

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

March 11, 2014

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kass Sheedy (presiding), John Hornor, Bob McDowell, Ajay Prasad, Carol Riggs, John Wessells

ABSENT: Tom Fruehstorfer, George Irvine, Cara Lampton

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Coleman, Asst. Public Works and Water Resource Director
Mike Fortner, Development Supervisor, Planning & Development

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 14, 2014

MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 14, 2014 MEETING BE APPROVED AS RECEIVED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present from the public to speak.

3. Guests:

**Tom Coleman, Assistant Public Works & Water Resource Director
Topic: Wetlands Design Alternative**

Mr. Tom Coleman stated he was present for the second time to discuss the amendment to the riparian buffer regulations. Specifically the issue at hand is an error in the wording that needs to be corrected. It relates to how riparian buffers are handled on previously developed parcels. It was his opinion that the intent would be to have a 50 foot buffer on everything unless there was development that was closer than 50 feet; in which case it could be redeveloped what was there prior but could not necessarily go any closer to the wetlands. However, the "up to 50 feet" had been omitted off the Code. The way it currently was written, from previously developed parcels, the riparian buffer extends from the wetlands jurisdictional line to the impervious surface. This has resulted in the inability for any redevelopment whatsoever on a parcel that has been previously developed. Mr. Coleman stated this needed to be fixed. In addition, there was "wording" that needed to be fixed. Currently there was no way to build new wetlands within 50 feet of existing wetlands. There is no exemption in the riparian buffer wording to allow the anyone to go into the riparian buffer to enhance the wetlands.

Mr. Fruehstorfer had suggested (via email in his absence) a higher intensity planting zone adjacent to the riparian buffer. It was Mr. Coleman opinion this issue would best be handled in a second amendment because further research is needed and he would prefer to move forward with this amendment. Mr. Coleman stated he would add that "all new plants added to wetlands or buffer zones are native or non-invasive." Mr. Fruehstorfer's second question was "How do wetlands relate to floodplain and stream regulations." It was Mr. Coleman's understanding that streams that require the buffer to protect the streams will enhance the wetlands regulation also pertain to and protect streams."

Mr. Coleman asked for the support of the CAC for the current bill (amendment to the regulation) and would the CAC be willing to discuss, review and support a second amendment when the need arises. The Commission stated they would and responded with the following motion:

MOTION BY MR. MCDOWELL, SECONDED BY MR. WESSELS THAT THE CURRENT PROPOSED WETLANDS AMENDMENT BE APPROVED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE WILL BE A SECOND AMENDMENT TO ADDRESS ADDITIONAL CONCERNS AT A LATER DATE.

VOTE: 6-0

AYE: HORNOR, MCDOWELL, PRASAD, RIGGS, SHEEDY, WESSELLS

NAY: NONE

ABSENT: FRUEHSTORFER, IRVINE

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Fortner was present to update the CAC on the Comprehensive Development Plan. He distributed the current draft of the Plan dated March 4, 2014. Ms. Sheedy asked why the Plan does not include goals and more specific items. Mr. Fortner stated the Plan is geared to be broad and inclusive rather than detailed.

At the last meeting "baseline metrics" and/or benchmarking had been suggested regarding stormwater. Mr. Coleman stated it could prove quite expensive. It was suggested that Kelly Dinsmore, Stormwater Program Coordinator, at the City be invited to an upcoming meeting to provide further details on all the various data collection that has already been implemented.

Mr. Fortner agreed with the recommendation items such as backyard habitats and rain barrels should be included in the Plan. Mr. McDowell suggested the Plan also cover green energy and solar panels. Mr. Fortner reported the Planning Commission section details this. In addition Ms. Sheedy made the suggestion to be more specific when it comes to non-renewable energy and the reduction of such. Mr. Fortner reiterated the purpose of the Plan is not to get so specific.

It was Ms. Riggs opinion that without specific goals the Plan would not progress. How will we be able to judge if we more sustainable? It was suggested to have an action item in the Plan to track important accomplishments and tabulate there effect to the City. The issue: cost. It would be difficult to determine what the cost would be for such a

proposal.

Mr. Coleman suggested the Plan have an action item asking for a master plan for stormwater and green energy. It was suggested the CAC come up with action items for Chapter 7 of the Comprehensive Plan.

Action Item: Mr. Fortner will take additional action items suggested by the CAC prior to his submittal to his submission at the March 25, 2014.

4. Future Goals for 2014/2015

- Discuss LEED and making it more stringent (increase the number of points by 5 annually. (Mr. Fruehstorfer)
- Increase renewable energy (Mr. Prasad & Mr. McDowell)
- Carbon footprint study - do an energy audit (Mr. Prasad & Mr. McDowell)
- Plastic bag reduction/elimination (Ms. Sheedy and Ms. Riggs)
- Rooftop gardens (Mr. Hornor)
- Backyard Habitats (Mr. McDowell)

5. Discussing Public Comment (time permitted)

This will be discussed further at a later time. The CAC can always decide to extend a speaker's allowable time or schedule a time as an agenda item at a later date.

6. Anti-Idling

Ms. Riggs will follow up at a later date on ways to educate the public.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 7:00 pm in the City Manager's Conference Room.

10. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:07 PM

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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