

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

June 10, 2014

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

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

ABSENT: George Irvine, Kass Sheedy

STAFF: Tim Filasky, Deputy Director of Public Works and Water Resources

GUEST: Stu Markham, Councilman, District 6
Lou Vitola, Finance Director, City of Newark
Scott Lynch, Energy Services Manager, DEMEC

PUBLIC: Amy Roe, Newark Resident

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON MAY 13, 2014

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. GUEST – LOU VITOLA, FINANCE DIRECTOR, CITY OF NEWARK

Mr. Vitola was present to obtain input from the CAC on Green Energy (McKees Park) prior to the City Council to be held on scheduled for June 23. Mr. Vitola reported the following:

- Community input in McKees Park is essential
- The Voluntary Green Energy Program (voluntary block program) has been discontinued at this juncture.
- The Green Energy Fund continues (state mandated)
- Funds from the Green Energy program will be used to pay off McKees Park
- The approximate start-up date for McKees Solar Park - September 2014. Last summer was very wet and held up initial construction.

Amy Roe wanted to know how long the wait was for Green Energy Funds: Mr. Vitola/Mr. Lynch stated four months was the wait time.

Mr. Vitola suggested four options to enable community involvement:

- Panel donation. The cost would be approximately \$250.00. The individual's name will be recognized (kind of like a name plate concept) and also mentioned on our website; however this is strictly a donation.
- Purchase a block of electricity which would enable you to receive a credit on your bill. This would last the length of the project.
- Efficiency comes with a cost, i.e. sacrifice of sorts. For example LED bulbs are a good way to be efficient, but the initial output can be a bit more expensive. (Potential idea: LED bulb giveaway.)
- Voluntary Green Energy Blocks

Mr. Markham stated it was his opinion that an LED bulb giveaway may not be such a good idea because you could never be certain the consumer will use them. It was his suggestion to keep the money such a giveaway would cost and find other ways to showcase the program to the community.

Ms. Roe stated phantom loads have more significance with LED bulbs. She further stated it is very important to inform people to eliminate “phantom” loads by unplugging items when not in use i.e. cable and TVs. Durham further reiterated that although the numbers are estimates it is still a very serious issue that needs to be addressed.

Action Item: Tom will draft a document and distribute to CAC for comments prior to the June 23 Council Meeting so Mr. Vitola may bring the CAC suggestions to the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no further public comment as the individual's present asked questions during Mr. Vitola's presentation.

4. 2014/2015 FUTURE GOALS

- What are the areas that can utilize energy efficiency? What can the City do to actively pursue energy efficiency? Where is major energy consumption in the City?
- The CAC needs to stay focused on the reduction of plastic bags. Mayor Sierer and Councilman Chapman expressed interest in pursuing the reduction of plastic bags in the City as well.

5. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

There were no new applicants to review.

6. NEWARK NIGHT

The CAC will not be able to participate this year as everyone's schedule is booked that day.

7. ANTI-IDLING

The suggestion was made to hang banners reminding students about the Anti-Idling ban prior to their September return/arrival. In addition, the remainder of the signs need to be installed.

8. NEXT MEETING

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

9. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:44 PM

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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