

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

February 9, 2015

MEETING CONVENED: 7:00 p.m. Council Chambers

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

ABSENT: George Irvine, Bob McDowell, Carol Riggs

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 13, 2015

MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 13, 2015 MEETING BE APPROVED AS RECEIVED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present from the public that wished to speak.

3. SOLAR REFUSE & RECYCLING CONTAINERS

Tom Coleman, Director of Public Works & Water Resources was not in attendance to provide an update.

4. GREEN ENERGY/CARBON FOOTPRINT

Mr. Hornor reported he utilized the data provided by Tom Coleman for fuel usage. Analysis of the data showed a decrease in 2014 and for the last five years. However, when the electric numbers were added (the 2014 electric numbers have not been provided yet). These numbers dominate so the change appears negligible. He is optimistic when he receives the 2014 numbers and they are added there will be more of a noticeable difference. Mr. Hornor stated the street lights use a lot of electricity. He further added the LED street lights have been in place for approximately five years on Main Street (2009) so the continuing trend to convert to LED's will make a difference but not a large difference, since not all street lights will be converted to the LED's. Mr. Fruehstorfer asked if Mr. Hornor was able to compare the numbers to the last carbon footprint study that was completed. Mr. Hornor stated he was unable to locate the numbers from the previous study. Mr. Fruehstorfer stated they could be obtained from a previous CAC Annual Report. Mr. Hornor will share his findings electronically to the rest of the Commission when compiled. Mr. Hornor stated it was his understanding that Mr. Coleman's stated there would be a savings of 600,000 lbs. of Co2 using the LED street lights. The new LED

street lights that the City has installed reduces the total City electricity usage by approximately 7-8%. Mr. Hornor suggested the CAC make a recommendation to switch to LED lights in other locations in the City, not just on Main Street. It was Mr. Fruehstorfer's opinion that it would be a "hard sell" to get additional money spent on additional LED lighting. Mr. Prasad asked if the initial payout of \$600,000 for the LED lights came out of the "SEU." (Sustainable Energy Unit). Mr. Prasad reported that he had been a meeting attended by the Director of "SEU", Mr. Tony Deprima. Mr. Deprima stated a bond is issued and the funds provide loans for sustainable energy products (such as LED lighting). The loan is then paid off by using the savings in energy usage.

Mr. Fruehstorfer stated he had not heard of SEU's being used to purchase LED's in the City. He will check with Scott Lynch at DEMEC if the funds would be available through the SEU to provide additional LED light conversions for additional locations within the City. (playgrounds, parks, etc.)

Ms. Sheedy asked if the CAC should make a suggestion on ways the City can reduce its carbon footprint since there has not been any decrease lately. She reiterated the CAC's goal (based on the City Charter) to "identify" and make recommendations about what "should" happen. Council can then choose to act or not on the recommendations.

Mr. Fruehstorfer said a decision needs to be made on a future recommendation for the Green Energy Fund (05-H). The City currently can utilize the \$120,000 that is slated for the fund. In the past the allocation of the funds was as follows: 1/3 residential (residents who install solar panels or geothermal units), 1/3 city solar parks, and 1/3 to replace aging City equipment (more efficient pumps, etc.). Mr. Fruehstorfer suggested a strategy needs to be in place on how to pay back the 1/3 (\$40,000) to residents. Mr. Fruehstorfer provided a handout on Newark Program Activity and Costs using Newark's Incentive Levels (copy kept in the CAC's file in the City Secretary's Office). The largest use was solar. In 2010, it was \$104,256.25, in 2011 it dropped to \$35,800.51 and has dropped each year thereafter. The previous numbers reflect the amount returned back to residents who installed solar systems. In 2012, the program was frozen. Additionally, there was a small amount over those years for Geothermal Programs (total amounting to \$6,000-\$7,000) for 2012 to 2014. Mr. Fruehstorfer stated if the solar park were to be paid off all of the money allocated would be gone with that one payoff. It was his opinion that would be ok.

