

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES

May 11, 2021

MEETING CONVENED: 7:04 p.m. GoToMeeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Sheila Smith, Beth Chajes, MaryClare Matsumoto, Helga Huntley, Andrew O'Donnell, Jean Hedrich, John Mateyko (arrived late)

ABSENT: Robyn O'Halloran

STAFF: Michael Fortner, Planner II
Jeff Martindale, Chief Purchasing & Personnel Officer
Nichol Scheld, Administrative Professional I

Ms. Smith called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES APRIL 13, 2021:

It was determined that members had not been able to read the minutes and the vote to approve the April minutes was pushed until the June meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

3. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE: MIKE FORTNER

Mr. Fortner informed that the Steering Committee had been meeting once a month and the next meeting was scheduled for June 3rd at 7pm to consider earlier chapter revisions, such as the updated demographic statistics, the Transportation chapter, and the Housing chapter. He revealed that the Committee would likely review Environmental Qualities and Public Utilities in July. He reminded that he hosted a series of coffee break workshops and offered to hold a CAC-specific discussion for Sustainability Goals to solicit feedback.

Ms. Smith appreciated the opportunity to meet with Mr. Fortner as a group and asked if the Comp Plan was updated every five years. Mr. Fortner explained that Plan was reviewed every five years and updated every ten years.

Ms. Hedrich supported a discussion on how the plan specifically related to the CAC.

Ms. Matsumoto wanted to make sure that developers connected their development to the City by means other than cars and believed the onus should be on developers to determine how sidewalks and bike lanes would connect with the City's existing sidewalks.

Ms. Chajes asked for clarification of the topics to be covered in July and Mr. Fortner repeated Environmental Quality and Public Utilities. He reiterated that the discussions were tentatively scheduled

for July and offered to speak to the CAC prior to the July review so he could incorporate the CAC's comments into the review. Ms. Chajes supported a CAC-specific discussion. Mr. Fortner explained that he would organize a meeting tailored to the CAC in the format of his coffee break presentation and offered to schedule it outside of the usual CAC meeting time with the appropriate posting for public participation. Ms. Smith asked for the duration of the meeting and Mr. Fortner replied that his previous meetings were an hour so he assumed a 15-minute presentation followed by a discussion would suffice. Ms. Smith suggested that the CAC be given materials prior to the meeting and Mr. Fortner confirmed that he would provide the members with the chapters to review.

Ms. Chajes said that she would be willing to participate during a special meeting time.

Dr. Huntley attended a coffee break and asked Mr. Fortner if the Committee had reviewed most of the chapters so only two remained. Mr. Fortner confirmed that the Committee had reviewed most of the chapters and reiterated that Public Utilities and Environmental Quality remained. He explained that he wanted to return to the Committee with comments from the CAC to incorporate any changes. Dr. Huntley asked if the Committee was incorporating the goals and vision of the Sustainability Plan into the Comp Plan throughout the review process. Mr. Fortner believed that the Environmental Quality chapter would recognize the goals in the completion of the Sustainability Plan. Dr. Huntley thought it was possible that many of the chapters could be impacted by the Sustainability Plan including transportation, as suggested by Ms. Matsumoto. She supported concrete references to share goals between the Sustainability Plan and the Comp Plan and asked if there was any effort to incorporate anticipated climate change conditions, particularly with the Land Development Plan. Mr. Fortner did not think the incorporation would be included in the Comp Plan and informed that DNREC intended to give the City a grant for the Sustainability Plan which could be another application opportunity for staff. He explained that one category would allow the City to pay for a consultant through a grant to perform a detailed analysis. He offered to further investigate if the CAC determined a need. Dr. Huntley confirmed and thought the City should pursue investigating climate change impact. She referred to a section in the Comp Plan about flood plains and suggested amending the language to say "as we know that the flood plains will be expanding and that there will be additional flooding due to climate change in the next 10 to 50 years, the City expects developers" to take the consideration into development plans. Mr. Fortner was unsure that the flood plain would be expanding and wanted to consider a detailed study. Dr. Huntley asked if the City was unaware of any climate change impacts to the area and Mr. Fortner said that he was personally unaware and indicated the Public Works Department was more knowledgeable about the topic. He stated that he was unaware of a detailed study on the subject, similar to those through DNREC's grant program. Dr. Huntley informed that regional and State studies had been performed so if the State expected heavier rain, the City could as well. Mr. Fortner contented that the heavier rains did not mean that the flood plains would expand but could mean that there would be more frequent flooding in the flood plain and Dr. Huntley agreed. Mr. Fortner informed that he would share the chapters with the CAC for review.

