

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

October 14, 2008

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Bennett presiding, Steve Beard, Steve Dentel (arrived 7:20 p.m.), Tom Fruehstorfer, Ann Morrison, (arrived 7:10 p.m.) Ajay Prasad, Kass Sheedy, Fred Stiegler

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Zaleski, Parks Superintendent

GUESTS PRESENT: District 2 Council Member Jerry Clifton

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

Change on Item #2-A. "Mr. Fruehstorfer stressed that the best approach with the LEED program was to do it slowly because there **may not be** (read **was not**) a lot of support for it in the community."

Clarification on Item #4-B. (Community Day) The organization listed as "White Clay Wild and Scenic Organization." The proper name is "Wild & Scenic Watershed Management Committee."

Clarification on Item #2, (Public Comment) paragraph 4 - the last sentence "Both of those examples would probably not work in Newark because an increase in density would not be popular and there was no long wait for a developer going through the permit approval process in the City." It was noted these were two separate issues.

Rewording on Item #5, (Progress on Green Building Initiatives) "It was Mr. Stiegler's understanding that Mr. Dentel met with Mr. Sciulli..." to "...Mr. Dentel was **planning** to meet with Mr. Sciulli."

MOTION BY MR. BENNETT, SECONDED BY MR. STIEGLER: THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2008 MEETING BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. VOTE: 7 to 0.

AYE: Bennett, Beard, Fruehstorfer, Morrison, Prasad, Sheedy, Stiegler.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: Dentel (Arrived: 7:20 p.m.)

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. COMMUNITY DAY FOLLOW-UP

CAC members agreed that Community Day was a success. Ms. Sheedy commented that a good number of people participated in their survey. It was noted that approximately 150 reusable shopping bags were distributed and what this program did was point out a simple way for people to use reusable bags. Mr. Bennett pointed out that a complex program such as LEED would not draw nearly as many people to the CAC table.

Mr. Prasad noted that it may be more effective in the future to have a “giveaway” that would bring people in and then disseminate information about the CAC. Mr. Bennett recommended following up on this suggestion.

Mr. Bennett stated that based on his experience at the Acme, they have reusable bags available for purchase, but he rarely sees anyone using them. Mr. Beard commented that Giant supermarket featured pink bags as a Breast Cancer Awareness promotion in October. Mr. Bennett stated even though cloth bag use appeared to be on the increase, he felt a follow-up discussion was necessary at a future meeting.

4. PROGRESS ON GREEN BUILDING INITIATIVES

Mr. Stiegler commented that Reid Rowlands of the DNP stated the LEED checklist which was based upon 69 points was revised drastically.

(Secretary’s note: Mr. Dentel arrived at this time).

Mr. Stiegler thought that Mr. Dentel should speak to Mr. Rowlands as he was very knowledgeable on the LEED certification program. He also believed the Committee should rethink the issue to determine optimum mandatory levels.

Mr. Beard felt that Mr. Rowlands was most concerned with not duplicating efforts and stated that the DNP was not in favor of using a LEED professional to fill out a checklist for projects based on the cost.

Mr. Dentel suggested that CAC members meet with Mr. Rowlands and Mr. Sciulli to find out more about what the DNP was doing in regard to sustainable design and why Mr. Rowlands was recommending a higher number of points. He will schedule a meeting and Mr. Stiegler, Ms. Morrison and Ms. Sheedy offered to attend.

Mr. Zaleski suggested getting opinions from several developers on this topic. He said what he read about LEED was good, but some of it would not be economically feasible for home buyers unless they were in the \$500,000-\$600,000 price range. Mr.

Fruehstorfer stated the CAC was not suggesting that every home be LEED certified, but felt the checklist should be done because they were environmentally minded and would give a fair opinion from their point of view. Mr. Zaleski recommended CAC devote one meeting to discussing LEED with the developers.

Mr. Dentel was not sure there would be much benefit to getting developer's opinions because he would like to present to Council factual information on LEED based on research reports, cost analyses and environmental analyses from across the country rather than give developers' opinions.

Mr. Fruehstorfer reminded everyone that Mr. Rowlands thought the 12 point number achieved on the LEED checklist was low and 20 points was more reasonable as a baseline. CAC members thought in the first year the City should require a few points above what would be achieved through the Code and then see how it balanced out year by year. Mr. Dentel felt the CAC should present a viewpoint to Council that if they want conservation, here is what should be done, and then builders and others could indicate concerns with the economic picture. Mr. Stiegler asked if a mandatory checklist should be considered and Mr. Dentel indicated that it should.

5. PLASTIC BAG RECYLING

This topic was discussed under Item #2. Ms. Sheedy noted that CAC had discussed a possible ordinance requiring the elimination of plastic bags that would become effective when the County ordinance was passed. Mr. Fruehstorfer did not think this would be accomplished in the near future. Ms. Morrison mentioned that the committee discussed doing A Better Newark Award for the stores selling reusable bags. Ms. Morrison felt a thank you was needed for businesses who donated bags to Community Day. Bags were received from Acme, Super Fresh, TruValue, Office Depot, and Happy Harry's. Ms. Sheedy will send thank you notes to these stores.

