Services Manager, DEMEC

STAFF PRESENT: Charlie Emerson, Parks & Recreation Director

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON MAY 14, 2013

Ms. Sheedy stated that on Item #3 that Ms. Bangerter had not sent Mike Fortner any files regarding Green Transportation but Mr. Fortner seemed "eager" to visit the CAC again and discuss Green Transportation.

MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 14, 2013 MEETING BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT- GUEST – SCOTT LYNCH, ENERGY SERVICES MANAGER, DEMEC

Mr. Lynch was present to discuss the McKees Park Solar project. Mr. Lynch stated the "Newark Community Project" had been a work in progress for a number of years. The City of Newark had researched the project previously however, due to the market for SRECS and the inexperience of the contractors, the project stalled. Three proposals were brought before Council and the City decided none of them could be executed to move forward at that time. Councilman Markham and Carol Houck, City Manager revisited the project and approached DEMEC. DEMEC worked with the City to address the project needs and create an RFP. Eight bids were received from regional contractors. After evaluation, the three top choices were made.

A concern was raised about methane at the landfill. DNREC previously had not taken issue with the topic. DEMEC dug down to two feet at 22 point locations around the landfill and found no issue. The proposed system would be a surface mount system; but in the event any trenches were needed, they were covered. DEMEC returned to the top contractors, verified the proposals, and asked that they revisit the totals. The contractors at that time were able to drop the bids by a few thousand dollars.

The contractor, Solair was chosen by DEMEC, recommended to Carol Houck and the project is now in the hands of the contractor. After the June 10, 2013 Council meeting, a slight change was made to go with micro inverters at the facility versus standard 200/100 KW inverters. The advantage to using the former was if one panel gets blocked by vegetation only that panel will go down, not the whole string.

Per the contractor, the major components should be received by August with construction to commence mid-August and a target completion date of September-October, 2013. This project will be self-financed by the City of Newark, per Lou Vitola, Finance Director.

Mr. Lynch would also like to encourage the City to develop a sponsorship program for a solar garden program. The sponsorship program is similar to a donation program (Councilman Stu Markham donated \$500+) to the system. The Solar Energy Power Association ("SEPA") has received money from the Federal Department of Energy and expressed interest in providing technical consulting with proposed programs.

Charlie Emerson, Parks & Recreation Director, asked Mr. Lynch if there was room for expansion. Mr. Lynch stated the project was planned to start at the front of the site, with room for expansion at the back of the site, however, there is significant shading in the back of the property. Mr. Lynch also stated the advantage to this site is that the land being used has very limited capabilities and is being turned into a very useful project. Mr. Emerson also inquired about the turf maintenance requirements and standards for the proposed projects. Mr. Lynch stated the ground cover should be kept less than 30 inches high and should suffice with the height of the panel. Stonedust will be underneath the panels as a preventative as well. It was Mr. Lynch's opinion that using a mower through the area once per year may suffice.

At the end of his discussion, Mr. Lynch wanted to add that he appreciated the CAC's support for the project and in general for the Newark Community Project.

Action: Mr. Fruehstorfer will invite Councilwoman Marge Hadden to the next CAC meeting. In addition, he will promote the Solar Park at Newark Day.

3. ANTI-IDLING GRANT

Mr. Emerson wished to note there were many Anti-Idling signs and posts still available. Mr. Emerson suggested a letter be drafted to City establishments suggesting installation of signs and see if Carol Houck would sign.

Action: Ms. Schiano will forward to Ms. Riggs a copy of the letter that went to City businesses when they were issued license renewals.

4. GREEN ENERGY

Mr. Fruehstorfer suggested in the near future the CAC discuss the life span of 05-

H. Ms. Sheedy suggested the CAC's role should focus on finding creative and progressive solutions approaches to conservation going forward.

Mr. Wessels suggested the CAC contact the Philadelphia Eagles to discuss the various conservation techniques they utilize from solar panels to biodegradable cups. Mr. Emerson suggested Rick Vitelli, Electric Director may be interested to hear this information as well. Ms. Riggs stated she has twelve banners/posts remaining. Mr. Fruehstorfer reported thus far he has had 7 or 8 signs installed at entrance points in the City. He will follow up with Public Works to see if there are other spots still available.

Action: Mr. Fruehstorfer will contact the Eagles organization to see if there was any information they could pass along that may be beneficial and applicable to a City.

5. RECYCLING/LITTER

Mr. Wessels suggested the City distribute two cloth grocery bags to University students and to City residents. To offset the cost, advertisements could be placed on the bags. Mr. Fruehstorfer recalled he had spoken to Councilman Markham about a similar project with incentives being offered to use the bags; i.e. parking lot credits and such. Mr. Wessels stated he had checked with a local vendor and the cost for a bag printed on both sides would be \$1.49 per bag/per 5,000. Mr. Wessels went on the City's website and found the total City households to number 7,251 and about 20,000 students.

Action: The CAC should begin working on an insert to go on the City website regarding recycling/litter. Mr. Fruehstorfer stated Dana Johnston, Community Affairs Officer would be agreeable to reviewing any proposed material the CAC would like to put on the web.

6. BETTER NEWARK AWARD

The CAC voted to award the "A Better Newark Award" to University of Delaware for their efforts to participate and utilize various conservation technologies.

**MOTION THAT THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION AWARD
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE "A BETTER NEWARK AWARD"**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Action: Mr. Prasad will forward the application and pictures for UDEL to Ms. Schiano for completion/distribution.

7. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

- Mr. Fruehstorfer mentioned there were several apartment projects being proposed to or approved by Council

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Newark Day - Mr. Fruehstorfer stated the Anti-Idling sign and backyard habitat was on display. Mr. McDowell stated he found approximately 10 people greatly interested in becoming a certified backyard habitat.
- Mr. Wessels stated he had been instrumental with plantings around Fountainview (his residence) retention pond.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

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

10. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:59 PM

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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