Mr. O'Donnell agreed with previous comments and revealed there were websites that included simulated sea level rising as a result of climate change and showed the inundation of flood waters. He recalled claims that Delaware would be the most flood-affected state in the continental US in the low-lying areas and asked that Mr. Fortner investigate. Mr. O'Donnell attended one of the coffee breaks and found the interaction with the community to be helpful and complimented Mr. Fortner's responses. He intended to participate in more sessions to provide feedback on transportation and utilities. He suggested that electric vehicle (EV) busses could be included into the transportation topic as well as net zero building codes, mixed zoning, bike lanes and trails, and the requirement of EV infrastructure as a designated

percentage as new residential buildings were constructed. He assumed most of the topics were in the Sustainability Plan and he was happy to support and work with Mr. Fortner.

Mr. Mateyko wanted developers to be assigned responsibility for site compliance with some standard for flooding or otherwise, that had been crafted by the State or Federal government. He emphasized the need to establish a design temperature for 2040, 2050, and 2100. He admitted that infrastructure took time to develop but emphasized the necessity that everyone works from the same design temperature. He noted that New York and New Jersey Port Authority published a design temperature standard for two or three years and suggested the City use it as a basis. Dr. Huntley interjected and asked that Mr. Mateyko define design temperature. Mr. Mateyko replied that design materials slowly expanded so structural and civil engineers determined a standard design temperature. He explained that when steel or concrete was used in construction, they expanded so suspension bridge cables would expand, sag, and no longer carry loads which would lead to bridge collapses. He continued that design temperature was a basic concept because static temperature had disappeared in terms of engineering and the City should establish and publicize a standard so that all work done within the City shall be governed by the standard. He reiterated that the information was available from the Port Authority and the City needed to simply establish the standard so that any current development should be designed to meet design temperatures for the benchmark years. He continued that it was uncomfortable to walk on sidewalks in high temperatures and wanted to anticipate how many days were expected to hit excessive temperatures and use a design standard. He wanted all new sidewalks to be shaded to a percentage determined by Code as well as be pitched for water drainage. He suggested that the canopy coverage could also be an artificial awning.

Ms. Smith shared that she often thought that parking lots lacked shade trees and was unaware of a standard for shaded parking lots and sidewalks in the City. She did not know why developers were only required to plant smaller trees.

Mr. Fortner felt that much of the conversation was worthy of further investigation and described the Comprehensive Development Plan as important but a collection of simple policies and goals. He agreed that staff could perform more studies and the CAC could review further initiatives and suggested that Mr. Mateyko's point could be researched using a DNREC grant. He was unsure if the Comp Plan could encompass all of the suggestions and noted that even if the initiatives were not included, it did not mean that City was barred from pursuit. Mr. Mateyko added that the design standard was not a discretionary goal and repeated his desire for more shaded sidewalks and for the City to be prepared with ready-to-go projects on the chance that Federal funding came through.

Ms. Smith wanted to hold further discussions with Mr. Fortner regarding the Comp Plan review. She asked that the CAC members review the minutes as well as the Comprehensive Plan in anticipation of the June meeting and draft a list of action items to bring the two documents closer together. Mr. Fortner offered to invite Public Works staff to attend a CAC-specific workshop. Ms. Smith asked that members consider what would be the best use of time in terms of meeting with Mr. Fortner and staff.

