

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

January 10, 2012

MEETING CONVENED: 7:06 p.m. City Manager's Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Fruehstorfer, presiding, Nadine Bangerter, Cara Lampton, Bob McDowell, Ajay Prasad, Carol Riggs, Kass Sheedy, Amy Smith

ABSENT: Steve Dentel

STAFF PRESENT: Charlie Emerson, Parks and Recreation Director

GUEST: Catherine Ciferni, Newark Resident
Ron Zink, Sierra Club

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2011

MOTION BY MR. PRASAD, SECONDED BY MS. SHEEDY: THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 8, 2011 MEETING BE APPROVED AS RECEIVED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Catherine Ciferni, Newark Resident, reported the Newark Bike Project was underway and temporarily located in the former YWCA building. They are accepting donations of bikes, tools, etc. They currently meet on Friday's at 6:00 pm. For further information, the web address is Newarkbikeproject.org.

3. GREEN ENERGY

Mr. Fruehstorfer asked the Commission to think about what they believe to be the main issue(s) to discuss with the new Finance Director so when he called him to schedule a meeting he can give him an idea of what would be covered.

Action: Mr. Fruehstorfer will extend an invitation to the new Finance Director to attend February's CAC meeting.

4. GREEN TRANSPORTATION

Ms. Bangerter reported the following: due to a decline in transit use from 4% in the year 2000 to 1.8% in 2006-2008; it was her opinion it was time to consider a new model for transit for the City. She would like the CAC to recommend to City Council a task force be convened to identify short-term and long-term objectives to improve the following:

- efficiency, ease of use and meet the needs of current and potential riders
- reduce the carbon footprint
- integrate transit providers
- Identify financial resources and incorporate transit as an integral part of city planning.

Ms. Bangerter also would like the CAC to recommend the task force include a mix of City representatives, WILMAPCO planners, representatives of labor, transit providers, business and rider interests, including human service agencies, educational and commuter interests as well as riders. In addition, she would like the CAC to ask City Council to convene this task force, finance the necessary studies and request the task force make its recommendations by September 2013.

She further suggested the concept of a holding a public workshop to identify the problems/issues with Public Transportation.

Mr. Fruehstorfer suggested any directive endorsed by the CAC needed to be based on a conservation concern so the Commission remained in their area of expertise. For example: by increasing ridership on Public Transportation use of private transportation (cars) will decline thereby reducing air pollution, etc.

Mr. Fruehstorfer also suggested a recommendation be made to City Council to request WILMAPCO's input as they are the experts in this area.

Mr. Emerson stated Heather Dunigan from WILMAPCO should be contacted again for her input.

Action: Ms. Bangerter will follow-up with Heather Dunigan from WILMAPCO to suggest a contact at DART, and she will contact the new Director of Transportation at UDEL and report back to the CAC next month. In addition, Ms. Maureen FeeneyRoser, Assistant Planning and Development Director, will be asked to attend the March meeting.

5. COMMUNITY HABITAT

Mr. McDowell reported the City of Newark is officially registered as a Community Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation. The next step is to continue to accrue points as a Certified Community Habitat. He also reported Greg Gagliano from Delaware Nature Society planned to attend Mr. McDowell's Nature Society meeting at Newark High School to encourage students to build Habitat Gardens at their homes. Mr. Gagliano will also be

at a meeting on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 10:00 am at Brew Ha Ha in Newark to discuss various Community Habitats and other projects.

Action: The CAC will contact Dana Johnston, Community Affairs Officer, about putting up a link for Community Habitat/Rain Garden Information on the City's website. Charlie Emerson suggested Bob McDowell contact Kelley Dinsmore, Stormwater Program Coordinator, for further information as well. Amy Smith will contact Master Gardeners to obtain information on the classes they teach.

6. GREEN ENERGY

Mr. Fruehstorfer had nothing to report.

Action: Mr. Fruehstorfer will contact the new Finance Director ask him to attend a Jan/Feb 2012 CAC meeting. In addition, the CAC will follow up with DEMEC to see what they propose for the end of 2012.

7. ANTI-IDLING GRANTS

Ms. Riggs reported that Film Brothers had been contracted to do the Anti-Idling Video. A first draft of the script had been completed, casting will be completed in the near future and filming will be completed by the end of February. Ms. Riggs distributed copies of the draft and asked the Commission to contact her via email with comments. Ms. Riggs reported there was additional money available in the grant for advertising, table top exhibits and signs. In addition, Ms. Riggs will utilize a contact to make signs for display exhibits using a similar format from the brochure to remain consistent, i.e. create a "branding" concept. Ms. Riggs spoke with Paul Pomeroy, former Council member, who works at a large marketing firm. He provided Ms. Riggs with contact information of a freelance artist to work with. Mr. Emerson reminded the CAC the grant expires June 30, 2012 with little likelihood of an extension and to keep abreast of reporting quarterly to the State.

Action: Ms. Riggs suggested planning a February kick-off for the Anti-Idling Program. Ms. Riggs distributed survey questions that CAC members will ask random City Residents to see how aware people are about the Anti-Idling Ordinance. A sign vendor must be finalized and the phrase "No Idling, it's the law" was decided upon as being the most effective. Any CAC members that would like to assist Ms. Riggs with signs should email her.

8. RECYCLING

Mr. Dentel was not present to discuss.

Action: Mr. Dentel will contact Rich Lapointe and Mayor Funk and ask what the CAC could do to assist with the Recycling Program and report back at the next meeting. Ms. Riggs suggested that City restaurants/bars be encouraged to recycle.

9. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Mr. Prasad provided pictures of Wallace McCurdy's property at 98 Dallas Avenue.

MOTION BY MR. MCDOWELL, SECONDED BY MS. SMITH: THAT THE A BETTER NEWARK AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED TO DR. & MRS. WALLACE MCCURDY, 98 DALLAS AVENUE.

Action: Tara Schiano will process the Better Newark Award and send press release to Dana Johnston, Community Affairs Officer, for posting on the web and send the award to Dr. & Mrs. McCurdy. In addition, a picture of the McCurdy property will be posted in the lobby of City Hall.

10. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

There was nothing to report at this time.

11. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Fruehstorfer will finalize last year's Annual Report within the next month. He is currently working on 2011 as well.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the City Manager's Conference Room.

13. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:26 PM.

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

/tas