

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES

January 10, 2023

MEETING CONVENED: 7:03 p.m. Council Chambers/Microsoft Teams Hybrid

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sheila Smith (Presiding), Beth Chajes, Andrew O'Donnell, Helga Huntley, Mahi Palanisami

ABSENT: Mikayla Rypkema, John Mateyko, Lauren O'Connor

STAFF: Tara Schiano, City Secretary
Jeffrey Martindale, Chief Purchasing & Personnel Officer
Nichol Scheld, Deputy City Secretary

Ms. Smith called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 8, 2022, AND DECEMBER 13, 2022:

MOTION BY DR. HUNTLEY, SECONDED BY MR. O'DONNELL: THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 8, 2022, MINUTES AS SUBMITTED BY THE SECRETARY.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE 5 – 0.

AYE: CHAJES, O'DONNELL, SMITH, PALANISAMI, HUNTLEY.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: RYPKEMA, MATEYKO, O'CONNOR.

MOTION BY MS. CHAJES, SECONDED BY DR. HUNTLEY: THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE DECEMBER 10, 2022, MINUTES AS SUBMITTED BY THE SECRETARY.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE 5 – 0.

AYE: CHAJES, O'DONNELL, SMITH, PALANISAMI, HUNTLEY.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: RYPKEMA, MATEYKO, O'CONNOR.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michael Smith, Executive Director of Powering Our Future (POF), explained that his non-profit organization focused primarily on reducing air pollution and saving residents money. He continued that POF provided rebates to residents in the County, specifically in Brookside, to install electric vehicle charging stations at apartment complexes, churches, and residential homes and shared that rebates were also available for electric bicycles and electric lawn care tools. He informed that POF started in 2022 and held an event at the Newark Senior Center where 50 electric leaf blowers were distributed during the Housing Fair in September and followed with twelve more events at senior centers across the County where 450 electric leaf blowers were distributed over six weeks. He revealed that there would be at least one event in the City and

POF received \$1,000 in revenue sharing funding to purchase electric leaf blowers for a similar program in the fall with the potential to host a recycling program for participants to trade-in gas-powered leaf blowers.

Mr. Smith continued that POF also disseminated information on heat pump systems, hybrid water heaters, air conditioning, and ceiling installation, and helped cover the cost of home performance assessments from Energize Delaware. He was enthusiastic about working with the City and County and informed that there was an event the next day at Absalom Jones Senior Center where POF would distribute LED bulbs purchased from the Atlanta-based Conserve Energy Foundation; he would inform the Commission of any events at the Newark Senior Center. He revealed that POF had air quality monitors available, 30 of which were committed to the Christina School District, that displayed temperature, humidity, PM 2.5, and carbon dioxide. He estimated there were 70 monitors available but 30 were possibly reserved for the Red Clay School District. He emphasized that the monitors were very useful for schools and other institutions and asked for suggestions on local entities that might benefit.

Ms. Chajes asked if the Commission could partner with POF to make lawn care equipment available to a greater extent in the City. Mr. Smith confirmed and was open to any suggestions. He informed that POF held its first charging station groundbreaking at the Harbor Club apartments and hoped to have more charging station projects in the City. He noted that St. Paul's might be interested in a charging station to allow public transit users charge cars while using the bus and added that there was funding available from the bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and Inflation Reduction Act and POF hoped to help individuals and organizations take advantage of the opportunity. Ms. Chajes suggested that POF host a table at the solar park tours. Mr. Smith stated that the Drive Electric event was typically in Dover, but the rebates were largely in New Castle County.

Ms. Smith asked if electric leaf blowers were as powerful as gas and if the available items were strictly for home or industrial use. Mr. Smith explained that the recent blowers were designed to be as lightweight as possible for senior citizens (4.5 pounds versus 10 or 15 pounds) and were not as powerful and required a power cord. He indicated the first ones given out at the Newark Senior Center were more powerful battery units, but POF learned that the blowers were too heavy; battery-operated leaf blowers could be very powerful, but the batteries tended to die quickly. He shared that POF applied for a grant with Energize Delaware to host a state-wide rebate program and requested that 25% of the funds be dedicated to small landscaping companies to electrify. He informed that two-cycle engines emitted as many hydrocarbons as an Ford F150 driving from Alaska to Texas and that Lewes was in the process of banning the engines.