Dr. Huntley appreciated Mr. Fortner's presentation and looked forward to more in-depth conversation. Ms. Smith repeated her request that members prepare in advance of the next meeting and compare the two documents to discern possible connections. She hoped that the City could progress with climate change initiatives, tree planting, and transit.

Ms. Chajes informed new members that the Planning Commission adopted significant revisions for building design to provide developers incentives and goals to adhere to green building in the City. She shared that the CAC felt the new iteration was an improvement over the previous version. She explained that the Planning Commission combined various standards and developed a point system and believed that some of Mr. Mateyko's suggestions were already included. Ms. Smith agreed and noted the building design revision was included in the Sustainability Plan and was an on-going process. Ms. Scheld shared the document in the chat function.

4. LIGHTS OUT RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL – SHEILA SMITH

Ms. Smith shared a draft of the recommendation with the CAC members prior to the start of the meeting and reminded that there was a consensus of support during the April meeting. She said that UD began the initiative and was considering bird mortality in connection with the high-rise STAR Campus buildings. She continued that UD reached out to The Newark Partnership (TNP) and Dr. George Irvine, UD's Sustainability Group, forwarded the idea to Ms. Smith for consideration by the CAC. She read:

The North American bird population has decreased by 30% since the 1970s. Threats to birds include, loss of habitat, feral and domestic cats, and building strikes, especially during spring and fall migration. Migrating birds fly by night. For 2 months in spring millions of birds are in the air each night, traveling from their southern wintering grounds to summer breeding grounds in the north. The reverse takes place in the fall.

Migration has always been perilous for birds, but humans have added a danger that increases with each passing year, urbanization. Buildings are rising upward, many with glass exteriors, and increased lighting inside and out. Artificial lighting interferes with bird's ability to navigate, drawing them into urban areas, increasing the likelihood that they will collide with buildings. Cities across the country have become increasingly aware of bird mortality due to building strikes and many are adopting a "lights out" strategy to mitigate the impacts of urbanization.

The City of Newark is situated on the White Clay Creek, an important stop over for 10s of thousands of migrating birds and home to nearly 100 species of breeding birds. Newark's skyline is rising. With each new development lighting is added and impacts on wildlife, including insects, are increasing.

Reduced lighting within our city has advantages for wildlife and humans.

- Saves birds lives.
- Saves money on energy costs.
- Reduces pollutants.
- Reduces greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.
- Aligns with Newark's sustainability goals to reduce energy usage and to reduce environmental impacts.

The CAC recommends that the City of Newark join in a coordinated effort with the Newark Partnership, local businesses, the University of Delaware, and citizens, to reduce our lighting from midnight to 6 am, in and around city facilities to the greatest extent possible during bird migration

spring and fall time periods from 4/1 to 5/31 and 8/15 to 11/15, while maintaining safety and security to life and property.

Mr. Mateyko asked that the resolution be made permanent and not temporary for the year, as well as be applicable to all planning documents and City processes. The members discussed various revisions and Mr. Martindale clarified that the recommendation could look similar to what was presented. He continued that the recommendations drafted by City staff were formatted as a memo and Ms. Bensley would draft the resolution, which would come from Council. He explained that the CAC would issue a recommendation and Council would vote to give Ms. Bensley direction to create a resolution. Ms. Smith asked Mr. Martindale for his suggestions regarding language and he offered to forward previous recommendations to match formatting prior to Council submission. Ms. Smith asked if the members could vote or if the recommendation had to be written as needed and Dr. Huntley replied that the CAC had to vote on specific language. Dr. Huntley asked why the recommendation was for five months of the year and supported a recommendation for the City to minimize its lighting between midnight and 6 am always to save bird lives, save money and reduced pollutants. Mr. Mateyko assumed that the lighting on STAR Campus was intended to make the buildings seem impressive and owners would likely be more receptive to dimming the lights during peak migration periods. Ms. Smith reminded that the recommendation could only address City facilities and the CAC was collaborating with other groups. She agreed with Dr. Huntley's suggestion because the benefits were obvious. Dr. Huntley did not think it was necessary to adhere to that particular outline of the initiative and believed the partnership made sense regardless of whether the partners agreed to participate year-round.

