

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

October 11, 2016

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Acting Chair Ajay Prasad, Kismet Hazelwood, John Hornor, Jason Kramer, Bob McDowell, John Wessells

ABSENT: Kass Sheedy
Sheila Smith

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2016 MEETING BE APPROVED AS AMENDED (two minor typos).

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Kaled, District 4 introduced herself and stated it was her first attendance at a CAC meeting. She stated she was there to observe. Mr. Prasad provided a brief introduction about the CAC.

3. LED LIGHT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Mr. McDowell emailed Scott Lynch from DEMEC and inquired about grant and funding opportunities for replacing old fluorescent fixtures with new energy efficient LED bulbs at Newark High School, where Mr. McDowell is an instructor. Mr. Lynch stated he would research the get back to Mr. McDowell. Mr. McDowell stated he had met with the Newark High School Board and they were receptive to the idea of the bulb replacement. The school board is very receptive to anyone and any assistance to be offered in this endeavor. Mr. McDowell stated he has students counting the amount of fluorescent fixtures. Mr. McDowell will follow up with Mr. Lynch to see if there is any progress. Mr. Prasad reported that he believed Mr. Irvine is researching DNREC's grant program as well.

4. GREEN ENERGY

Mr. Prasad reported conversations have continued with Professor Sarzynski, of UDEL's School of Public Policy. Money has been allocated from CAC funds to pay for a grant student intern to create the Green Energy Dashboard. There is some question whether Professor Sarzynski will continue to lead the effort. Mr. Irvine will offer more details at the next meeting.

5. COMMUNITY DAY

It was reported the Community Day was a huge success due in large part to the generosity of local vendors that supplied giveaways that helped in generating traffic into the CAC booth. The CAC initiated a vote to all visitors to the booth asking their opinion on a plastic bag ban. The vote was overwhelmingly in favor of banning plastic bags. The count will be provided at the next meeting as the members believe that Ms. Sheila Smith (she is absent) may have the final tally. Thank you cards will be distributed to the vendors that donated giveaways for the event.

Mr. Wessells asked all for feedback on Community Day in hopes to make next year's event even better. One idea is to have a demonstration of LED lights showing the benefits of this type of illumination. It was also suggested to reach out to the DNP for coordinate with local businesses for more giveaways for next year's event.

The CAC members thanked all for their efforts, especially Mr. Wessells who spearheaded the event.

6. PLASTIC BAGS

Mr. Irvine will report any information he received from the Sierra Club at the next meeting. Mr. Kramer reported after speaking with residents, some preferred the five cent option as opposed to a ban on plastic bags. Mr. McDowell suggested revisiting the idea of using the Main Street merchants to offer incentives (free parking, etc.) Once this program is in place, it can be used to expand beyond Main Street. It was suggested to reach out to the DNP to offer their perspective and ideas. Stu Markham, Councilman has expressed interest in the matter in the past. After discussion, the CAC will reach out to him for his opinion. Mr. Wessells suggested using CAC funds to print 5,000-10,000 bags to offer to City shoppers. It was suggested to partner with UDEL to distribute bags to new students on move-in day. The CAC will continue to discuss this matter prior to the next introduction of House Bill 202 in the spring of 2017.

8. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Mr. Hornor will contact Dow to confirm their availability to attend a Council meeting in the near future so they can receive their award. Mr. Hornor would be the appropriate individual to attend as representative from the CAC as he was the nominator. Mr. Kramer's A Better Newark Award will be considered for presentation next. The Newark Post is present at all Council meetings should they wish to report on the award presented to Dow.

Mr. Hornor mentioned that GE is constructing a covered parking lot with solar panels on the roof of the lot. This should be reviewed for a potential future award. Mr. Prasad will contact Mr. Mike Greenberg to see if his property is ready for viewing for consideration of the award.

9. REVIEW OF PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

There was nothing to report.

10. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Prasad suggested printing t-shirts for the CAC to wear to such events as Community Day to appear more official at events. It will also make it easier to initiate a conversation with visitors to events as they will be able to identify members of the commission. Mr. McDowell having a CAC banner made for future events.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting is November 8, 2016.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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