Dr. Huntley requested the website name and Mr. Smith replied that it was poweringourfuturede.org or POFDelaware.org for social media. Dr. Huntley asked for POF's chief concern and Mr. Smith explained the initial program focused on energy efficiency and electrification with five programs for each concern. He noted that two of the programs for energy efficiency were LED light bulbs and advanced power strips, but successful incentive programs already existed, so POF focused more on hybrid water heaters, home performance assessment kits, and electrification to reduce air pollution, especially in the PJM area and I95 corridor. He hoped to clean the grid and reduce air pollution while also reducing prices and utility rates.

Dr. Huntley asked for POF's funding source and Mr. Smith explained that POF received a grant from Building a Stronger Future, based out of Washington DC, in November 2021 and had been spending it down since. He wanted to focus on foundations in the State in the future and hoped to receive larger sums from Energize Delaware, Cressly, Longwood, and other organizations. Dr. Huntley assumed that POF was targeting specific neighborhoods and asked for insight on the selection process. Mr. Smith explained that Brookside and Marshallton were included in a map from the Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool which identified disadvantaged communities with climate justice concerns. He informed that any census tract with more than

20% college students was automatically disqualified from consideration and that three of the four census tracks that POF considered its service area were in the County west of Route 7; the fourth track was from a different climate justice map that specifically focused on electric vehicles and clean transportation. Dr. Huntley assumed that POF would be open to working with the Commission since it was focused on the City and Mr. Smith confirmed and clarified that funding was constrained so POF focused on specific communities. He revealed that POF would concentrate an event around the community surrounding Dickey Park which did not qualify under the screening tool but was close in one of the ten criteria.

Dr. Huntley asked if POF was open to an air monitoring station rental program so users could assess the situation. Mr. Smith confirmed but clarified that the stations in stock were good for particulate matter, carbon dioxide, among other statistics, and could record up to ten years of data for export to an Excel file. While the stations were not suitable for rental situations, POF could investigate other models and noted that other entities in the County were looking to purchase PurpleAir quality monitors to publicly report outdoor data through Wi-Fi onto a map. Dr. Huntley asked if POF was involved in promoting electric school buses and Mr. Smith confirmed that his group attended several World Resources Institute discussions on electric buses. He believed Delaware was set to receive between 15 and 20 from the bipartisan infrastructure bill and 14 were slated for Red Clay. He stated that POF was a 501(c)(3) and could not lobby but he believed the main bottleneck was charging stations that could handle an electrical capacity for a school bus; he added that Delaware would also receive 17 propane buses. Dr. Huntley hoped the buses would be used on the longer routes from Wilmington to Newark.

Mr. O'Donnell thanked Mr. Smith for the presentation and looked forward to a future partnership.

3. ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Smith reminded that the report assignments were in the December minutes. She asked that members submit their portions as quickly as possible and review the 2022 goals to construct 2023 goals.

(Secretary's note: Ms. Scheld requested that the procedural discussion precede the tree giveaway discussion)

4. EFFICIENCY SMART FUNDING UPDATE/PROCEDURAL DISCUSSION

Ms. Schiano reminded that the Commission received two emails the weeks prior detailing the CAC's policy and procedures and the 2023 Budget Process. Dr. Huntley agreed that the Commission needed to remember not to ask questions of the entire Commission via email and added that members direct any questions to the Chair and/or Co-chair to avoid any Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) rules by speaking to the entire group at once. Ms. Schiano asked that any communication be sent to the City Secretary's Office as well (citysecretary@newark.de.us). Dr. Huntley posed the scenario of four members selected by the Commission to collaborate on Community Day and asked if the members could discuss ideas amongst one another before returning to the Commission with a final product. Ms. Schiano confirmed that a member who found a vendor for swag could discuss the option at the next meeting but emphasized that members could not discuss anything other than logistics; all other topics needed to be discussed in a public format. She clarified that a discussion where opinions were involved would need to be introduced at a meeting.

Mr. Martindale noted that members could be designated to research swag and work with Purchasing staff for procurement and Ms. Schiano confirmed. Dr. Huntley asked how a member could

work with Mr. Martindale but not with another Commissioner and Ms. Schiano explained that the members were considered a group whereas Mr. Martindale would be discussing finances. She continued that there were many gray areas and reiterated that any conversation outside of a quorum of five was not allowed. Dr. Huntley understood and asked about a group smaller than a quorum. Ms. Schiano explained that a conversation between members less than a quorum was acceptable as long as no other members were included because then the group would be considered a rolling quorum. She acknowledged that the situation could be frustrating with groups that only met once a month, but it was important for the group to organize its agendas to allow timely debate.

