

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

January 14, 2014

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

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

ABSENT: Tom Fruehstorfer

STAFF PRESENT: Charlie Emerson, Parks & Recreation Director

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 8, 2013

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present from the public to speak. Ms. Sheedy, acting chair wished to note CAC members (with the exception of Carol Riggs) had received a flyer in the mail regarding the upcoming the proposed power plant.

3. GREEN ENERGY

Mr. Irvine asked to be brought up to speed on what transpired at the previous meeting as he was absent. He also asked for details of the 05-H funding. Mr. Irvine asked if the City "marketed" the Green Energy fund available for homeowners to offset the cost of implementing solar panels for their homes. Ms. Sheedy stated to her knowledge the City had. It was Ms. Sheedy's opinion there was a limited pool of people who even with the grants have the money to install solar panels on their homes. Additionally, among that group of people, there are limited set of locations where it is feasible to install solar panels. Ms. Lampton stated it was her opinion the Municipal Electric Corporation may find it more equitable to direct the City to use the funds so that it will benefit all City residents versus only promoting projects that certain residents can afford. Mr. McDowell stated part of Councilman Markham's plan regarding McKees Park included residents could "buy in" to the Park rather than install solar panels on their home. They would then receive dividends on their respective electric bills.

Action Item: The Commission decided the next meeting will be dedicated to a brainstorming session to discuss future goals for 2014/2015 (to be noted on the agenda).

4. RECYCLING/LITTER

Ms. Sheedy stated at the last meeting Mr. Fruehstorfer was going to follow-up with Tom Coleman to get additional information on metal recycling. The CAC will follow up with Mr. Fruehstorfer. Ms. Riggs stated the CAC had hopes of having a dumpster for metal recycling located within the City. Both the City and residents would benefit from such a program. Carpeting recycling had been an interest as well; however, there was a profit for metal recycling and not for carpet recycling. Ms. Sheedy stated carpet recycling and metal recycling had been discussed in the past. He had also spoken with Mr. Simonson and at this time these types of items would not be included in the City pick-up. Ms. Riggs reported she knew of a company that would do carpet recycling. Mr. Fruehstorfer stated he knew of a company that would put a dumpster in the City; however after speaking with Mr. Simonson he informed Mr. Fruehstorfer the City did have a metal program.

Mr. Spadafino stated it was his opinion the City's yard would not be an option to place a metal dumpster as it was not accessible after 4:00 pm. In addition, Ms. Sheedy stated the City may have a liability issue if the public were to have access to the City yard property.

Action Item: Ms. Sheedy will follow-up with Mr. Fruehstorfer to see if he touched base with Tom Coleman a metal recycling program.

6. BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Mr. McDowell reported he had received correspondence from Lori Athey, the representative from Delaware Nature Society who replaced Greg Gagliano. Mr. McDowell stated the City of Newark needs 30 more backyard habitats for the City to be certified as a "habitat friendly" town. Mr. McDowell also reported he would be sending home applications with his students at his next Newark High School Nature Society meeting so the parents may participate. The fee to become certified is \$30.00. The homeowner will then receive a sign that may be placed on the property as incentives to neighbors. Ms. Riggs suggested a press release and Mr. Irvine suggested a blurb be added to the next Parks & Recreation newsletter. Mr. Emerson stated that could be done and asked the information be provided to him.

After review, the CAC decided to award the A Better Newark Award to the Village of Fountainview. The application was submitted by John Wessels, CAC member and resident of Fountainview. Mr. Irvine suggested hosting an event or incorporating it into Community Days for past awardees of the A Better Newark Award. Their ideas and discussion may serve to motivate others to improve their yards and generate ideas. Mr. Irvine also raised the idea to give an additional type of award for exceptional achievements in the same arena. Ms. Sheedy suggested separating the award into residential/commercial. In addition, Mr. Irvine suggested the A Better Newark Award be given at a Council meeting to also help raise awareness.

MOTION THAT THE A BETTER NEWARK AWARD BE AWARDED TO THE VILLAGE OF FOUNTAINVIEW.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Action Items: Mr. McDowell will forward information and photographs regarding the backyard habitat to Mr. Emerson so it may be included in a future Parks & Recreation newsletter. Mr. Wessels will forward pictures to Tara Schiano to be included with the A Better Newark Award for The Village of Fountainview. Mr. Irvine will view the Toole property (another potential A Better Newark Award) and obtain photographs. Mr. Irvine will contact Marge Hadden to suggest giving the award at future Council meetings.

7. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

- Ms. Schiano will follow-up with Elizabeth Dowell to add the new members to the Planning Department Reports distribution list.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

City Comprehensive Report: The following ideas were discussed/suggested:

- controlling/reducing stormwater
- construct retention and/or detention ponds in older neighborhoods.
- Strengthen riparian buffers standards.
- Approach small businesses to install retention ponds under parking lots
- Encourage rain gardens

Ms. Sheedy reported that in the past, Ms. Riggs had suggested reviewing master/comprehensive plans from other cities similar to Newark. Mr. Irvine reported he had spoken with Mike Fortner regarding the comprehensive plan. Mr. Fortner stated there are two more planning sessions. The final session will entail the rollout of comprehensive plan.

Ms. Riggs brought Mr. Hornor up to speed on the Anti-Idling Ordinance. Ms. Riggs suggested revisiting promoting the Anti-Idling ban in the spring.

In the past, the CAC had refrained from publicly speaking for or against projects before the City. Ms. Sheedy read a brief paragraph that she believed would not cross any legal boundaries. It was Mr. Emerson's suggestion the CAC ask for verification from the City Solicitor before any correspondence is released by the CAC.

Action Items: Ms. Lampton will share via email with CAC members some ideas regarding the comprehensive plan. After receiving feedback from the Commission, she will then forward to Mike Fortner. Ms. Riggs will contact Newark PD to see if any tickets have been issued for idling and to see if they would be agreeable to do a workshop on the subject. Mr. Prasad will take one of the posters to the UD parking office to display. Ms. Sheedy will ask Tom Fruehstorfer to ask the City Solicitor about the CAC's boundaries on issuing such an opinion.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 7:00 pm in the City Manager's Conference Room.

10. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:15 PM

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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