

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

August 12, 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, Kass Sheedy, John Wessells

ABSENT: George Irvine

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON JUNE 10, 2014

MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 10, 2014 MEETING BE APPROVED AS RECEIVED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present from the public to speak.

3. GREEN ENERGY

Tom Fruehstorfer reported he had followed up with DEMEC after the June CAC meeting regarding the energy efficient bulbs. He reported they would be distributed to people in need (i.e. charities as well) and would not randomly be handed out to people who may or may not use them. Additionally, an incentive may be proposed where people who use reusable bags would be rewarded with the energy efficient bulbs.

John Wessells reported Rick Deadwyler expressed interest in minimizing plastic bags used the UDEL community. After some thought, Mr. Deadwyler stated it could prove to be a very expensive endeavor, with his initial calculations at 80,000 bags. This count did not include residents in his calculations. Funding may be difficult without obtaining a grant to offset a portion of the costs.

Off topic (agenda item) The City of Newark's Garden Tour to benefit Newark City Parks will occur on September 13. Details can be obtained at the following website: <http://www.greaternewark.org>. Tickets are available for purchase now. Please see the website. There is a suggested donation of between \$10.00-\$20.00. Visitors will be given a map to tour city parks and certified backyard habitats. Funds generated would be used for the maintenance for the Habitat Certification for the City; continued certification of

newly installed backyard habitats, park certification, etc. The CAC agreed to partner with the organizer for the tour.

4. BACKYARD HABITAT

Tom Fruehstorfer spoke with Tommy Atadan, City staff member who was currently assisting with duties done previously by Dana Johnston. Mr. Atadan agreed to assist the CAC with a press release publicizing the City's Habitat Certification. There was discussion of whether to combine this with the Garden Tour. The event could either be held at a City Park or at the home of a resident participating in the Garden Tour. Mr. McDowell volunteered to hold the event in his backyard as he is a Certified Backyard Habitat.

Action Items: Tom Fruehstorfer will follow up with Tommy Atadan and Lori Athey (Delaware Nature Society) on how to proceed at this juncture. Ms. Riggs agreed to forward the completed announcement to her media contacts when ready. Ms. Riggs will contact Lori Athey for suggestions on what type of event the CAC should have.

5. COMMUNITY DAY

The date is September 21. The following items can be emphasized at the booth:

- Wildlife Habitat
- Plastic bags
- Green Energy
- Stormwater Management
- Public Transportation
- Clean Drinking Water

It was suggested to use an interactive display to get the public's input on issues that are important to them. The public can "vote" on topics that are important to them by placing stickers on the item. Following the event, the CAC can tally the items and may choose to focus their efforts on items the public view as important issues.

The CAC can also showcase past achievements; Anti-Idling, LEED, Green Energy, etc.

Mr. McDowell and Mr. Fruehstorfer volunteered to man the booth for the event.

6. STORMWATER UTILITY

It was the opinion of the CAC that there is difficulty in determining what to charge residents and commercial properties for impervious surfaces as it clearly is not comparable. It is a hot topic for individuals who are experiencing flooding issues while those who are not, are hesitant to pay a fee. It was noted that people will be able to appeal based on individual circumstances. Tim will forward a document to the CAC within the next few days detailing the issue for follow up at a later date.

7. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Mr. Prasad will follow up with Mike Greenberg (a previous potential property). His home is the vicinity of Corbitt & Main Streets. It was decided the CAC would hand out applications for the award to interested parties at Community Day. Another potential commercial recipient is the DOW Company. They have constructed a rain garden on their property in the Diamond State Industrial Park. It was suggested when a member gets an opportunity to view the property they do so and report back at a later meeting.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The current plastic bag law that could mandate plastic bag recycling has been extended for another three years. The CAC still has the interest of Council members Stu Markham and Luke Chapman. It was agreed the CAC should still consider inviting both Council members to an upcoming meeting to discuss the topic. After further discussion on how to proceed the CAC decided the following:

MOTION THAT THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION EXPLORE WAYS TO REWARD CITY SHOPPERS FOR USING REUSABLE BAGS.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

In addition, Mr. Fruehstorfer suggested another motion:

MOTION THAT THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION INITIATE A PROCESS TO CREATE LEGISLATION TO BAN PLASTIC BAGS, OR TO IMPOSE A FEE FOR THE USE OF PLASTIC BAGS.

MOTION PASSED 5-1

Yay: John Hornor, Bob McDowell, Ajay Prasad, Kass Sheedy, John Wessells

Nay: Tom Fruehstorfer

Absent: Carol Riggs (departed at 9:00 pm), George Irvine

It was further noted that although a law banning plastic bags cannot be passed for the next 3 years, the CAC believed the topic warranted further action prior to the three years.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 7:00 pm in the City Manager's Conference Room.

10. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:20 PM

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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