

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

April 8, 2008

MEETING CONVENED: 7:00 p.m., City Manager's Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Dentel Presiding, Steven Beard, Robert Bennett, Wayne Casanova, Thomas Fruehstorfer, Ajay Prasad, Kass Sheedy, Fred Stiegler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ann Morrison

STAFF PRESENT: Charlie Emerson, Parks & Recreation Director

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON MARCH 11, 2008

MOTION BY MS. SHEEDY, SECONDED BY MR. BEARD: THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 11, 2008 MEETING BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. VOTE: 8 to 0.

AYE: Beard, Bennett, Casanova, Dentel, Fruehstorfer, Prasad, Sheedy, Stiegler

NAY: 0

ABSENT: Ann Morrison

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

(a) University of Delaware student, Laura Yayac, discussed World Health Day scheduled April 21st from 11am-1pm outside Trabant Student Center. Ms. Yayac stated that any members willing to volunteer would be contacted and given more information concerning the event. Tables will be available for groups to display handouts and other materials. The rain location will be the multi-purpose rooms inside the Trabant Center.

3. PROGRESS ON GREEN BUILDING INITIATIVES

Mr. Dentel reported he would meet on April 9th with Mr. Sciulli and Ms. Roser. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss incorporating the LEED score sheet in the building permitting process. A number of points were accrued by following the City's building requirements and Mr. Dentel felt those points would be clearly indicated by completing the score sheet.

LEED certification required a minimum of 26 points. As a possible starting point for Council to consider, Mr. Dentel said the City might want to require 16 points and continue to increase that number by 2 points per year until all buildings achieved LEED certification.

When determining the points, Ms. Sheedy thought consideration should be given to where the market will be in 5 years as implementation of a LEED program would be easier due to greater acceptance of green building methods.

Mr. Dentel hoped to have some draft language from his meeting and will send the baseline ideas to the Committee to discuss with their Council members. Mr. Dentel reminded members at the February 25th meeting where the LEED ordinance was adopted, a 90 day completion date was suggested by Mr. Funk for finalizing this project.

4. 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Dentel confirmed that he had a draft annual report which did not include all the sections. A Better Newark Award, Community Clean-Up, Adopt-a-Park, Recycling, and Cool Cities were the items submitted thus far. Mr. Dentel had the items on Green Building, the Building Code amendments, and his presentation to Council.

5. PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING

The March 18th edition of "*The Review*" reported on the City considering a grocery store plastic bag ban and noted the Conservation Advisory Commission was exploring suitable alternatives to plastic bags.

The possibility of the CAC purchasing reusable bag was discussed but was found to be cost-prohibitive.

Mr. Dentel suggested Wal-Mart or other area retailers be contacted to donate bags for the CAC to distribute at community events.

Ms. Sheedy suggested considering businesses that sell reusable bags for the Better Newark Award to get publicity for the effort and to raise public consciousness. CAC members were asked to report on stores that offer reusable bags for sale.

6. CONSIDERATION OF ANTI-IDLING ORDINANCE

Mr. Dentel discussed the possibility of an anti-idling ordinance and advised the City was in an EPA non-compliance zone. The purpose of the proposed ordinance would be to improve air quality and to reduce the waste of natural resources. The ordinance would attempt to cut down or possibly eliminate instances involving idling vehicles. Mr. Dentel said diesel trucks should be a target as they produce a lot of air pollution. There would be exceptions such as, police and rescue vehicles before proposing this to Council.

Mr. Dentel said while the City may not have a huge impact on its own, if Council adopted such an ordinance, it might set an example that could be followed throughout the state.

7. REVIEW OF PLANNING DEPT. REPORTS RE POSSIBLE FUTURE

DEVELOPMENTS

There were no comments forthcoming

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

(a) Mr. Dentel reminded members he would step down as Chair once the LEED check list was completed.

(b) According to Mr. Dentel, the Conservation Advisory Committee's 25th anniversary will be next year.

(c) Mr. Prasad reported the University of Delaware spent six months developing a strategic plan with President Harker. During this time he discussed the possibility of the University becoming carbon neutral.

(d) Mr. Stiegler stated that Paul Bauernschmidt, will host a series of public meetings to discuss proposed uses for the Curtis Paper Mill site. It was suggested that these meetings be posted on the City's website.

9. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:50 PM.

Courtney Mangini
Secretary

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