Dr. Huntley informed that she and Mr. O'Donnell had collaborated on collecting data from police departments around the Country on the use of electric vehicles for presentation at a future meeting. Ms. Schiano confirmed that the collaboration was a delineated project and was simple to contain but new projects tended to expand and create FOIA issues.

Ms. Palanisami asked if the rule was part of the Charter and Ms. Schiano confirmed that FOIA was part of the Code and was included in the memo. Ms. Schiano would organize FOIA training for any interested City committee members. Ms. Smith asked that the memo be included in the Commission's welcome packet and asked if FOIA changed often, and Ms. Schiano stated that FOIA was consistent.

Ms. Chajes explained that Commissioners aimed to work outside of the meetings because the meetings were already long. She asked if a sub-committee assigned with planning Community Day was permitted to hold a public meeting separate from the Commission or if there would be too much burden on City staff. Ms. Schiano informed that organizing a subcommittee was not an easy process, but she would research streamlined meeting processes because the Commissioners were familiar with one another so meetings tended to devolve into discussions which snowballed into the next meeting and caused frustration. Ms. Chajes assumed a subcommittee was a possibility if truly necessary and Ms. Schiano agreed that Community Day was an important event. Ms. Smith agreed with Ms. Schiano's direction to begin discussions earlier in the calendar; she wanted to use a timekeeper during meetings. Ms. Schiano agreed and added that Commissioners consider the Chair as the timekeeper and Ms. Scheld offered to flash a warning on the screen. Ms. Schiano added that time limits could be included on the agenda and Ms. Scheld offered to review upcoming agendas at the end of the meetings.

Mr. Martindale wanted to ensure that the Commission was using its funding appropriately and in a timely manner and suggested the Commission consider itself on a fiscal year and earmark its funding during the first half of the year to allow time for ample research. He believed it was appropriate to address large projects earlier in the year for the upcoming year and leave the Commission some funding for the one-off, smaller expenditures. Dr. Huntley noted that the memo included Mr. Martindale's proposed expenditures as well as the expenditures approved by the Commission.

Mr. Martindale confirmed that the Dickey Park Community Garden ADA Improvements and the bushes for the solar park at the reservoir had been approved by the Commission the previous year, but the Parks Department had been unable to mobilize so the funding fell by the wayside. Dr. Huntley did not believe the item had any conservation value. Ms. Smith interjected that the plantings would be native plants, but Mr. Martindale agreed with Dr. Huntley and reiterated that the request was at the Commission's discretion. Dr. Huntley asked how many complaints the City received on the visibility of the solar panels because she estimated there were dozens of households in the neighborhood and wondered if only a handful of people were complaining. Mr. Martindale admitted that the loudest voices were heard the most and informed that since the item was last discussed, staff moved the chain-link fence that had

been located directly on the sidewalk and there had been fewer complaints. Ms. Chajes noted that the area had some plantings and Mr. Martindale explained that the plantings were initially installed behind the fence but were now between the fence and the sidewalk. Ms. Smith argued that if the area was planted instead of grass, then the City would decrease labor and emissions, and reduce the mowed area; native plants would improve the habitat. Mr. Martindale reminded that trees had to be removed to support the solar park so the plantings could be considered mitigation. Dr. Huntley admitted the cost was not large and Mr. Martindale confirmed. Mr. O'Donnell considered the project as a way to garner local support for improving the community. Mr. Martindale revealed that the complaints were generated from a neighborhood outside of the City. Ms. Smith offered to assist with the design and plant selection and Mr. Martindale shared that none should be larger than six feet.

Mr. Martindale reminded that the Commission discussed replacing the train station windows in December and did not recommend making a motion that evening in order to allow the Newark Historical Society the chance to present. Dr. Huntley asked for the cost of the window replacement. Mr. Martindale explained that staff anticipated some level of State or Federal funding which required a prevailing wage requirement and substantially increased the labor cost; the estimated cost was \$200,000 so the proposed Commission assistance of \$15,000 was about 7.5% of the entire project. He informed that the train station was hosting another fundraising campaign in the spring and the Commission's portion could be part of a match to draw additional funding. Ms. Smith asked how previous fundraisers had performed and Mr. Martindale explained that the Historical Society agreed to match up to \$10,000 and received \$10,000. Dr. Huntley noted that the Society was not a City entity and Mr. Martindale informed that the organization was a 501(c)(3) that leased the train station. Dr. Huntley asked if the City was responsible for maintaining the building and the Society was assisting with help from the fundraiser. Mr. Martindale confirmed that the Society was preserving the building to continue its residence; the building was not operations critical so further deterioration could result in its condemning by the City. Ms. Smith asked if the station had historical designation; Mr. Martindale confirmed it was on the registry and that he had informed Council the building either needed to be preserved or sold because further deterioration was detrimental. He pointed out that Josh Shannon had written an article in the Post which initiated further conversations; he hoped that the item would be added to the City's bond bill request from the State. He revealed that he submitted a grant to Saving America's Treasure Grant Program through the National Parks service on behalf of the Society and would receive a response in June.