Mr. O'Donnell interjected and shared that he was editing the recommendation and would send the copy to Ms. Scheld so the CAC could vote that evening. He suggested including cited references to provide Council with background information and to keep the recommendation language concise. Mr. Martindale agreed that the language should be concise and reminded that the straw memo from June 2019 was one page. He continued that if the recommendation was written to include the entire year, it would be wise to wait for the City to complete its Energy Savings Performance Contracting project which included adding hundreds of LED lights along City streets, facilities, and parking lots. He explained that once the infrastructure was in place, then staff could dim as necessary to meet the needs of residents, the CAC, and the City. Dr. Huntley agreed and noted recommendation currently addressed lights in and around City facilities so including street lighting would be useful. Ms. Smith explained her intent was to include street lighting and asked Mr. Martindale for next steps. Mr. Martindale encouraged proceeding with the partnership, using the suggested dimming periods as a starting point, and pitching a larger scale initiative when the infrastructure was in place. Ms. Smith asked if the recommendation could be submitted as written. Mr. Martindale recommended to task one member to draft a more formalized memo based on comments throughout the evening and present it at the next CAC meeting. He noted the first migration period included in the recommendation was nearly over so it would be useful to present the memo to Council prior to the August migration. He reiterated that the recommendation be revised to include comments from the meeting for a June vote.

Ms. Matsumoto asked if it would be possible for the recommendation to be added to a July Council agenda if the vote was postponed until June. Mr. Martindale said that he and Ms. Scheld would work to reserve a spot on a Council agenda and expressed his desire to speak with the Electric and Police Departments to verify the range of the initiative while considering public safety. Dr. Huntley offered to draft the recommendation during the meeting and asked that the discussion continue. Ms. Smith emphasized the importance of the collaboration and preferred that the recommendation be voted on that evening.

(Secretary's note: the members continued with the meeting and would vote on the recommendation after Dr. Huntley's revision)

MOTION BY DR. HUNTLEY, SECONDED BY MR. O'DONNELL: THE NORTH AMERICAN BIRD POPULATION HAS DECREASED BY 30% SINCE THE 1970S. URBAN LIGHTING IS A HAZARD FOR BIRDS, ESPECIALLY DURING THEIR MIGRATION. THE NATIONAL LIGHTS OUT MOVEMENT ENCOURAGES BUILDING OWNERS AND MANAGERS TO REDUCE THE EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR LIGHTING ON THEIR BUILDINGS, ESPECIALLY DURING THE MONTHS OF BIRD MIGRATION. THEREFORE, THE CAC RECOMMENDS:

- (1) THAT THE CITY OF NEWARK JOIN THE NEWARK PARTNERSHIP AND THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE IN URGING LIGHTS OUT ACTIONS BY ITS RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES;
- (2) AND THAT THE CITY OF NEWARK REDUCE ITS LIGHTING TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE FROM MIDNIGHT TO 6 AM IN AND AROUND CITY FACILITIES, AS WELL AS ALONG ITS ROADWAYS, YEAR-ROUND, BUT WITH A SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE MIGRATION PERIODS IN APRIL THROUGH MAY AND AUGUST THROUGH NOVEMBER.

IN ADDITION TO THE POSITIVE IMPACTS ON OUR WILDLIFE, THESE ACTIONS WILL SAVE MONEY, REDUCE POLLUTANTS, REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, AND ALIGN WITH NEWARK'S SUSTAINABILITY GOALS.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE 7 TO 0.

AYE: HUNTLEY, CHAJES, MATEYKO, O'DONNELL, HEDRICH, MATSUMOTO, SMITH.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: O'HALLORAN.

5. STRAW FLYER DISTRIBUTION PLAN UPDATE – BETH CHAJES

Ms. Chajes distributed 100 bookmarks to Tammy Lunsford at the Newark Charter High School and had not received any replies from Bob McDowell. She would deliver some bookmarks to City Hall as suggested by Mr. Martindale and asked if the intent was to save some for potential distribution at Community Day or reprint because she only had 200 remaining. Ms. Smith suggested that Ms. Chajes reach Mr. McDowell through his school email.

