

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

April 18, 2016

MEETING CONVENED: 7:03 p.m. Council Chambers

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

ABSENT: John Hornor

STAFF: Tom Coleman, Director of Public Works & Water Resources
Tom Fruehstorfer, Planning & Development Department

GUEST: Donald Sharpe, Local 1183 U.A.W. Conservation Committee
Bill Foster, Environmentalist
Jo Anne Barnes, Boards & Commissions Review Committee

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON MARCH 8, 2016

MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 12, 2016 MEETING BE APPROVED AS RECEIVED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Donald Sharpe, Local 1183 U.A.W. Conservation Committee presented on behalf of the Coalition for Natural Stream Valleys, Inc. He stated the intent of that committee is to move the nature center that exists at the "Chambers House" in White Clay Creek to the property once owned by Dick Robinson (now owned by the state). They would like to name the nature center after Dorothy Miller and call the remaining portion "The Robinson Complex." In addition, they would take the existing nature center and make it a history museum. He reported his group had met with the Bond Bill Committee which included Co-Chair Senator David Sokola State Representative Paul Baumbach. Mr. Sharpe reported their intent is to ask for \$250,000 from the Bond Bill for start-up of this project. Mr. Sharpe would like the Conservation Advisory Commissions support. Mr. Sharpe reported they have the support of various other organizations including The White Clay Creek Wild & Scenic.

Ms. Sheedy confirmed if anyone attended from the Conservation Advisory Commission ("CAC") they would be representing the CAC, not the City.

Bill Foster, City Resident believed this project was important for City resident particularly the children of the community.

Mr. Irvine stated it was his opinion the CAC should consider recommending this proposal as this is right in line with what the CAC should be doing. (i.e. recommendation body). There is no financial obligation to the City and the CAC would certainly be within their scope to make a statement of support. Mr. McDowell reiterated Mr. Irvine's sentiments.

Ms. Smith confirmed the property was owned by the state and the bond money comes from the state and the Bond Bill Committee. Tom Fruehstorfer reported several City residents had expressed interest in raising chickens within City limits. He encouraged them to contact their designated Councilman. It is currently not permitted per City Code.

After discussion, the following recommendation was made:

The CAC recommends that the Newark City Council endorse the Coalition for Natural Stream Valleys' efforts to enhance The White Clay Creek State Park's Nature Center by: 1) moving it to the former Robinson property adjacent to the current Nature Center and renaming it the Dorothy Miller Center for Nature Study; 2) using the Chambers House Nature Center as a museum showcasing the history of the White Clay Creek State Park; and 3) to re-name the entire area to The Dick Robinson Education Area.

Funds for this effort would come from State bonds, not Newark coffers. These envisioned improvements will increase access to the Nature Center for Newark school groups and families. Given Newark citizens frequent use of the park and the educational benefits which generations of citizens have enjoyed, the CAC feels that this endorsement will serve the City and be in keeping with our commitment to conservation and open spaces.

MOTION BY SHEEDY, SECONDED BY MCDOWELL.

VOTE: 8-0

AYE: HAZELWOOD, IRVINE, KRAMER, MCDOWELL, PRASAD, SHEEDY, SMITH, WESSELLS

NAY: NONE

ABSENT: HORNOR

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The written recommendation will be forwarded to Tara Schiano by Mr. Irvine within the next few days.

Ms. Jo Anne Barnes, Boards & Commissions Review Committee, introduced herself and said she was present to observe.

3. LED LIGHT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Mr. McDowell asked if there was a way to get a before/after energy usage. Mr. Coleman reported most of the lights do not have meters. Mr. McDowell stated he was referring more to the amount of lights and what bulbs were they replaced with. Mr. Coleman stated it was a simple calculation. Mr. Coleman stated he would email Mr. Vitelli and ask him to provide the information to the CAC. Mr. McDowell expressed interest in knowing what the Co2 savings would be.

Mr. Kramer asked for a comparison on bulb replacement old vs. new. Mr. Coleman stated the old bulbs had to be replaced at five year intervals and the new bulbs will be replaced at twenty year intervals. In addition, there will be cost savings as City trucks will not have to drive around and replace bulbs. The Electric Department wants to complete the project before any other additional major projects start. He believes the majority of the project is complete. Mr. Coleman reported the project is going well. The wattage of the LED lights are 143 watts and compare to a 250 watt light.

Ms. Smith suggested having a table with an LED light display at Community Day with a comparison of old versus new and supporting data showing cost savings.

Mr. Wessells suggested using a similar display at "Newark Day" along with additional information about McKees Solar Park. Ms. Sheedy suggested a table in the lobby of City Hall showcasing these issues as well.

4. GREEN ENERGY

Mr. Kramer asked Mr. Coleman if the new energy efficient water pumps have meters. Mr. Coleman stated they were and he reported a savings of \$800 per month per pump in electricity in one station. In addition, there is significant carbon reduction. The payback on two sets of pumps was 11 months and the other 13 months.

After discussion, it was decided to consider compiling an updated Carbon Footprint Analysis to be kept current as new projects develop and are implemented. Mr. Irvine will draft a graph prior to next meeting that would be the data for the basis of the dashboard analysis. Mr. Coleman will be added to the distribution list as well.

5. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Mr. Irvine nominated Mr. Kramer for A Better Newark Award for his residence. Various improvements were made including: plywood sheathing (increases insulation), replaced all exterior windows and doors with low E windows and doors (energy conservation), installed solar panels (electrical). Mr. Kramer will provide photographs to be considered at the next

meeting.

MOTION BY IRVINE, SECONDED BY SHEEDY

VOTE: 8-0

AYE: HAZELWOOD, IRVINE, KRAMER, MCDOWELL, PRASAD, SHEEDY, SMITH, WESSELLS

NAY: NONE

ABSENT: HORNOR

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6. REVIEW OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENTS REPORTS

Ms. Smith asked inquired the Comprehensive Development Report and how the Conservation Advisory Commission may be able to address issues within the report. It was decided after discussion to find out the status of the finalization of the report. After further discussion, it was suggested to invite the Planning Commission members to a future meeting.

7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Plastic Bags – Mr. Irvine will follow up with Councilman Chapman regarding plastic bags.
- Boards and Review Commission Review Committee upcoming review of the Conservation Advisory Commission. Ms. Barnes discussed the format of the review process. The Conservation Advisory Commission reviewed the draft. It was suggested to create a packet for new members that contained annual reports, bi-laws, etc. In addition, Mr. Irvine will be notified about new members prior to their arrival on the commission. Ms. Sheedy will email the Boards & Commission Review Committee form with the CAC comment to Ms. Bensley on April 19, 2016.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2016.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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