6. CONSIDERATION OF ANTI-IDLING ORDINANCE

Mr. Dentel referred to an ordinance taken directly from the state anti-idling ordinance which was a DNREC regulation related to air pollution. He deleted the words "heavy duty" so the ordinance would apply to all vehicles. In addition, he indicated he should have removed the references to weight specifications, which was the proper way to define heavy duty (8,500 lbs. or more). The ordinance currently stated that the owner/operator/leasor was liable, and Mr. Dentel wanted it to include the land owner as well. For example, this proposal would make grocery stores responsible if trucks idled on their property. Ms. Sheedy asked whether it would apply to schools and Mr. Dentel stated it would. Mr. Dentel noted there were a number of exceptions; including police vehicles, fire department, military and rescue vehicles. He further stated that in every case when an individual was justified to have their engine running, there was a clause protecting them. However, an individual sitting in a parking lot or elsewhere running their motor would be violation of the ordinance.

Ms. Sheedy inquired about fines, and Mr. Dentel reported they ranged between \$50 and \$500.

Mr. Stiegel pointed out the University of Delaware Review of May 20, 2008 reported "Newark Mayor Vance A Funk III stated in an email message he would support a statewide Anti-Idling Ordinance." Mr. Dentel confirmed that the statewide ordinance was for heavy duty vehicles only. Mr. Bennett inquired about Public Works vehicles and DART buses. Mr. Dentel said those vehicles were covered by the state ordinance. Mr. Dentel explained the ordinance would only impact regular duty vehicles. Ms. Sheedy thought the City could enforce state ordinance violations.

Mr. Dentel will provide copies of the state ordinance to committee members and hoped the CAC would vote on the ordinance at their November meeting. Mr. Dentel will draft a cover memo that includes some of the rationale in the literature that he distributed quite some time ago about pollution, noise and energy usage and provide reasons the ordinance makes sense.

7. CARBON INVENTORY FOR NEWARK

Mr. Dentel stated that the University would soon be issuing a report on their carbon inventory, and he thought it would be interesting to find out their conclusions and how they scored themselves. Mr. Stiegler inquired about the timeline on the University's report. Mr. Prasad surmised that it could be close to six months before it was issued.

Mr. Dentel did a carbon inventory with UD freshman students, and their computation was based on their family's house (type of heat, recycling), etc. Mr. Zaleski inquired whether the inventory took into consideration the urban canopy for the carbon absorption, and Mr. Dentel responded it did not. The concept behind the inventory was finding the most economical means of making changes to go green.

Mr. Dentel said the County asked for an independent carbon footprint study. Although the students did not get much data for the study from the County, they did get an overall number of miles driven by their motor pool. However, the information was not divided between the diesels, hybrids, etc. Mr. Prasad reported that last year's senior class gift of \$25,000.00 was designated for the University's carbon inventory

The possibility of completing a carbon footprint inventory for the City was discussed. Mr. Fruehstorfer asked how much time would be required for City employees to gather the necessary information. Mr. Dentel stated that he could possibly find students or other faculty to help with this kind of study. Mr. Dentel thought the City was better equipped to do this than the County. Ms. Sheedy felt it would.

Mr. Stiegel pointed out this issue initiated on April 10, 2008 when Mr. Lopata sent a memo to the CAC and the Council members requesting input and guidance for an inventory of buildings and/or City vehicles. Mr. Stiegel asked if CAC responded to that memo. Mr. Dentel added that Mr. Lopata inquired about joining the Climate Registry's

General Reporting Protocol that provides a system for cities, corporations and other organizations to calculate and report their greenhouse gas emissions so that they can be better monitored on a national and international basis. The key to Climate Registry is the City would utilize readily available formulas to convert emissions from City owned buildings and vehicles to Co2 emissions. This must be completed on a regular basis. Mr. Dentel stated that research was needed on this item.

Mr. Dentel also stated there should be a compare and contrast to the Climate Registry and ICLEI. Mr. Prasad will try to get a report on what the University was doing.

9. REVIEW OF PLANNING DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Stiegler noted that the September 10, 2008 Planning Department Report referenced a meeting between Ms. Roser and a potential developer to discuss zoning consideration for a potential future LEED certified housing development.

Mr. Stiegler said the August 20, 2008, Planning Department Report referenced bike sharing programs. Mr. Beard advised that at the last meeting, he volunteered to respond to Mr. Markham and will draft a memo for the committee's review. Mr. Bennett added that as an avid, experienced bike rider in the City since 1969, the increase in bike traffic in the last year was astonishing. Based on the increasing popularity of biking in the City, he felt the Transportation Committee should be exploring ways to make safety and logistical improvements in this area. Mr. Bennett was convinced that anybody who wanted to ride a bike would have their own bike.

Mr. Dentel commented that a future option might be when roads were repaved to install a strip physically separating the bike path from the road. Mr. Bennett said that WLMAPCO was the first stop in terms of developing policy on bicycles. Committee members discussed the adequacy of bike racks in the downtown area. Mr. Zaleski noted that he and Mr. Emerson were scheduled to visit the Main Street area and look at the bike situation. Mr. Zaleski said the installation and ongoing maintenance would have to be determined as to whether it would be the responsibility of the City or the business owners. Ms. Sheedy stated that most of the site plans in the downtown area being sent to the Planning Commission included bike racks.

10. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Discussed under Item #3.

11. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Fruehstorfer attended a rain barrel workshop offered by the Parks and Recreation Department which was very well attended.
- Ms. Morrison stated that she received inquiries about when recycling would start and whether the City offered free energy audits.

12. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:07 PM.

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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