

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

November 8, 2016

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: George Irvine, Ajay Prasad, Kismet Hazelwood, John Hornor, Jason Kramer, Bob McDowell, John Wessells

ABSENT: Kass Sheedy
Sheila Smith

STAFF: Tim Filasky, Public Works and Water Resources Department

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 11, 2016

MOTION THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 11, 2016 MEETING BE APPROVED AS RECEIVED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present.

3. LED LIGHT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Mr. McDowell has not heard back from Scott Lynch from DEMEC regarding 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. School administration is enthusiastic about this proposed project. Mr. Irvine suggested approaching bulb manufacturers to inquire about any incentives (free bulbs) for such projects. Mr. McDowell will contact bulb manufacturers and report back. Mr. Filasky reported the City bulbs were purchased by Rick Vitale, Director of the Electric Department from DEMEC.

4. GREEN ENERGY DASHBOARD

Mr. Irvine reported that Dr. Sarzynski is not in a position to directly supervise a UDEL student on the Green Energy Dashboard Project. Mr. Prasad suggested Mr. Keith Goosen at UD/ECE as a possibility. The CAC suggested looking at the student body as a whole for prospects. Mr. Kramer and Mr. Irvine will spearhead the effort to look for interested students. Mr. Irvine reiterated that typically the student internship program operates on a flat fee scale of \$9,140.00 for 20 hours per week for 16 weeks.

5. COMMUNITY DAY

There was nothing to report. (Thank you letters were distributed to participating vendors.)

6. PLASTIC BAGS

At the Community Day event, a poll was held to glean community interest in the banning of plastic bags. Of the 399 total votes, 83.5% were in favor of a ban of plastic bags. The CAC made a recommendation to Council in support of HB202, which calls for a five cent charge per plastic bag. City merchants that visited the CAC booth at Community Day suggested an incentive program may aid in reducing plastic bag consumption. Mr. Irvine will invite someone from the Downtown Newark Partnership at an upcoming meeting to garner interest from the Main Street merchants for such a program. 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

Dow will receive their award at the upcoming Council meeting on November 28, 2016. Mr. Kramer will receive his award at meeting in the near future.

Mr. Hornor reported GE will be installing solar panels on top of their parking lot. The projected completion date of the project is 2017. At that time, the CAC will consider awarding GE the A Better Newark Award.

Mr. Wessells suggested awarding the A Better Newark Award to other Newark organizations for their contributions (i.e. Newark Area Welfare Committee). After some discussion, it was agreed the A Better Newark Award should only focus on environmental contributions as that is how the award is intended. Mr. McDowell suggested "groups" may be eligible (i.e. groups and organizations that do community cleanups, etc.). It was agreed events such as a community cleanup would qualify to receive the award. Mr. Prasad followed up with Mr. Mike Greenberg and Mr. Greenberg stated his property is not yet completed and would therefore, not be eligible to be considered at this time.

9. REVIEW OF PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

There was nothing to report.

10. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Boards & Review Commission Report. Mr. Kramer was in attendance and the CAC will await the formal response from the Boards & Review Commission to discuss any changes that may need to take place within the CAC.
- The CAC agreed to review their by-laws for discussion at the December meeting.
- Work on the Annual Report should commence.
- Mr. Irvine will ask Council to act on the CAC recommendation on reforestation.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting is December 13, 2016.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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