Ms. Matsumoto learned that the Newark Free Library had 60 remaining bookmarks from the original 400 and asked if the members wanted the Library to continue distribution. Ms. Smith confirmed, and Ms. Matsumoto would determine how many more should be ordered. Ms. Chajes was hopeful that the members could speak to restaurants in-person as the City reopened because the survey was not a successful vehicle for soliciting flyer requests. Ms. Smith wondered whether delivering a hard copy of the flyer and an envelope would be more efficient. Ms. Chajes reminded that the two responses she received did not indicate that the restaurants wanted many flyers, so she suggested printing a small amount to deliver and then offer to provide more upon request. Ms. Smith asked if there was movement with TNP and Ms. Chajes said that she would speak to Ms. Moore on whether in-person meetings were on the forecast and suggested that a CAC member attend a meeting with restauranteurs to display an example of the materials. She offered to continue as the contact for TNP and asked that the item remain on the

agenda.

6. PLANTING STATUS FOR REDD PARK – MARYCLARE MATSUMOTO

Ms. Matsumoto reviewed the plantings with Tom Zaleski and sent an update to Ms. Scheld:

Scientific name	Common name	#	Cost	Unit cost	# alive	net loss
Liquidamber styraciflua	Sweet Gum	6	\$ 236.70	\$ 39.45	1	\$ 197.25
Carpinus caroliniana	American Hornbeam, blue-beech	6	\$ 236.70	\$ 39.45	0	\$ 236.70
Nyssasylvatica	Black gum	6	\$ 236.70	\$ 39.45	1	\$ 197.25
Viburnum dentatum	Arrowwood viburnum	9	\$ 89.55	\$ 9.95	0	\$ 89.55
Lindera Benzoin	Northern spicebush	9	\$ 80.55	\$ 9.95	2	\$ 60.65
Tiarella cordifolia 'Brandywine'	Foam flower	15	\$ 68.25	\$ 4.55	15	\$ -
Phlox stolonifera 'Blue Ridge'	creeping flox	15	\$ 61.35	\$ 4.09	8	\$ 28.63
			\$ 1,009.80			\$ 810.03

Ms. Matsumoto said that Mr. Zaleski met with the Parks Department because he assumed that some of the trees had been vandalized because they had been uprooted and were unsuitable for replanting. She wanted to believe the best and hoped that deer were the culprits instead of vandals and reiterated that some of the cages had been removed and trees had been uprooted. She emphasized that plants were all viable at the time of purchase but noted the net loss. She asked Mr. Zaleski for recommendations and he advised more ground cover. She admitted that the designated planting area was now covered with May apples and other native plants and was also shaded so she was unsure how the trees would have fared if they had not been uprooted. She continued that there was a natural spring in one area and a spicebush was thriving in the environment. She admitted she was disappointed in the turnout given the CAC's efforts and said that Mr. Zaleski retrieved the tubing from the uprooted trees but had not investigated whether the trees remaining in the tubes had sprouted. Ms. Smith asked if she was referring to the bareroot trees the CAC planted a few years ago and Ms. Matsumoto confirmed that not many of the 2018 bare rooted trees had survived so the tubes were reused to cover new plantings to protect them from deer and reiterated that they did not investigate the remaining tubes and only focused on the potted plants that were added in 2019.

Dr. Huntley suspected that uprooted trees had been vandalized because the company that planted for the river restoration on the Upper Christina installed many trees along the Mason-Dixon Trail and within weeks, a dozen were ripped out and thrown into the river. She wanted to consider deterrent measures. Ms. Matsumoto informed that there were cameras at the reservoir, but they did not reach into the forest. Mr. Mateyko admitted the results were depressing but emphasized that the vandalism was documented proof of a lack of adequate understanding of nature. He viewed the vandalism as an opportunity to address effective educational measures and motivational programs. Ms. Matsumoto repeated Mr. Zaleski's suggestion the CAC focus more on establishing ground cover and hoped that he would be able to suggest another area for tree planting in the fall. Ms. Smith hoped for a location that

was more visible. Dr. Huntley noticed that there were many ash trees along the Christina River were dead and had no leaves, so it was only a matter of time before they fell. She suggested the location as a potential reforestation effort. Ms. Smith suggested using a different caging material because she used wire caging and rebar for plantings at the Curtis Mill.

