

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

NOVEMBER 13, 2007

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Bennett presided prior to the arrival of Steve Dentel, Steven Beard, Robert Bennett, Thomas Fruehstorfer, Ajay Prasad, Kass Sheedy, Fred Stiegler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kurt Philipp

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Zaleski, Parks & Recreation Department

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 9, 2007

MOTION BY MR. FRUEHSTORFER, SECONDED BY MR. PRASAD: THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 9, 2007 MEETING BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. VOTE: 6 to 0.

AYE: Beard, Bennett, Fruehstorfer, Prasad, Sheedy, Stiegler

NAY: 0

ABSENT: Dentel, Philipp

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments forthcoming.

3. GREEN BUILDING INCENTIVES FOR NEWARK

Mr. Dentel had no update regarding when the Planning Commission would review the amendment to the Zoning Code for the LEED energy conservation building program. Mr. Lopata suggested the completion of the LEED scorecard might be incorporated as part of the building permit process. Mr. Dentel will discuss how this could be accomplished with Mr. Sciulli.

Mr. Stieger distributed an article from the October 23, 2007 Review regarding LEED certified construction initiatives in Newark. Mr. Dentel and Mr. Prasad were quoted in this article.

Mr. Dentel commented on increased interest by University students in recycling and green building. Mr. Prasad noted that the Students for the Environment were circulating a petition to lobby the Public Service Commission to rule in favor of the Rehoboth wind farm.

Mr. Stiegler shared an article from the November 8, 2007 Wall Street Journal regarding green building standards for homes.

Mr. Bennett referred to a recent issue of Sierra Club that was devoted primarily to green energy.

4. FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION AND STORMWATER REGULATIONS

Mr. Stiegler questioned the status of Mr. Fruestorfer's draft document of July 10, 2007 and subsequent meeting with Messrs. Lopata and Emerson on July 23rd and commented that a great deal of effort went into the report. Mr. Fruestorfer said City staff was in agreement with some of the report's recommendations and that he needed to do more work on it with City staff. Mr. Dentel volunteered his assistance.

This item will be on the agenda for the December 11th meeting.

5. CURBSIDE RECYCLING

Mr. Dentel reported the Delaware Solid Waste Authority made changes in their curbside recycling program. Recyclables no longer need to be sorted as DSWA equipment separates the items, there is no use of plastic bags, and the charge has been increased with a decrease in the frequency of pick ups. Ms. Houck and Mr. Lapointe will attend the December CAC meeting to review the City's proposal for in-house recycling. Mr. Dentel felt the CAC should play some role in helping to implement the City's new program.

Mr. Stiegler suggested inviting Mr. Greenland of the University of Delaware to attend the recycling discussion at the December CAC meeting, and Mr. Dentel agreed to contact him via e-mail.

6. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Several properties were discussed for the next award including homes where geothermal systems have been installed. Mr. Dentel has a list of area locations from a contractor who installs the systems. Mr. Zaleski felt the new landscaping at the reservoir might be suitable for consideration, and the property at Phillips Mill was also discussed. Mr. Beard mentioned the old fraternity house on Courtney Street that is being converted to

a University of Delaware International Center. He will photograph the three properties prior to the December meeting. Committee members would like to increase awareness of this program, and Mr. Dentel will ask Mr. Sciulli if the nomination forms could be given out in the Building Department during the permit process.

7. REVIEW OF PLANNING DEPT. REPORTS RE POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

(a) Mr. Stiegler commented on the Planning Department weekly report dated 11/7/07, item 13, where Mr. Lopata referenced the first in-house draft updating the City's Comprehensive Development Plan. Mr. Dentel will contact Mr. Lopata to express the CAC's interest in reviewing the plan.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

(a) Mr. Dentel distributed a report on green energy purchases for the first ten months of the year. The numbers were provided by Mr. McFarland in response to a meeting between Mr. Dentel and the Students for the Environment who wanted to know the percentage and amount of green energy being purchased by the University. The University's green energy purchases were approximately 3.6%, and their yearly voluntary contribution was about \$179. The total green energy purchased by the City was almost 4%, which was considerably higher than Mr. Dentel expected. City residents and businesses voluntarily paid approximately \$2843 above their normal power bill for green energy for the ten month period, or approximately \$3412 for the year. The Committee was pleased with the City's percentage of green energy purchased. CAC members would like more of the green energy supply to be wind energy. Mr. Stiegler advised there would be a five agency review of the Public Service Commission Energy Report on November 20th. Mr. Prasad noted several errors on the report where hydropower and LFG were transposed under the City and University premium amounts. Mr. Dentel will send out a corrected report.

(b) Mr. Stiegler provided material from the Delaware Energy Office regarding their energy program and a green energy program fact sheet for cities in Delaware.

(c) Mr. Bennett had not yet pursued his concerns about the s-turn mural plans for Delaware Avenue.

(d) Mr. Stiegler congratulated Alice Van Veen for completing course work in the International Institute of Municipal Clerks training program offered by the University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration.

9. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:40 PM.

Alice Van Veen
Secretary

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