

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

May 13, 2014

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kass Sheedy, Acting Chair, John Hornor, George Irvine, (arrived 7:10), Bob McDowell, Carol Riggs, Kass Sheedy, John Wessells

ABSENT: Tom Fruehstorfer, Ajay Prasad

GUEST: Leslie Purcell, Newark Resident

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON APRIL 8, 2014

MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 8, 2014 MEETING BE APPROVED AS RECEIVED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. GUEST – DEE DURHAM, CFRE – ROOTS AND SHOOTS INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER FROM THE JANE GOODALL INSTITUTE

Ms. Durham was present to discuss Plastic Bags and their detriment to the environment. The following quick facts were noted: (The Power Point presentation is in the CAC file – located in the City Secretary office)

- 1 trillion plastic bags are used worldwide annually
- 102,105,637,000 plastic bags used in the U.S. annually
- 12,000,000 barrels of oil used annually to make plastic bags that the U.S. consumes
- 1,126,774 number of plastic bags picked up on ocean beaches in 2009 during the International Coastal Cleanup Day (actual numbers) They are the number two item found on the beach after cigarette butts
- 3,570,000 tons of plastic bags thrown away in the U.S.
- An American household uses 500 plastic bags annually

Ms. Durham further reiterated that although the numbers are estimates it is still a very serious issue that needs to be addressed.

Ms. Durham also presented a copy of House Bill No. 15 “An Act to Amend Chapter 60, Title 7 of the Delaware Code Relating to Recycling and Waste Reduction in the State of Delaware.” This law is currently in effect. A copy will be kept in the CAC file

as well.

MOTION BY MS. SHEEDY SECONDED BY MR. WESSELS THAT THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE FUTURE BAN OF PLASTIC BAGS IN THE CITY.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. GUEST: Leslie Purcell – Newark Resident

Ms. Purcell stated she was in support of the plastic bag ban and she encouraged the CAC to see if the University would become involved. In addition, she reported University students are wasting food and other household items that could be utilized elsewhere rather than throwing out the items.

4. LEED

Mr. Hornor stated it was his opinion the LEED issue (along with the addition of green roofs) should be revisited in the near future.

Action Item: Mr. McDowell will contact Joe Charma to get further information on the E. Delaware Avenue project (Tsionas) for “green” potential. Mr. Hornor will review the City’s LEED program and report back to the CAC.

5. GREEN TRANSPORTATION

Ms. Sheedy was unable to reach Ms. Bangerter to see what information she may have had before her departure from the CAC. Ms. Riggs will check to see if she has a copy of Ms. Bangerter’s report. She also suggested checking with the City to see if the “Transportation Committee” still existed. Mr. Irvine suggested once the Comprehensive Plan is in place to revisit Green Transportation.

6. BACKYARD HABITAT

Mr. McDowell reported that DNREC will pick up the tab for certifying all the City parks are Habitat Friendly. Applications and checklists must be forwarded to Laurie Athey at the Nature Society.

7. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Mr. Irvine will talk to Councilwoman Hadden about getting on the Council agenda to present A Better Newark Award at an upcoming meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 7:00 pm in the City Manager’s Conference Room.

9. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:09 PM

/tas

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary