

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

July 12, 2016

MEETING CONVENED: 7:09 p.m. Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman George Irvine, Kismet Hazelwood, Ajay Prasad, Kass Sheedy, John Wessells

ABSENT: Jason Kramer, Bob McDowell, John Hornor, Sheila Smith

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON JUNE 14, 2016

MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 14, 2016 MEETING BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

3. LED LIGHT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Per Mr. Irvine, this item will be discussed under the Green Energy Dashboard agenda item.

4. GREEN ENERGY

Professor Sarzynski, UDEL's School of Public Policy was present to discuss potential metrics that will be included on the Green Energy Dashboard the CAC is proposing. It was also proposed to hire an intern to work with Mr. Coleman, Director of Public Works & Water Resources to develop the Green Energy Dashboard. Mr. Irvine reported the CAC had received authorization to use CAC funding for this intern. Professor Sarzynski suggests an intern for a whole school year, even if the project may or may not take that long. The intern can be paid by the hour or they can be paid a stipend for the semester. UDEL prefers doing it by stipend. Mr. Coleman asked how the CAC would provide feedback (i.e. formatting, etc.,) would be provided back to the intern. Mr. Coleman will provide the data but the CAC will need to provide the outline to design the dashboard. Professor Sarzynski suggested the first step the intern will have to do is do web searching and determine possible layouts for the dashboard, presentation and ways to present information and how often.

After a discussion between the CAC and Professor Sarzynski, it was decided the metrics should include:

- Solar Energy produced by McKees Park

1. Resident solar installations

- Reduction in Greenhouse Emissions
- Reforestation Acres
- Variable Frequency Drive Pumps
- Solar Refuse Containers (which results in a reduction in frequency of collections)
- LED Street Lights
- City Hall efficiency Project (new windows and ATAC improvements)
- Water Treatment Plants
- George Wilson Center (new windows, insulation, lights)
- Smart Meter Project (benefits include City staff no longer has to drive around town reading meters)
- Improvements to Fleet Cars (inclusion of hybrid cars and more fuel efficiency in cars in general)
- Stormwater/riparian buffers (which encourages environmental sustainability due to reduction in bacteria released into the watershed)

Mr. Coleman suggested to do a year by year comparison of “carbon avoidance” or “energy avoidance,” which would mean the baseline is not really necessary because savings can be captured for that “one individual item” how much it would have been using without and then how much it is using. Then the totals for each item can be aggregated and sum up the differences to get a total for the City. Real time updating of the dashboard is not realistic. However, it can be updated periodically and reported in the annual report. Mr. Coleman also suggested for the difficult projects that are difficult to quantify is to use the online RPIS platform. This program has a map of City. When a project is clicked on, it will give you information about that project. Mr. Irvine asked if Mr. Coleman received any inquiries from the public about energy usage. Mr. Coleman reported inquiries are made very infrequently. He reported when he did receive questions it is about the drinking water.

Mr. Irvine asked Mr. Fruehstorfer what the public views as most important about sustainability from public forums/events that Mr. Fruehstorfer attending. Mr. Fruehstorfer stated he believed the public to be interested in plastic bags and green energy. However, Ms. Sheedy wished to state that she believed interest to be less than overwhelming in attendance and interest in environmental issues. Mr. Irvine stated it was his opinion the Green Energy Dashboard could build awareness of what the citizens may want to become interested in (i.e. various energy conservation issues, etc.)

Tom Fruehstorfer reported the City is hoping to re-route the Unicity bus. If ridership increases with the new bus route, the CAC can use this as an energy efficient incentive.

Professor Sarzynski asked if the direction of Green Energy Dashboard would extend beyond the municipal operations. She reported that in general most cities measure carbon offsets only as it relates to the municipal operation. It would be ideal to include all of the City, but complete data would be difficult to capture. She suggested starting with just municipal operations. Professor Sarzynski also expressed concern about how the data will be accurately transmitted yet, keep privacy intact. She further stated it may be a good idea to group according to neighborhoods.

Dr. Sarzynski stated there was two protocols for an intern to take. The World Resources Institute has guidelines they have developed for cities that parallels the same protocol that states and countries have to follow for reporting to their climate offices. There are suggestions through this

resource on how to capture data through these different categories. It will take some time to determine what data is easily collectible. It will take time to conceptualize the dashboard, collect the data and populate it.

The commission recommended adding a “Community Dashboard” where City residents could list improvements made to their property. That would enable data to be more readily captured from the public. The dashboard could then be updated periodically with minimal effort. Decisions need to be made on what it should actually be: the dashboard, report, policy brief or website.

In addition, LEED has a neighborhood scale where they give credits for certain actions, stormwater management, etc. It is on a larger scale which extends beyond energy.

5. GREEN ENERGY

Mr. Fruehstorfer provided a memo on alternative transportation improvements that are being considered for the City. These include bike transportation as well. Details include identifying problems and additional opportunities for public transportation. The Cleveland Avenue Improvement Task Force is related to bicycle traffic. Alternatives are being considered for Cleveland Avenue with involvement of DELDOT. There have been several public meetings on the topic. There are hopes to have Cleveland Avenue be more bicycle friendly. There could also be some changes in bicycle laws and regulations. He further reported DART shortened the Route 16. There currently is a shuttle replacing this. As of September, this temporary shuttle will cease. Due to this issue, the Unicity bus route is being reconsidered. He said the City is considering coordinating and linking up with UDEL buses. UDEL is not receptive as there is no way to show who will be riding on the buses. There may be some flexibility with this matter as UDEL has a new president. There are some universities that permit public to ride their buses. University of New Hampshire and University of Vermont being two

6. PLASTIC BAGS

Mr. Irvine reported City Council did not proceed with the CAC’s recommendation as House Bill 202 was not brought before to the floor of the Delaware Senate. Mr. Irvine will reach out to the Sierra Club to see if they would like to attend an upcoming meeting to continue to discuss ways to reduce plastic bag usage.

8. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

The CAC will follow up Mr. McDowell at the September meeting to see if he was able to prepare a nomination for the Friends of White Clay Creek Scenic and Wild.

9. REVIEW OF PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

There was nothing to report.

10. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Community Day will be Sunday, September 18, 2016 from 11 am – 4 pm. Mr. Prasad, Mr. Irvine, Mr. Wessells and Ms. Hazelwood indicated they would be willing to cover a shift. Ms. Sheedy will

approach City merchants to donate reusable bags. Mr. Wessells stated he had secured a price of \$1.50 per to print advertisements on both sides of the bag. It was suggested to solicit donations for printing at some point in the near future.

11. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed there would not be an August meeting, but may schedule a Green Energy Dashboard workshop. Details to be announced. The next regularly scheduled meeting is September 13, 2016.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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