

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

July 14, 2015

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: George Irvine, Chair, Kismet Hazelwood, Bob McDowell, Ajay Prasad, Kass Sheedy, John Wessells

ABSENT: Carol Riggs, John Hornor

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON JUNE 9, 2015

MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 9, 2015 MEETING BE APPROVED AS RECEIVED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present from the public.

3. GREEN ENERGY

Mr. Hornor and Mr. Prasad continue to work on the recommendation. The concept to decide the payout equally into three categories.

- Private Projects
- Public Projects (McKees Solar Park)
- Municipal Energy Projects – LED lights or High Efficiency Pumps

Mr. Prasad reported paying a fixed rate (for example) of \$750 kilo watt hours for PV, wind and fuel cells may not be ideal. PV would be the most desirable since this price scales (linearly with size), this is not the case for fuel cells. The Department of Energy reported that 1 kilowatt fuel cell can cost upwards of \$10,000, but a 5 kilowatt system may cost only \$3,000 per kilowatt. Therefore, the price incentive (fixed price) is more financially feasible to those who can afford larger systems. As a comparison, a fixed price of \$50 per square foot (for example) would appear more attractive to buy a less efficient lower quality system. It would be better to continue with the old model indicating an incentive of a fraction based incentive of actual costs incurred. The final recommendation was to reduce the residential and business NTE caps for PV, wind and fuel cell from \$15,000/\$30,000 to \$7,500/\$15,000. The reasoning behind the decrease was caps for the system prices have decreased significantly over the time and the lower cap (cost) would enable more people to take advantage of the program. Additionally, it was decided that solar systems should be restricted to domestic hot water systems and exclude swimming pools and the like.

4. FUTURE GOALS 2015

- No discussion. Will continue discussion at a later meeting when current issues/goals are finalized.

5. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Mr. Nietubicz from the City will issue a press release in the near future asking City residents for additional A Better Newark Awards nominations.

6. REVIEW OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

It was reported Charlie Emerson, Parks & Recreation Director will be retiring effective January 2016. The CAC agreed to prepare a Resolution commending him for his long service as staff representative to the Commission.

7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McDowell discussed the idea of landscaping the median on Rt. 4 near the football stadium to prevent parking during games and fireworks. It was suggested that UDEL could landscape the east side of Rt. 4 (near S. College Avenue) and Bloom Energy could be approached to do the west side.

It was also discussed to install signs that Newark is a Certified Habitat Community on all entry points to the City.

Mr. Coleman, Public Works Director will provide performance information on the solar refuse containers when additional data is collected.

Minor corrections were made to the draft of the 2014 Annual Report that Mr. Irvine had circulated.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE 2014 ANNUAL REPORT AS AMENDED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 6-0

Absent: Carol Riggs, John Hornor

8. NEXT MEETING

There will not be a scheduled meeting in August (summer break) The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers with guest speaker Rob Underwood from EEAC (Energy Efficiency Advisory Council).

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

/tas