Ms. Sheedy asked in terms of solar if Newark is "built out?" Meaning have all the people that *could* install solar have done so. Mr. Fruehstorfer reported it appeared the installations have decreased as indicated by the numbers. Mr. Fruehstorfer suggested estimating how much residents will ask for, then suggest a payment program to pay out \$30,000 (suggested amount) in a year. It was suggested using the current rebates, the CAC should suggest \$1000/kW. This would be a good number whether the rebate/incentive be for solar, wind or fuel cell. Geothermal would be \$600/ton. Solar thermal would be \$75/sq. ft. (10 square feet \$750.00). Mr. Prasad will verify the solar thermal number because in his opinion it sounds a bit high. Mr. Prasad used a comparison to describe a solar hot water system. It could be compared to a wooden box with a glass plate with copper tubing on the inside that is painted black. The sun beats down on the box and as the liquid (glycol) goes into the box it picks up heat and then is transferred to a storage tank in the basement. Glycol rather than water is used (water will freeze). During the day hot water is stored in the tank and then is displaced for electric or natural gas heating and for domestic hot water use (and for radiant heating as well). In our

area, evacuated tube collectors are used, which are expensive. Mr. Prasad will go back and review his notes (compiled when he started a company in 2008) and costs associated with such projects and come back with some up to date and more accurate numbers.

Mr. Fruehstorfer suggested recommending where the City money gets allocated. One-quarter of the money will always go toward the next solar project. The numbers will change from year to year. Mr. Hornor asked when the payoff date is for the solar park. Mr. Fruehstorfer approximated 2 years.

Ms. Katie Gifford, (public comment) confirmed the amount of Co2 from the lights was 600,000 pounds per year. Mr. Fruehstorfer will follow up with Ms. Gifford if the amount is found to be different.

Mr. Fruehstorfer suggested 05-H should be redone to shift the focus to other Green Energy projects like McKee's Park. When 05-H originated there wasn't any state mandate like there is in place now to require the City purchase Green Energy. Since there is such a requirement in place now, the focus should be encouraging and instituting new projects. Ms. Sheedy suggested the 05-H funds could be used for a new solar park, a wind tower, additional hybrid cars for city use or other projects.

5. FUTURE GOALS 2015

It will be revisited at a future meeting.

6. ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014

2013 Annual Report is complete. During the meeting, the Commission took some time and proofed and finalized the 2013 Annual Report.

MOTION MADE BY MS. SHEEDY THAT THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION ACCEPT THE 2013 ANNUAL REPORT. SECONDED BY MR. PRASAD.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5-0

Absent: George Irvine, Bob McDowell, Carol Riggs

The 2014 Annual Report needs to be finalized. The categories are as follows:

- Plastic bags/Recycling/Litter - Ms. Sheedy
- A Better Newark Award – Mr. Prasad
- Backyard Habitat – Mr. McDowell
- Green Energy – Mr. Hornor
- Community Day/Stormwater Utility & Floodplain Management/Comprehensive Plan – Mr. Fruehstorfer
- Future Goals – Mr. Wessells
- Public Comment – Mr. Fruehstorfer will collate (all should proofread)
- Planning Reports – Mr. Fruehstorfer will collate (all should proofread)
- Green Transportation – nothing to report
- LEED – nothing to report

A final draft will be presented and discussed at the March meeting.

7. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Mr. Hornor will do the application for Dow Chemical in the Delaware Industrial Site and contact the company to see if they have photographs on file. If not, he will wait until April/May to take pictures.

8. REVIEW OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

Mr. Hornor reported one of the proposed projects (The Lofts at Center Street) mentioned in the report suggested taking down some large trees in the downtown area.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was nothing to report.

9. COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The meetings are ongoing.

10. ANTI-IDLING

There was nothing to report.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 7:00 pm in **Council Chambers**.

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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