

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

May 10, 2016

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ajay Prasad, Vice Chair, Kismet Hazelwood, Jason Kramer, Bob McDowell, Ajay Prasad, Sheila Smith, John Wessells

ABSENT: George Irvine, John Hornor, Kass Sheedy

STAFF: Tom Coleman, Director of Public Works & Water Resources

GUEST: Journalism students, UDEL

Mr. Prasad gave a brief synopsis of the CAC and its history to the journalism students in attendance for the purpose of living tweeting.

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

MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 8, 2016 MEETING BE APPROVED AS RECEIVED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was one present from the public that wished to speak.

3. LED LIGHT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Mr. Coleman stated he had forwarded information to Mr. Irvine to complete the footprint analysis discussed at prior meetings. Mr. Coleman reported calls for service on street lights is down. He expects the number to decrease further as times progresses. He stated there are initial failures with new installations (slight). Mr. Vitelli, Electric Director, provided the calculation sheet for the electrical savings. The number exceeds 1,000 megawatt hours per year, which is significant. Ms. Smith asked Mr. Coleman if he could translate the megawatt savings hours into carbon release. Mr. Coleman believed one kilowatt hour is around 50 pounds. However, this number may be pounds of carbon per gallon of gasoline.

4. GREEN ENERGY

Mr. Prasad reported that following a discussion on the City's new energy efficient water pumps that Public Works is compiling an updated carbon footprint. The LED Light Project data from Mr. Coleman was forwarded to Mr. Irvine. Due to Mr. Irvine's absence, it will be discussed at a later meeting.

Mr. Coleman reported Solar City is doing a lease within the City. When they install under the lease model, it is permitted in the City. Mr. Prasad asked if a resident is eligible to receive recs if a solar system is installed on their home. Mr. Kramer, who has a solar system on his home, replied a resident is eligible. Mr. Kramer reported the recs are currently \$20.00, but at one time rose to over \$100.00. Mr. Coleman stated tracking usage and compiling data is much easier due to the installation of the smart meters. Mr. Prasad asked if the smart meter installation was complete. Mr. Coleman reported the job is complete and each meter in the City is a smart meter. Mr. Coleman reported residents can log in ("customer connect" on the City's website) and view their electrical consumption down to the fifteen minute interval and real time. Water usage can be viewed down to one hour intervals with a 24 hour lag. Mr. Coleman reported there are 10,000 water accounts and 12,000 electric accounts. There are presently approximately 6,500 single family homes.

5. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Mr. Prasad reminded the commission that Mr. Kramer had been given the award most recently. Mr. Kramer indicated he had sent pictures to Mr. Irvine. Several members of the commission gave a brief synopsis of the A Better Newark Award for the benefit of the UDEL journalism students present. The commission members agreed the application should be available for interested individuals at Community Day.

6. REVIEW OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENTS REPORTS

Ms. Kramer asked Mr. Coleman for a status on the Cleveland Avenue Task Force. Mr. Coleman reported the next meeting will be June 6, 2016 from 7-9 PM. There will be a presentation with time allotted for public comment. Mr. Coleman gave a brief synopsis of what the possible solutions are. They include: removing parking between New London Road and Paper Mill Road and replacing with bike lanes in both directions; a protected left turn lane by Herman's Meat Market at the crosswalk to include a median/pedestrian refuge island; eliminating vehicles exiting at Margaret Street at the intersection of Paper Mill Road. (The exit lag adds 50 seconds of delay to the intersection.) Cars will be permitted to enter Margaret Street but not exit. There is a possibility to convert the intersection to a roundabout. Additionally, there may be other pedestrian handling options for the intersection. Heading east there will be lane guides going from four lanes to two with a center shared left lane. This option may not be feasible due to traffic volume. Additionally, an off-road trail may be considered spanning from Capitol Trail/Library Avenue (behind the car dealerships) going along the White Clay Creek to cross over Paper Mill Road. Widening Cleveland Avenue would be an expensive endeavor as there is a very large

utility line that runs down the north side. In addition, Woodlawn Avenue may become an entrance only street. Exiting traffic will be directed out Anna Way. A cross walk in the vicinity of McKees Park (Alder Creek) is part of the discussion as well. Mr. Coleman stated the plan is to have DELDOT present on the hazard elimination program. Cleveland Avenue has been identified as one of the most dangerous roads in the state. Mr. Coleman reported DELDOT's repaving of Cleveland Avenues is projected for 2017. Additionally, Library Avenue and Main Street will be repaved during this time period as well.

Mr. Coleman reported the existing abandoned building where Suds & Duds on S. Main Street is slated for revitalization soon to include retail store fronts.

7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Plastic Bags – Mr. Prasad reported that Mr. Irvine had emailed the commission to notify all the plastic bag bill (House Bill 202) had made it out of the committee. Mr. Coleman reported Public Works Department regularly patrol areas in the City that tend to accumulate plastic bags. He stated the issue tends to be problems with improperly discarded plastic bottles rather than plastic bags. However, he further stated plastic bags are a problem in general. Mr. Coleman reminded everyone not to put plastic bags in the single stream recycling container. Shredded paper is not to be put in those containers as well. He reported a list of permitted recyclable items are on the City's website. After further discussion, it was decided to follow up with George Irvine prior to further action.
- Mr. Kramer reported he attended the Boards and Review Committee on May 26, 2016 that discussed the Conservation Advisory Commission. Mr. Kramer stated overall the Boards & Review Committee were satisfied with the Conservation Advisory Commission. The following concerns were mentioned:
 - o The language of the Resolution that established the CAC and the mention of staggered terms. The Boards & Commission Review Committee will make a recommendation to clarify the language.
 - o The CAC needs to complete the Annual Reports on a timely basis.
 - o There needs to be short "briefings" to Council on the progress of the Conservation Advisory Commission.
 - o The informal internal minutes were created to enforce the action items that were to be taken by each member in between meetings. In addition, internal meeting minutes are open to FOIA.
 - o Some manner of training/orientation should be incorporated in the new member process.
 - o Additional at-large members were discussed. It was the general consensus however, that a nine member committee is large enough. There was some as well to include non-City residents in the pool of potential commission members.
 - o Mr. Kramer stated that all elections should occur at the meeting and should not be through email.

Mr. Prasad will follow up with Ms. Bensley to clarify the FOIA requirements for the CAC.

Mr. Kramer will follow-up with the Finance Department with regard to the City's position of going paperless (utility bills, property tax bills).

Mr. McDowell reported the Friends of the White Clay and the City are having another tree planting on Saturday, May 14th at 9 AM at the Curtis Mill Park.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2016.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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