Dr. Huntley asked for the total cost for the renovations and Mr. Martindale anticipated \$700,000 on the high end because State or Federal funding included provisions. Ms. Chajes asked for the date of the spring fund raiser and Mr. Martindale imagined the fundraiser would be throughout March and end on April 2nd in conjunction with Founders Day. Dr. Huntley asked that the Society attend the February Commission meeting and Mr. Martindale confirmed. Mr. O'Donnell asked what purpose the building would serve once renovated and Mr. Martindale confirmed that the building would continue to function as a museum and informed that the City maintained an upstairs office space throughout the lease which was unusable in its current state.

Ms. Palanisami asked how much the building would be worth following the renovations. Mr. Martindale was unsure but admitted it was not worth \$700,000 in its current state which was another consideration. Ms. Smith noted that the locale was not ideal. Mr. Martindale agreed and informed that the event included a 5K run along the Hall Trail that would end at the station. He continued that a condition of Federal funding included a preservation covenant that the City would need to enter for 20 years and, if the City was able to repair the building to a sustainable level, then the intent was to keep the station as long as possible. Dr. Huntley asked if the City would have to maintain ownership and Mr.

Martindale believed the covenant would be passed to any new purchaser but the City never intended to sell the building.

Mr. Martindale reminded that the Commission committed \$1,000 to the NCCL Greenfest in 2022 and he assumed the same for 2023. Dr. Huntley believed NCCL would appreciate a response as soon as possible.

Mr. Martindale increased the CAC branded gear to \$1,000 for 2023 to cover initial costs but stated that the amount would decrease in future years to cover maintenance. Ms. Smith located the vendor used by the State and informed that a six- to eight-foot tablecloth was \$500 but noted the City had its own vendor. Dr. Huntley interjected that NCCL reached out on November 20, 2022, to determine the Commission's interest in a 2023 sponsorship but she had not replied on the CAC's behalf; the Greenfest was scheduled for May 6, 2023.

Mr. Martindale noted that Mr. Spadafino would attend in February to discuss the Spring Tree Giveaway. Dr. Huntley asked that Mr. Spadafino provide an update on the state of the trees from the last giveaway.

Mr. Martindale preferred to halt the infrastructure improvements for potential City Hall solar because the feasibility study was ongoing, and he imagined there would be substantial costs to set up the infrastructure. He explained that staff planned to repave and redesign the parking lot and had not yet introduced an energy savings company; if staff waited for the solar after the parking lot was repaved, there would be no opportunity to install solar. Ms. Smith asked if the asphalt would be reduced. Mr. Martindale explained that drainage and parking capacity were the two main focuses, and the Police Department would have increased security with a new fence. Ms. Smith asked if trees would be added, and Mr. Martindale revealed that the initial plan was to install screen chain-link fence up Apple Road to deter visibility into the Police Department, but the new plan was to plant evergreen trees for a more green and maintainable solution. Dr. Huntley asked if there was an opportunity to have a pervious surface and Ms. Smith noted that the parking lot across from City Hall included significant drainage and plantings. Mr. Martindale stated that staff was still in the design phase with the engineer. Dr. Huntley asked if the parking lot was the only one that staff was considering as part of the feasibility study and Mr. Martindale explained that the feasibility study funded by the Commission was only for City Hall but there was the opportunity to have a larger feasibility study for the entire City as a canopy as part of another ESCO project in the future. Dr. Huntley asked if the Commission discussed the study in connection with a new park off Old Paper Mill Road and Mr. Martindale confirmed that any park with a straight line of parking spaces would be applicable. Dr. Huntley asked whether the park would happen in 2023 and Mr. Martindale was unsure. Dr. Huntley emphasized that the study should move forward if the park was a possibility. Mr. Martindale noted there were fewer concerns with Old Paper Mill Park because there would be one driving path with grass on either side so there would be more flexibility to install conduit for a solar canopy even after the lot was paved; repaving the parking area at Preston's Playground was already scheduled and was too late for solar installation. Ms. Smith suggested that shade trees would be a positive addition and Mr. Martindale noted there were restrictions with how deep the infrastructure was buried. He continued that if he revealed the Commission had dedicated funding towards the project, then Council would be more likely to allocate funds. Dr. Huntley recalled that the total cost was much greater, and Mr. Martindale informed that the solar canopies would be six figures and the amount in the memo was for laying the conduit prior to repaving the lot. Ms. Smith noted that staff could then purchase the panels when desired and Mr. Martindale confirmed.