Ms. Scheld referred to the losses and suggested planting more substantive trees to deter vandalism. Ms. Smith stated that bareroot plantings were popular because they were less expensive and grew faster and noted that there was no update provided for the plantings from two or three years ago. She suggested the success rate could be positive and maintained there was an advantage as well as a disadvantage to planting larger trees. Ms. Smith asked if the sweet gum and American hornbeam were potted. Ms. Matsumoto confirmed the trees were contained in pots and were staked in with wires and ties; she reiterated that she gathered cages still containing uprooted trees. She agreed it was better to plant smaller trees and explained that pots were a better option because of the difficulty in planting large trees in the designated area.

Mr. O'Donnell agreed that vandalism was unfortunate and wanted to avoid the same issue next year by planting items that were more difficult to rip up. He wanted to focus on the successful plantings and suggested concentrating efforts where the payoff was greatest.

7. FEDERAL ENERGY POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR NEWARK – JOHN MATEYKO

Ms. Smith stated that the CAC was interested in a summary of specific action items on which members could focus and recommend to the City. Mr. Mateyko shared that the entire government was involved and there was emphasis on nationally scaled, community-led initiatives. He admitted the guidelines were unspecific because the politics were still playing out and anticipated a push for action sometime in June, including specific legislation. He reiterated that funding was available, and the government wanted community-led projects. He investigated the timeline and stated that the government wanted a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030. He estimated the CAC would hold 114 meetings through 2030 and would have reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50% for an average of 0.005% reduction every month for the next 114 months. He wanted to quantify a deadline that differed from claiming the desire for more minute reductions and explained that after the 50% decrease was achieved, then the goal would be to work towards 0%. He felt the process was more important than any product because the CAC was tasked with considering the entire community because the shift was cultural. He looked forward to meeting face-to-face to improve the quality of the CAC's meetings.

Dr. Huntley stated that she added the draft recommendation to the chat function and had reviewed the goals in the Sustainability Plan to learn if the Plan included GHG emission reductions. She explained one goal was that the City, through its buildings and operations, would use 25% less electricity and other forms of energy in 2025 versus 2018, and be carbon free by 2030. She stated the City was already in line with the Federal goal and Mr. Mateyko confirmed.

Mr. O'Donnell thanked Mr. Mateyko for breaking the figures down on a monthly basis and wanted to add specific language to the Sustainability Plan for GHG emissions reduction. He noted there was a Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) web meeting earlier that day that specifically referenced 52% at length. He reiterated the need to track the percentage and reference the figure on any Council proposals as supporting the Federal goal. He referred to Mr. Coleman's desire to establish a baseline for GHG by paying a contractor to determine the inventory and felt the initiative was further justified as a good use of CAC funds because there was no way to determine improvement without a baseline. He

wanted to identify low-hanging fruit items such as transportation and energy generation. Mr. Mateyko asked why a baseline was necessary if the goal was to not improve efficiency from the current state. He continued that if the end point was a goal, then the CAC should consider how much the City paid for the fuels it consumed and cut the amount by 50% by 2030. Mr. O'Donnell agreed that the 50% reduction was necessity but maintained that a start point was imperative to begin proper calculations. He added that three gas cars were being replaced with three electric vehicles and in order to determine the reduction, a baseline needed to be calculated through an inventory. Mr. Mateyko assumed there was an inventory in police records about gallons of gasoline purchased and then suggested cutting the number of gallons purchased by half by 2030. He argued that the project was not an efficiency study and staff simply needed to investigate the amount of fuel purchased. Dr. Huntley explained that Mr. Mateyko's suggestion was how the consultants would complete the inventory. She continued that another value of the inventory was that it would be obvious where improvements could be made and it could be simpler to make changes. Ms. Smith asked Mr. Martindale for an update on the consultants. Mr. Martindale confirmed that Mr. Coleman was working on securing the consultants. Ms. Scheld confirmed that Mr. Coleman would update in June because of current scheduling conflicts.

