

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

September 10, 2013

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

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

GUEST: Mike Fortner, Planning & Development Supervisor

STAFF PRESENT: Charlie Emerson, Parks & Recreation Director

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 JUNE 11, 2013

MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 11, 2013 MEETING BE APPROVED AS RECEIVED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. GUEST – MIKE FORTNER, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISOR

Mike Fortner was present to discuss the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan, a document that is adopted by the City, uses words, maps, illustrations, and tables and guidelines to direct the City's current and future land use, economic development, environmental constraints, transportation planning, housing and implementation. A Comprehensive Plan is:

- A Vision for the City's future and a blueprint for achieving it.
- Addresses both short and long-term planning concerns
- Provides a rational basis for local land use decisions
- Is mandated for all Delaware incorporated areas by State Law (22 Delaware Code Sec. 702)

Mike stated three primary themes were identified:

1. Healthy/Active Community
2. Sustainable Community
3. Inclusive Community ("living in place;" rather than "aging in place.")

Mike stated he was looking for some feedback from the CAC. The final report is due to Council by February 2014. Ms. Riggs asked if there were specific goals for the next five years. For example: improving air quality; housing needs, etc. She would like

stormwater management, rain gardens and such to be included in the plan as well. Mr. Fortner stated these ideas would be included as much as possible; however traditionally a Comprehensive Plan was a more broad scale type of project. Details on how to achieve more detailed goals would be addressed at a later date.

Ms. Sheedy stated it was her opinion the Plan should include specific measures to offer incentives to businesses to create a more vibrant downtown. Mike wished to emphasize as well the Comprehensive Plan was a guide for the Capital Improvement Plan. However, Ms. Sheedy stated she hoped there would be more cohesiveness between the two plans and the Capital Improvement Plan should detail how it will meet the goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Irvine would like to see a comparison section of what earlier plans had been proposed and what had been done to meet these goals. Ms. Riggs suggested reviewing Comprehensive Plans from other college towns as well.

Mr. Fortner asked the CAC to propose several specific and feasible recommendations on a topic the CAC is familiar with; such as sustainability, improving transit, etc. Items such as this would work towards reducing emissions which is a topic the CAC has researched in the past.

Action item: The CAC will consider possible recommendations to discuss at the next meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rob Gifford, Jeff Lawrence, Amy Roe and Nick Wasileski, were present to discuss the proposed power plant for the new data center at the UD Star Campus. Mr. Wasileski provided a handout detailing the projected emission amounts for CO₂, CO, NO_x, Sox, and Ammonia etc., which could be dispersed from the power plant. The emissions could equate to between 18,000 - 36,000 idling cars. There was concern about potential noise and potential safety issues. It was stated the proposed power plant would be very large and could supply all of Newark's annual electricity requirements in the equivalent of two months' time.

It was relayed by the individuals present for Public Comment the residents of Binns, Devon and Arbor Park were extremely concerned about the proposed power plant due to the close proximity to those neighborhoods. It was the opinion of the guests time was of the essence because The Data Center would be filing to obtain a permit on emissions with DNREC sooner rather than later.

The Conservation Advisory Commission was unsure of what role they would have in objecting to the power plant as they serve strictly as an advisory board to Council. In addition, it was the opinion of the CAC City Council had a limited role in the proposed Data Center Project.

Action Item: The CAC will research the issues associated with the proposed Data Center/power plant project to ascertain whether any recommendations can be made to Council.

4. GREEN ENERGY

Mr. Fruehstorfer reported the Solar Electric Power Association has suggested ways to pay off the Solar Park project earlier than originally projected. More information to follow in the near future.

5. RECYCLING/LITTER

There was nothing to report at this time.

6. BETTER NEWARK AWARD

There was no action taken at this time.

7. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

- There was nothing to report at this time.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Community Day was scheduled for the upcoming weekend (Sunday, September 15th). It was reported the CAC would not have a booth this year.
- Anti-Idling - Ms. Riggs reported the Anti-Idling advertisements will be running this fall in the UD Campus newspaper. She asked the CAC to follow-up and check the paper to verify the ads are appearing.
- The CAC has reviewed the 2012 Annual Report and found it acceptable. Therefore, a vote was taken.

MOTION THAT THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION ACCEPT THE 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Action Item: Mr. Fruehstorfer will forward the completed 2012 Annual Report to Ms. Schiano.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 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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