Mr. Martindale revealed that staff had to revise and resubmit the Energize Delaware Electric Vehicle grant but exceeded the maximum allotment by \$10,000. Dr. Huntley asked why staff needed to revise the grant and Mr. Martindale explained that the grant included strict requirements that any vehicle in the application be on the road within two years but the City was already behind on vehicles for 2024. He did not believe the City could commit to two years given the current state of the vehicle market and noted there were two Ford pickup trucks in the initial request; one was rolled back for the water plant operators and the other was for the Police as staff hoped to be the first in the State. He preferred to exceed the grant than under request. Dr. Huntley asked if the proposal stated the \$10,000 would be matched and Mr. Martindale included language for “other City funds” which would either be matched by the Commission or from the City in some fashion. Dr. Huntley requested clarification on a GEM car and Mr. Martindale described it as between a Nissan LEAF and a golf cart. He continued that a vendor demoed a GEM for staff a few months earlier and the City appreciated its applicability for parks maintenance and accessing trails; it was also street legal and would serve as a pilot for other City services. Dr. Huntley asked for the cost and Mr. Martindale explained that the GEM had to be built out and cost about as much as a LEAF. He revealed that the grant program wanted to have its funded vehicles on the road.

Mr. Martindale reminded that the Commission discussed the Energize Delaware low- to moderate-income winterization and the Efficiency Smart Super Rebate Program in 2022. He did not want to vote on the items that evening and wanted Scott Lynch and Tom Coyle from Efficiency Smart to present once more with how the rebate program would work. Ms. Smith asked if it was possible for Efficiency Smart to determine which program would benefit the most from the Commission’s funding and Mr. Martindale reminded that the Commission reviewed the programs at the previous meeting but he was still waiting for a response from Efficiency Smart on how many rebates had been allocated to the City in recent years. Ms. Smith asked for an update on Energize Delaware and Mr. Martindale still had to speak to Jim Purcell and Marene Jordan, Newark Housing Authority because he wanted to verify that the money given to Energize Delaware would not be allocated as a grant elsewhere and to ensure that the funds would be managed for programs that suited the Commission’s goals. He considered both to be pilot programs and did not want to allocate more funding for the year to ensure that the Commission remained good stewards of City money. Dr. Huntley noted that there would be \$9,000 remaining for further interests.

Ms. Palanisami asked if Mr. Martindale would speak to Mr. Purcell before the next Commission meeting. Mr. Martindale would try to have Mr. Purcell and Ms. Jordan attend the March meeting. Ms. Palanisami suggested that the Commission initiate a ranking system to determine how to distribute funding. Dr. Huntley explained that she mapped each of the expenditures to specific goals in the Sustainability Plan because the City agreed on the objectives. Ms. Smith pointed out that the spreadsheet needed updating and Mr. Martindale agreed. Mr. O’Donnell described the Military Decision Making Process on how to remove emotions from decisions and Mr. Martindale used a similar process to review requests for proposals.

Dr. Huntley forwarded her process to Ms. Scheld and explained that some funding options did not have associated Sustainability Plan goals so she marked them as outreach and education activities which coincided with the underlying implementation of the Plan. Mr. Martindale reminded that the second, fourth, and fifth options on memo were the least expensive. Dr. Huntley continued that the Commission could argue that the solar park bushes could be considered as part of the sustainability plan goals under preserving green spaces, Goal 4.4, or under renewable electricity sources, Goal 1.1, to make solar installations more palatable to citizens. Mr. O’Donnell suggested that the categories could be ranked by expense. Dr. Huntley pointed out that there was enough funding for all the items on the memo. Ms. Scheld

suggested that Mr. O'Donnell and Ms. Palanisami introduce a ranking system at the February meeting for the Commission to adopt as a procedure for funding expenditures and that it be included in the welcome packet for future members. Ms. Smith believed that the point system would be important for items that were questionably related to the Sustainability Plan. Mr. Martindale explained that Commission allocated half of its funds used last year for the Dickey Park Community Gardens but staff exceeded the budget and needed an additional \$7,500. Dr. Huntley considered the ADA access as environmental justice because certain members of the public could not currently access the community gardens.