Ms. Smith assumed that City staff constantly considered funding opportunities and Mr. Martindale confirmed that the City employed lobbyists. Ms. Smith credited staff for staying up-to-date and noted that the City received awards for addressing energy issues. Dr. Huntley added that it would be beneficial for the CAC to keep high priority elements of the Sustainability Plan on its radar to continue to push the City to act, including establishing the Newark Energy Transmission (NET). Ms. Smith agreed and suggested that it also be a part of discussions with the Planning Department to discern energy, pollution or GHG issues.

8. MONTHLY CONSERVATION ARTICLE WITH THE NEWARK POST – SHEILA SMITH

Ms. Smith revealed that she was still considering trees versus lawns for her article and wanted to address Lights Out in June, so residents understood the intent. Dr. Huntley assumed that residents could forget about the initiative by the fall migration and suggested publication in August.

- June – Lawns – Sheila Smith
- July – Energy efficiency – Beth Chajes
- August – Lights Out – Sheila Smith
- September - Flooding and Riparian Buffer Zones – Helga Huntley

Ms. Smith informed Ms. Hedrich that the CAC wrote articles for the Newark Post's Conservation Corner and Ms. Hedrich offered to participate. Ms. Smith explained that members tried to ensure that the articles were relevant to the season and were tied into the CAC's work and the Sustainability Plan.

9. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

Ms. Smith asked who preferred to meet with Mr. Fortner during a special meeting to discuss the Comprehensive Development Plan and the CAC's role. Ms. Matsumoto informed that she would not be present for the June meeting but thought it was difficult to hold extra meetings. Ms. Smith asked Ms. Scheld if members could submit questions and Ms. Scheld asked for clarification on why the discussion could not take place during the normal meeting. Dr. Huntley was open to either suggestion and Ms. Chajes and Ms. Hedrich were willing to hold a separate meeting. Ms. Smith asked if Mr. Fortner had included any Steering Committee members at the coffee break meetings and if the presentation would last 15 minutes

and then break for discussion. She reiterated that the Committee was reviewing and revising the plan. Dr. Huntley suggested that Mr. Fortner be asked to present at the next meeting and schedule another meeting if necessary. Ms. Smith would reach out to Mr. Fortner and said that the June agenda was not pressing. Ms. Scheld interjected that because the June agenda was light, it would be suitable for Mr. Fortner to present. Ms. Smith asked that the members review the two documents and attempt to find ways that were significant around GHG.

10. OLD/NEW BUSINESS – SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION NEXT STEPS

Mr. Martindale informed that he forwarded the members pictures of the City's new EVs purchased earlier in the week and stated they were parked the visitor lot at City Hall so residents could view them. He revealed that the Nissan LEAF was the only EV on the Delaware State contract and would have been purchased through a New Jersey vendor. Staff took the proposal to Porter Nissan who beat the price and saved the City \$16,000. He continued that the City saved money, supported a local business, and received the EVs two weeks from the time that the recommendation was approved versus three months going through the State contract. He noted that the Newark Post had already written articles about the purchase and thanked the members for their efforts. Mr. Mateyko thanked Mr. Martindale and City staff for the purchase. Ms. Smith suggested a decal for the EVs inviting residents to "checkout the City's all electric vehicles".

Ms. Smith then revisited the Lights Out recommendation.

11. NEXT MEETING – JULY 8, 2021

Ms. Matsumoto noted that 27 plantings at Redd Park lived so there was a survival rate of 41%.

MOTION BY MS. MATSUMOTO, SECONDED BY MR. MATEYKO: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Nichol Scheld
Administrative Professional I

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