

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

October 14, 2014

MEETING CONVENED: 7:08 p.m. City Manager's Conference Room

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

ABSENT: Carol Riggs, Kass Sheedy

GUESTS: Polly Sierer, Mayor
Stu Markham, Councilman, District 6

STAFF: Tom Coleman, Director of Public Works and Water Resources

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

John Hornor stated he was not at the meeting. His name should be listed as absent.

MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 MEETING BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Stu Markham, Councilman wished to report McKee's Solar Park was online. It created one megawatt of power on the previous Sunday. Councilman Markham provided a report entitled Solar Policies and Incentives for the CAC to review. The City of Newark currently pays one-third of the cost of installation (up to \$15,000). Mr. Fruehstorfer stated it was his opinion that the City should continue to help fund interested residents. He reported that the City of Newark was the only Delaware city that currently offers incentives for installing solar. Also the City of Newark is DEMEC's largest and currently accounts for 43%. Therefore, of all the participating cities, The City of Newark would most likely to have the Green Energy Fund than other cities. Mr. Irvine inquired the amount of Green Energy fees collected by the City monthly. Mr. Markham replied he believed the amount to be between \$10,000-\$11,000. When the usage increases, the fees do as well; so the number could increase. There was currently a backlog of approximately \$43,000 on current grant applications. He also stated he would discuss with the remaining Council members about the CAC reviewing all Green Energy projects in the future. Also, it would be advisable to ask Council to stop taking grants while the CAC evaluates this issues to alleviate any further back-up.

Additionally, Mr. Markham would like to ask the CAC to review what the City offers

currently, compare it to either cities and compare it to Delmarva. The goal would be to offer an incentive without being overly generous.

Several CAC members reported they had gone through an Energy Audit and found it extremely beneficial. There was no one else present from the public to speak.

3. GREEN ENERGY

Tom Fruehstorfer suggested splitting the Green Energy fees into three equal parts: one-third for residents, one-third for projects such as McKee's and the remaining one-third for the reduction of larger energy consumption items. It was also suggested by Mr. Markham to encourage the payback of McKee's Park before additional projects are launched.

4. SOLAR REFUSE & RECYCLING CONTAINERS

Mr. Coleman reported the three solar compactors had been placed in heavy use areas. The payback will be approximately 9 years (life of the unit). However, in the 9 years, there are many added benefits. The units are more efficient, with the amount of times pickup is necessary decreased significantly. The plan was to buy an additional 27 units. It was the opinion of the CAC the use of the compactors would greatly enhance the City of Newark as a progressive town. The CAC drafted and approved a Resolution to recommend proceeding with the additional purchase.

5. LED LIGHTS

Mr. Irvine drafted and the Commission unanimously approved a Resolution instructing City staff to complete the analysis of switching to LED lighting on Main Street.

6. PLASTIC BAGS

The Commission will keep thinking about ways to give the public incentive to use plastic bags. The main issue with reusable bags continues to be the potential spread of E Coli. So the sharing of the reusable bags wasn't advisable. The Commission decided not to show the "Plastic bag" movie at this time. It was suggested the Commission approach some of the larger Main Street stores, i.e. Fusion, Home Grown, etc. to get the ball rolling and to promote and influence some of the other "smaller" retailers on Main Street into not using plastic bags in the future. The larger vendors, i.e. grocery chains in the City still need to be approached again as they will be the ones with the largest impact if they ban the use of plastic bags.

7. FUTURE GOALS 2014/215

This will be discussed at a later date.

8. COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Mr. Fruehstorfer reported the next scheduled meeting is Monday, October 20, 2014. The plan is on the City website. The Commission can attend and/or make

suggestions to Mike Fortner, Planning & Development Department

9. ANTI-IDLING

There are still many signs that need to be installed.

10. STORMWATER UNTILITY FEE

This continues to be an ongoing issue, with the biggest issue to residents being the cost.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Fruehstorfer reported that at Community Day the public had generally responded in a positive manner towards making changes/improvement that enhance the City on an environmental level. There was a Board that residents could use stickers to place where they felt the most important needs or places for improvement were.

12. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 7:00 pm in the City Manager's Conference Room.

13. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:58 PM

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

/tas