Mr. O'Donnell suggested that Commissioners pick the most important category for which to rank the items. Dr. Huntley offered cost, impact, and goal alignment and Ms. Smith agreed. Ms. Chajes interjected that there were two goal types: the Sustainability Plan and the CAC's annual report goals. Mr. O'Donnell pointed out that social justice could be included as impact and Dr. Huntley clarified that she was speaking of environmental impact but social justice could be separate. Mr. O'Donnell posed that there could be a social justice category and an environmental impact category, so an item that had a major carbon reduction would outweigh beautification. Dr. Huntley suggested that Mr. O'Donnell include water and air quality and Ms. Chajes added that educational/outreach impact also be considered. Dr. Huntley suggested the assessment be used for larger expenditures and proceed with a vote on smaller items that evening. Mr. Martindale suggested voting on items that did not have to support to remove them from the list.

MOTION BY DR. HUNTLEY, SECONDED BY MR. O'DONNELL: THAT THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION ALLOCATE \$1,000.00 TO NCCL SCHOOL AS A DONATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE 2023 GREENFEST EVENT.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE 5 – 0.

AYE: CHAJES, O'DONNELL, SMITH, PALANISAMI, HUNTLEY.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: RYPKEMA, MATEYKO, O'CONNOR.

MOTION BY MS. CHAJES, SECONDED BY DR. HUNTLEY: THAT THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION ALLOCATE UP TO \$1,000.00 TO PURCHASE BRANDED GEAR FOR CAC EVENTS.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE 5 – 0.

AYE: CHAJES, O'DONNELL, SMITH, PALANISAMI, HUNTLEY.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: RYPKEMA, MATEYKO, O'CONNOR.

Ms. Smith envisioned that the tablecloth would have the City seal and the polos would be green with white print because it was more expensive to have multiple colors. She asked that the tablecloth be 6 feet by 8 feet. Mr. O'Donnell preferred to have green writing on white to remain reflective and stay cooler in the summer. Mr. Martindale would return with a proposal.

MOTION BY MS. SMITH, SECONDED BY MS. CHAJES: THAT THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF NEWARK'S PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO

SPEND UP TO \$1,500.00 OF THE 2023 CAC BUDGET FOR THE PURPOSE OF PLANTING BUSHES AROUND THE NEWARK RESERVOIR SOLAR PARK.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE 3 – 0.

AYE: CHAJES, SMITH, HUNTLEY.

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: RYPKEMA, MATEYKO, O’CONNOR.

ABSTAIN: O’DONNELL, PALANISAMI.

Dr. Huntley asked that Ms. Smith be included in the plant selection.

5. 50TH ARBOR DAY – APRIL 28TH – PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION FOR SPRING TREE GIVEAWAY

Pushed to February.

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

Ms. Smith informed that Mr. Mateyko submitted an article on nature-based solutions and she would write her next article on big trees. Ms. Chajes asked that her article on greenhouse gas inventory be slated for March and Ms. Smith asked that AECOM return to provide an update. Dr. Huntley offered to write an article for rebates on taking green actions.

- December – Undecided Topic – Mikayla Rypkema
- January – Soil and leaves cooling – John Mateyko
- February - Tree Canopy (Oak Trees) – Sheila Smith
- March – Greenhouse Gas Inventory – Beth Chajes
- April – Green Incentives – Helga Huntley
- May – Tick Species in Delaware – Lauren O’Connor

7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Smith wanted more information on the conservation area discussion from Parks & Recreation Director Joe Spadafino and Ms. Scheld informed that Council had already adopted conservation areas. Ms. Smith asked that members begin their annual report contributions and review the Commission’s goals. Dr. Huntley requested that the goals be sent to Ms. Smith.

Dr. Huntley requested to pass another resolution to ask City Council to establish the Newark Energy Transition Committee because the work was supposed to have been finished in 2024. She volunteered to compose the recommendation for the March meeting and asked that Ms. Scheld collaborate on the new member packet.

8. NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 14, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Nichol Scheld

Deputy City Secretary

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