

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

November 11, 2014

MEETING CONVENED: 7:02 p.m. City Manager's Conference Room

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

ABSENT: Carol Riggs

GUESTS: Mike Fortner, Development Supervisor, Planning &
Development

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

(Secretary's Note: Due to technical difficulties with the recording system, the notes were done using internal minutes from Mr. Prasad and secretary notes.)

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 14, 2014

Item #4 Solar Refuse & Recycling Containers – Line 3 had a typo which was corrected.

MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 14, 2014 MEETING BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Fortner, Development Supervisor, Planning & Development reported on the status of the City's Flood Damage Reduction Ordinance. He explained that FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) had requested the City update the Floodplain Management Regulations. The City needs to update some of the Floodplain Ordinance "language and definitions" to remain compliant with FEMA regulations. DNREC will be consulted prior to finalization. Although some sections will be deleted, Mr. Fortner stated Section 32-96 will remain. The intent will be to remove inconsistencies, duplications, incorrect terminology; while maintaining the high standards and regulations the City already has in place. However, Mr. Fortner stressed it is imperative to be FEMA compliant.

3. GREEN ENERGY

Tom Fruehstorfer suggested the CAC meet to discuss a new plan for the reimbursement rate policy for homeowner's applications relating the Green Energy Fund. The CAC will discuss the draft, approve and distribute when complete. Mr. Fruehstorfer will confer with Scott Lynch at DEMEC.

The City does not permit homeowners to utilize 3rd party companies to own and operate solar panels on the homeowner's roofs. Currently connecting panels to the grid (if you own the grid is permitted). The issues that arise when a 3rd party operates the panels are the following: what happens when the house is sold? How do you pick an approved installer for the panels? Additionally, the more obvious is what would happen if many people installed the panels using a 3rd party? It would cut into the City's sale of electricity and reduce revenue back to the City.

4. SOLAR REFUSE & RECYCLING CONTAINERS

Mr. Coleman reported there were a few kinks that needed to be worked out prior to the CAC recommending the "go ahead" with a large scale program. Once the issues are resolved, Mr. Coleman will have the item placed on the Council meeting agenda for their approval.

5. LED LIGHTS

It was the opinion of the CAC that the public views LED streetlights as a "luxury." Since it's a 10 year payback and the life of LED light may only be 10 years, the public may view the project as unnecessary. However, street lights are the single biggest use of electricity (approximately \$2.4 million go to street lights). There are great many benefits to be derived from switching to the LED lights. They are: significantly better light quality, less light pollution, lower carbon footprint, significantly fewer repairs and decreased labor costs. It was the opinion of the CAC that the City should replace the high pressure sodium (HPS) streetlights with the more long term cost effective LED lights.

6. PLASTIC BAGS

Mr. Fruehstorfer reported that he had spoken with Scott Lynch from DEMEC. Mr. Lynch suggested local businesses could participate simply by adding a line at the end of their printed store receipt indicating the customer used a "reusable" bag. After collecting an agreed upon number of receipts (10 was suggested) the customer may take the receipts to a designated location and receive a "prize". Some items that were suggested were LED bulbs, free parking, etc. The CAC suggested "Earth Day" may be a good date to target as a rollout for this project. It was also suggested the individual businesses may be interested in providing "store credit" for the receipts. (Incentive for customers to return to make additional purchases).

7. FUTURE GOALS 2014/215

This will be discussed at a later date.

8. COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Mr. Fruehstorfer will follow up with Mr. Fortner on when the meeting is scheduled for and report back to the CAC.

9. ANTI-IDLING

There are still many signs that need to be installed.

10. NEW BUSINESS

There was nothing new to report at this time.

11. NEXT MEETING

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

13. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:58 PM

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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