

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

June 9, 2015

MEETING CONVENED: 7:05 p.m. Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kass Sheedy (acting chair), George Irvine (arrived 7:08 pm)
Bob McDowell, Ajay Prasad, Kass Sheedy, John Wessells

ABSENT: Carol Riggs, John Hornor

GUESTS: Mayor Polly Sierer
Councilman, Stu Markham
Kismet Hazelwood, District 1

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON MAY 12, 2015

MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 12, 2015 MEETING BE APPROVED AS RECEIVED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilman Stu Markham stated CAC members should have received an email from the Energy Conservation representative from DNREC expressing interest in attending an upcoming CAC meeting. Mr. Irvine will follow up with Rob Underwood from DNREC to schedule the representative to attend an upcoming meeting.

Councilman Markham also asked the CAC to discuss the formula to distribution of CAC funds. (05-H). Mr. McDowell reported that Mr. Hornor and Mr. Fruehstorfer, Planning & Development Department are working on this matter. Mr. Irvine stated the CAC will follow up with Mr. Hornor and Mr. Fruehstorfer via email. Councilman Markham reminded the CAC, when this matter is finalized, it will need to go before Council for a vote.

Mayor Sierer introduced Kismet Hazelwood and reported she will be nominating her to the CAC. The nomination will be on the upcoming June 22 Council agenda.

Councilman Markham asked if anyone on the CAC had experience with solar powered go-karts or something similar. Councilman Markham commented the CAC is always looking for Green Energy Initiatives and Council is looking for new ways to bring people into the City for events. Councilman Markham suggested looking into go-cart races.

3. SOLAR REFUSE & RECYCLING CONTAINERS

Mr. Prasad asked if there was an update on how well the new containers are working. Mr. Irvine said he believed it was too soon for significant data on results. Ms. Sheedy reported she believed the Newark Post had done an article on containers. Mr. Irvine will follow-up with Tom Coleman, Director of Public Works & Water Resources to see if Mr. Coleman can provide any data on how well the containers are doing and any past comparisons as well.

Councilman Markham suggested using data compiled after Newark Night (June 13) to see how well the containers performed.

5. FUTURE GOALS 2015

- Electric go-kart grand prix - organizing an electric go-kart race on Main Street.
- Green Day - encouraging the City to host an event and invited various vendors (solar panel vendors, DEMEC, UDEL, etc.) Mayor Sierer said she and Councilman Markham would be in support of such a project and would participate as well.
- Arbor Day – Mayor Sierer suggested expanding off this concept. Ideas include: having City youth plant trees, or fostering a sapling for two years to ensure proper growth and then planting it.
 - 0 Choose areas that need revitalization (i.e. Cherry Hill Manor) and have plantings in areas that are interested in doing so.
 - 0 Spin off of the community garden in places such as Cherry Hill Manor or Dickey Park.
- Education efforts – outreach to all levels. Mr. Prasad suggested approaching the school clubs (i.e. nature society). Mr. McDowell stated Newark High School nature club is installing a solar pump in the pond in the wildlife habitat area.
- Wind Power – finding a location to demonstrate a small wind turbine or solar. Ideal venues: Newark Night, Community Day. Could grant money be found to fund such ideas?
- Plastic bags – It is Councilman's Markham's opinion that banning plastic bags will not be conducive. His recommendation is to involve the Downtown Newark Partnership and give away branded reusable bags and come up with an incentive to get people to reuse them. (i.e. multiple uses return a voucher for free parking, etc.). Councilman Markham encouraged the CAC to get the City vendors involved. Mr. Markham stated he would be agreeable to work with the CAC to make this happen. The City staff coordinator for the Downtown Newark Partnership is Ricky Nietubicz. Mr. Wessells stated he has a contact at UDEL (Rick Dedwiler) and he expressed interest in UDEL participating (UDEL bookstore). Mr. Irvine suggested someone from the CAC attend a Downtown Newark Partnership meeting to broach the topic with them.
- Conduct an electronic survey asking City resident what they would like the CAC to accomplish in the future. Could a notice be included with electric bill mailings providing information to links (i.e. a survey) on the City website?
- Anti-Idling – it was the general opinion that most of what is to be accomplished on this topic has been. However, there are still a few small issues that remain. Mayor Sierer recommended asking the Police Chief to attend a meeting to get up to date on issue. There is still the issue with cars idling at City schools. It was reiterated that idling is not a primary offense so they would only be ticketed or stopped for another offense initially. Mr. Irvine will follow up with Tom Coleman to see if the

City would be willing to let the CAC use the electronic sign. Ms. Schiano will give Mr. McDowell additional copies of the pamphlet. Mr. McDowell will give them to Newark High School students to distribute to parents picking up after school.

- LED Lights – Councilman Markham recommends the CAC continue to “plug” the positive effects (especially to Council) of LED lights within the City.
- Public Transport Network – Ms. Sheedy suggested revisiting this concept in the future.

6. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Mr. Hornor was not present at the meeting to discuss. He was scheduled to visit the site to take a picture of the site. Ms. Sheedy stated there were more awards given in the past because there was a larger number of outside nominations. Ms. Schiano will contact Tommy Atadan and Ricky Nietubicz to inquire about putting a banner on the City's website promoting A Better Newark Award. Ms. Sheedy will contact Our Newark DE website (Ann) to see if they would be interested in putting a blurb on the website. Ms. Sheedy will draft a press release (bullet points) detailing the award to share with the City's public affairs office. Mr. Irvine suggested having “A Better Newark Award” reunion with past winners and perhaps give out trees.

7. REVIEW OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

There was nothing new to report at this meeting.

8. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Sheedy will contact Councilman Luke Chapman to nominate someone to the CAC. However, it may be Mr. Irvine switching to Councilman Chapman's district due to a move. In that event, then a spot will open up in Councilwoman Hadden's district if Mr. Irvine moves to District 5.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at 7:00 pm in **Council Chambers**.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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