

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

OCTOBER 9, 2007

MEETING CONVENED 7:05 p.m., City Manager's Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Dentel presiding, Robert Bennett, Thomas Fruehstorfer
Kurt Philipp, Ajay Prasad, Fred Stiegler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steven Beard, Kass Sheedy

STAFF PRESENT: Charlie Emerson, Parks & Recreation Director

GUESTS PRESENT: Guests included several students from the University of Delaware

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

Mr. Emerson advised that on page 2, item 4, Floodplain Protection and Stormwater Regulations, DelDOT (not the City as mentioned by Mr. Bennett) completed the dredging project underneath the bridge crossing the Christina at Elkton Road.

MOTION BY MR. STIEGLER, SECONDED BY MR. PRASAD: THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2007 MEETING BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. VOTE: 6 to 0.

AYE: Bennett, Dentel, Fruehstorfer, Philipp, Prasad, Stiegler

NAY: 0

ABSENT: Beard, Sheedy

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan Greenland, University of Delaware student government representative, spoke about the recycling efforts they hoped to enact on campus with funding provided by last year's senior class gift of \$50,000. Mr. Greenland was interested in learning about the recycling program being proposed by the City. He preferred that the City offer weekly

mandatory recycling at no additional charge. He felt a number of students living off-campus were either not aware of the DSWA recycling option at a charge of \$6 per month, or they were unwilling to pay a recycling fee. Mr. Greenland mentioned that efforts were underway to encourage the University to purchase 5-10% of their energy from clean energy such as wind and solar.

3. GREEN BUILDING INCENTIVES FOR NEWARK

Mr. Dentel reviewed the Planning Department draft report recommending the City adopt a LEED energy conservation program to be incorporated in the Zoning Code. In addition to the Zoning Code changes, the Building Department recommended to Council the adoption of the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code with an effective date of 1/1/08. The updated building Code changes will affect all buildings constructed in the City, including those built by the University of Delaware. Mr. Dentel and the Committee felt these changes were very positive.

A key item in Planning's report included allowances for increasing floor area during the site plan approval process. This was one of the more important incentives that the City had to offer. Mr. Dentel's only concern regarded the LEED silver certification referenced in Amendment Two. He felt the silver level might be too difficult to attain and that basic LEED certification would be a sufficient goal.

Mr. Dentel recommended endorsing the report with a wording change under Amendment Two as follows: "Energy conservation defined as site and/or construction design that the Building Department has certified meets or exceeds the "**certified**" level as stipulated in the LEED program or a comparable Building Department approved program."

MOTION BY MR. STIEGLER, SECONDED BY MR. PRASAD: TO ENDORSE THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT'S REPORT AS AMENDED BY THE CAC.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. VOTE: 6 to 0.

AYE: Bennett, Dentel, Fruehstorfer, Philipp, Prasad, Stiegler

NAY: 0

ABSENT: Beard, Sheedy

4. FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION AND STORMWATER REGULATIONS

There were no comments.

5. CURBSIDE RECYCLING

The City's recommendation was for a voluntary curbside recycling program with once a week recycling and once a week refuse collection by Newark's Public Works Department. Anticipated implementation date for the program will be 2009. CAC

members were pleased to receive the report and will invite Carol Houck and Rich Lapointe to attend the December 11th meeting to discuss ideas for presenting the program to the public. The possibility of changes to the DSWA igloo recycling centers will also be discussed in light of the City's new recycling program.

6. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Mr. Dentel encouraged Committee members to offer nominations at the next meeting.

7. REVIEW OF PLANNING DEPT. REPORTS RE POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

(a) Mr. Bennett expressed concern about the proposed mural at the Delaware Avenue s-turns referenced in the October 3rd Planning Department report, item 10. He felt this was a dangerous location for a mural and thought the safety aspect should be considered by a traffic authority. Mr. Bennett will pursue the issue with Maureen Feeney-Roser.

(b) Mr. Bennett questioned item 13-B on page 2 of the October 3rd report which referenced an amendment to the Subdivision and Development Regulations to improve the public improvements process for residential subdivisions. Mr. Bennett will contact Mr. Lopata for further details on this topic.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

(a) Mr. Stiegler referenced the August 30th Wall Street Journal article he sent to Committee members about drink bottle recycling. DE was one of only 11 states that had a deposit law to encourage consumers to recycle beverage containers. The recycling rate in deposit states was approximately 70%, compared to 34% nationwide. The beverage industry was also working to reduce the weight of recycled plastic (PET) bottles which were cheaper and more lightweight than newly made plastic.

(b) Mr. Stiegler also sent the Committee an article about PNC Bank's efforts toward obtaining LEED certification.

(c) Mr. Stiegler mentioned that DuPont received LEED approval or certification for their Tyvek wrap.

(d) Mr. Bennett noted that the Planning Commission review of the Newark Country Club was tabled due to inadequacies in the plan presented by the developer.

9. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:12 PM.

Alice Van Veen
Secretary

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