

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

December 13, 2016

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

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

ABSENT: Jason Kramer

STAFF: Tim Filasky, Public Works and Water Resources Department

Mr. Irvine noted that Ms. Bensley was unable to attend the meeting due to a funeral to but will attend a future meeting to discuss the outcome of the Boards & Review Commission findings and also to discuss the updated format for presentation of A Better Newark Award.

He also noted the DNP is going through a restructuring and will attend a future meeting to discuss plastic bags.

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

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Bennett, Sustainability Manager, UDEL was present to observe and provided insight on her position at UDEL. She reported the following:

- UDEL has strongly encouraged sustainability starting in 2008; although there has been some lulls in the program. This included:
 1. Carbon audit
 2. Campus Greening (and other incentives)

In her position at UDEL, she encourages staff as well as students to work on the benefits of sustainability. She reported UDEL has reduced their carbon footprint by over 5% since 2008, due in part from switching from coal to natural gas. UDEL currently has a goal of 20% reduction by 2020. The ISE lab on campus in itself is large electric consumer. Therefore, their ability to still have such a reduction should be viewed in a positive light.

Ms. Bennett has many interns with some focusing on recycling and getting the word out on how to achieve further sustainability measures. She said all lights in campus buildings have been replaced with energy efficient fluorescent tubes which was a huge endeavor. She reported a study was conducted to see if a CHP

unit (Combined Heat and Power) would be feasible on campus and it was deemed not to be. However, many water pumps on campus have variable speed drives which are more energy efficient. UDEL is working towards providing more charging stations for electric vehicles available for commuters. Ms. Bennett mentioned she continues to work with UDEL staff (Dan Rich) to encourage community participation.

Mr. Irvine gave Ms. Bennett a detailed summary of the proposed CAC Green Energy Dashboard project. Ms. Bennett expressed interest in the project but there are still many details to work out. Mr. Irvine reported the City is working with UDEL on a Fellows Program.

Ms. Bennett stated UDEL's Blue Henergy Project, which is where all buildings on UDEL property are linked together to provide real-time energy usage. There are some hurdles to overcome however, as the campus has different meters that is making the translation difficult. The level of reporting at this juncture is not as accurate as it will be in the future. Mr. Prasad suggested that any intern that ends up working on the CAC Green Energy Dashboard project could work with (or get suggestions from) the individual(s) that is working on the Blue Henergy project as well, thereby saving time and money with combining information/talents. Ms. Bennett stated she would be agreeable to assisting with locating a suitable Green Energy Dashboard project intern.

Ms. Smith suggested the CAC should touch base regularly with Ms. Bennett's office. The suggestion was made to have a designated attendee attend the CAC meetings. (student)

Mr. Irvine and Ms. Sheedy suggested further research to find ways to combine UDEL's and DART's transportation in the City. The energy benefits are many and it is proven successful in other college towns. However, it was acknowledged there are significant liability issues at stake.

3. LED LIGHT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

There was nothing to report.

4. GREEN ENERGY DASHBOARD

The topic was covered at length under public comment.

5. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Ms. Bensley will attend the next meeting to discuss future protocol on how to present the award. There was confusion when DOW was given the award at a recent Council meeting. Mayor Sierer will have a luncheon with DOW representatives and will present the award to them and offer apologies for the mix-up. The CAC agreed there should be a designated representative to take responsibility for presenting the award.

6. REVIEW OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

The CAC wants to address the mandate by the City to preserve historic buildings. Ms. Sheedy will reach out to Mike Fortner to find further information about protocols for such buildings and what can be done in the future to address the preservation of historic buildings in the City. Mr. Hornor expressed interest that a developer had been recently turned down for a proposed project as it appears it is not usually the norm.

7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Wessells expressed continued interest in the energy efficient proactive Lincoln Financial Field (solar car park, wind turbines, etc.) He stated he is interested in attending an energy tour they offer in the near future. He will report back.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, January 10, 2017.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

/tas