

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

DECEMBER 11, 2007

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Dentel Presiding, Steven Beard, Robert Bennett, Wayne Casanova, Thomas Fruehstorfer, Ajay Prasad, Kass Sheedy, Fred Stiegler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kurt Philipp

STAFF PRESENT: Charlie Emerson, Parks & Recreation Director, Carol Houck, Assistant to the City Manager, Rich Lapointe, Public Works Director

1. CURBSIDE RECYCLING

Ms. Houck and Mr. Lapointe discussed the staff recommendation for in house curbside recycling. The recommendation was for recyclables to be collected curbside once a week at no extra charge to residents and for regular refuse collection to be reduced to one pick up per week. One benefit to in house collection was that the City would be able to use its existing equipment and personnel and thus have greater control over the program.

Mr. Fruehstorfer asked how the numbers were determined for volume and cost. Mr. Lapointe reported that Wilmington had curbside recycling for a year and a half, and he based his numbers on their program. They averaged a 29% diversion rate with a 72% set out rate. Wilmington also went from two day a week pick up to once a week recycling and once a week refuse collection. They used the Blue Mountain program, and residents received some type of incentive.

Ms. Sheedy questioned whether DSWA would continue to keep the igloos in place once the recycling program started. Mr. Lapointe hoped DSWA could be persuaded to maintain some stations because curbside recycling would not be offered to multi-family dwellings at this time. The igloos would provide recycling opportunities for apartment dwellers and for area businesses.

Mr. Lapointe stated the DSWA and Blue Mountain transfer stations currently offered no tipping fees to accept mixed recyclables, and the City had the option to use either facility. Mr. Beard asked if there was any difference in the types of recyclables accepted by Blue Mountain and DSWA. Mr. Lapointe said there was not much difference between the two.

Mandatory vs. voluntary recycling was discussed at length. Mr. Lapointe said there was not much difference financially between mandatory and voluntary, but two major issues were considered in the decision to implement voluntary recycling. One issue was negative feedback with the automated collection because of difficulty in storing the large carts. With recycling, there would be an additional cart to store. The recycling bins would be the same as the smallest carts we have now but will be a different color. The other possible negative issue was a perception of “losing” a second day of refuse collection. Mr. Lapointe felt these concerns should be addressed before giving consideration to having mandatory recycling.

To get a count on the number of carts required, residents would be sent a survey that must be returned in order to get a recycling bin. Since the City would purchase the carts, Mr. Lapointe said an accurate count was important as this was a big capital expense.

Ms. Houck envisioned a wide scale publicity campaign and public education program on Channel 22, in the newsletter and at Civic Association meetings. She felt that offering some type of incentive, perhaps in the form of an annual year end credit, would help to increase participation. Mr. Bennett suggested publicizing all the locations across the country that offered curbside recycling. Mr. Beard suggested the CAC investigate what was done with the recyclables by the DSWA and that this information be incorporated into the education program. He felt there was a misconception that recyclables were not separated from regular refuse at the landfill.

Mr. Stiegler questioned the implementation date of the yard waste ban, and Mr. Lapointe confirmed it was January 24, 2008.

Ms. Houck said if the Committee felt strongly about implementing mandatory recycling, they should convey that to Council who was waiting for feedback from the CAC.

MOTION BY MR FRUESTORFER, SECONDED BY MS. SHEEDY TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

The Conservation Advisory Commission enthusiastically endorses the curbside collection plan proposed by the City Manager. In addition, the CAC recommends:

1. An eventual goal of mandatory recycling should be set for all residents served by curbside collection.

2. Delaware Solid Waste Authority should be requested to maintain the igloo collections for the benefit of apartment, business, and University recyclers.

3. The CAC looks forward to advocating for this program and will also assist with longer term educational efforts to assure its success.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. VOTE: 8 to 0.

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

NAY: 0

ABSENT: Phillip

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2007

Under "Members Present", add Wayne Casanova.

Under item 4, Floodplain Protection and Stormwater Regulations, Mr. Stiegler modified the word "questioned" in the first sentence to "inquired about".

Under item 8, Old/New Business, Mr. Stiegler amended the second to last sentence to read: "Mr. Stiegler advised there would be a four (changed from five) agency review of the Public Service Commission Energy Report on November 20th."

MOTION BY MR. STIEGLER, SECONDED BY MR. CASANOVA: THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 13, 2007 MEETING BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. VOTE: 8 to 0.

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

NAY: 0

ABSENT: Philipp

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments forthcoming.

4. GREEN BUILDING INCENTIVES FOR NEWARK

Mr. Dentel noted at the December 4th Planning Commission meeting they recommended Council's approval of the changes to the Zoning Code incorporating LEED elements in the site plan approval process. Messrs. Dentel and Sciulli continued discussion on how to implement the LEED check list as a requirement for anyone submitting a building permit. One possibility would be for the City to require a minimum of ten points which was well below even basic LEED certification and continue to increase the required number of points over time. Ms. Sheedy and Mr. Stiegler thought that was a good idea.

5. ASSESSMENT OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Mr. Dentel reported he was working with the County on this project, but it was moving very slowly. He hoped to encourage some students to do an independent study project for the City or the University. He suggested the CAC might want to promote the City's endorsement of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) where they would make a commitment to take steps to inventory greenhouse gas emissions and develop an action plan for reducing these emissions and becoming more energy efficient. Mr. Dentel will provide more details on this at the next meeting.

6. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Mr. Beard provided photographs of several properties that were suggested for the award including Phillips Mill and the reservoir landscaping. He felt the Committee should wait to consider Phillips Mill until construction was completed and that spring would be more suitable timing for the reservoir landscaping. The International House on Courtney Street was also discussed, but construction was incomplete at that site. In regard to the nomination submitted for Clothes in the Past Lane, 56 E. Main Street, Mr. Fruehstorfer will obtain additional information for further consideration by the Committee. Mr. Dentel thought it might be a good idea to consider area merchants for future award recognition.

Mr. Stiegler noted the Newark Post recently featured a property where a geothermal heating and cooling system was installed, and he thought such properties might warrant further award consideration by the Committee. Mr. Dentel will try to obtain more information on geothermal installations in the City from Calvert Mechanical Systems, Inc., a company which installs the systems.

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 advised Mr. Lopata that the CAC was interested in reviewing the plan at an appropriate future date.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

(a) Mr. Beard referred to literature forwarded by Mr. Funk on a funding opportunity offered by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar America Initiative for 2008. This program awarded \$2.4 million to 8 to 12 cities to accelerate the adoption of solar technology at the local level. Mr. Casanova will explore the application process and provide further details at the January CAC meeting. Mr. Dentel will advise Mr. Funk that the CAC would investigate this opportunity.

(b) Mr. Dentel reported that the V2G (vehicle-to-grid) car was getting considerable

attention from the press. The system that enables this prototype car to run on electricity alone and to generate revenue by storing and providing electricity for utilities has been created by University of Delaware faculty, including CAC member Mr. Prasad, along with several University students.

(c) Mr. Stiegler distributed an article on health problems related to reusing plastic water bottles.

9. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:35 PM.

Alice Van Veen
Secretary

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