

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

June 14, 2016

MEETING CONVENED: 7:06 p.m. Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman George Irvine, Bob McDowell, Ajay Prasad, Kass Sheedy, Sheila Smith, John Wessells

ABSENT: Kismet Hazelwood, Jason Kramer, John Hornor

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON MAY 10, 2016

**MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 8, 2016 MEETING BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.
(TWO MINOR TYPOS)**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

3. ANNUAL REPORT

(Mr. Irvine moved the approval of the 2015 Annual Report up on the agenda).

Mr. Hornor noted on page 7, under Newark Day to correct the spelling of Mr. Hornor's name. After discussion, the CAC approved the 2015 Annual Report.

MOTION THAT THE 2015 ANNUAL REPORT BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

4. LED LIGHT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

There was nothing to report.

5. GREEN ENERGY

- Anti-Idling Ordinance – Mr. Irvine asked to put this item back on the agenda for the July meeting. Ms. Smith will contact Chief Tiernan to invite him to a future meeting to discuss ways this ordinance can be enforced.
- Green Energy Dashboard – Mr. Irvine asked for this item to be placed back on the agenda as well.

He will follow up with Ms. Houck and Ms. Bensley to see if it is possible to assign an intern to work on this topic. Mr. Irvine reported Mr. Coleman spoke with Ms. McNerney and they anticipate a public policy intern to be assisting Ms. McNerney. Mr. Irvine said there is the potential the Green Energy Fund to be utilized to assist the CAC in the Green Energy Dashboard program. Mr. Irvine will work with his contacts at UDEL to identify any interns that may be interested in this project. Ms. Smith asked if any of the Green Energy ideas have been incorporated by DEMEC. Mr. Irvine stated that DEMEC had requested the energy providers increase energy efficiency by 1% in the year 2016. Although the number was low, it was his belief the number would be increased to 2.5% in 2017. Mr. Irvine reported he will invite Scott Lynch of DEMEC to the September 2016 meeting to follow up with new energy issues.

6. PLASTIC BAGS

Ms. Smith reported upon the advice of Representative Baumbach, she had contacted Ms. Bensley and inquired about the steps to advance the issue with Mayor & Council. (House Bill 202) Ms. Bensley stated there is no issue with the CAC making a recommendation to Mayor & Council. The recommendation can be forwarded to Council and can be placed on the Council agenda for discussion.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL TO SUPPORT AND ENDORSE HOUSE BILL 202.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

(Copy to be entered into the record)

7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Plastic Bags – House Bill 202 has made it out of the committee. However, there is questions on what this means and what direction the City will take.
- Green Energy Dashboard – Mr. Irvine reported Mr. Coleman spoke with Ms. McNerney and they anticipate a public policy intern to be assisting Ms. McNerney. Mr. Irvine said there is the potential the Green Energy Fund can be utilized to assist the CAC in the Green Energy Dashboard program. Mr. Irvine will work with his contacts at UDEL to identify any interns that may be interested in this project.
- New Night – Mr. Wessells reported he attended New Night on behalf of the CAC for two hours. He reported there was not a great deal of activity but thought perhaps later in the day may prove to be busier. He stated he had made some displays from poster board that provided detail of the CAC he displayed. His suggestion, which was supported by the remainder of the members in attendance was to plan more in advance for next year's event. In addition, the CAC agreed it may be beneficial to secure some vendors to offer support. The following vendors should be considered for next year's event:
 1. Solar City
 2. Bloom
 3. Car dealerships with the focus on (Cleveland Avenue)
 4. Environmentally friendly organizations: zip car, geothermal installers, insulation installers, etc.
- Historical Committee – because there are historical buildings located within the City boundaries,

the CAC believes considering a historical committee may be worthwhile to the City. The commission decided to research the origins of any historical society/committee that the City may or may not have had. Ms. Sheedy will reach out to Margie Masino, current president of the Historical Society.

Ms. Sheedy stated it was her opinion that New Night has more of a “party” feel, while Community Day has more of an outreach and education feel. As such, she believes any exhibit the CAC decides upon for New Night has to fun and entertaining to keep with the spirit of New Night. Ms. Sheedy suggested approaching the Sierra Club to see if they would be willing to donate bags to the CAC for one of these events.

The members decided a sub-committee was essential for the success of any event whether it be New Night or Community Day. A larger sub-committee (more than three of the original interested members --- Ms. Hazelwood, Mr. Kramer, Mr. Wessells) will need to put in place to ensure success with these detailed events.

Mr. Wessells will work up a short “vision statement” complete with sponsorship ideas, logo, etc.

8. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Mr. McDowell will approach the White Clay Creek Scenic and Wild Organization and submit an application of their behalf.

9. REVIEW OF PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

Mr. Irvine reminded members to review the Planning & Development Reports on a regular basis as they are a good source to see what new projects are coming before Council. Mr. Hornor reported the project on the horizon is the Center Street project. It had been turned down, but there were modifications made and the project will be going before Council again in the very near future. The developer will be asking for a zoning change and apartments. It was the opinion of Mr. Irvine there may be some conservation issues of interest to the CAC in conjunction with this project.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 12, 2016.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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