

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

April 14, 2009

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Fruehstorfer presiding, Steve Beard (arrived 7:10), Steve Dentel (arrived 7:10), Bob McDowell, Ann Morrison Ajay Prasad, Carol Riggs, Kass Sheedy (departed 8:35), Fred Stiegler

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Zaleski, Parks and Recreation Superintendent

GUEST PRESENT: Jennifer Egan, Sierra Club

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD MARCH 10, 2009

Mr. Stiegler corrected Item #7 to read: Mr. Dentel reported, on February 23, 2009, City Council discussed the proposed Anti-Idling Ordinance and directed the City Solicitor to draft such Ordinance incorporating the definition of the term "idle."

MOTION BY MR. PRASAD, SECONDED BY MS. SHEEDY: THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 10, 2009 MEETING BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Jennifer Egan of the Sierra Club advised she was present to observe the meeting.

3. NEW INITIATIVES FOR CAC

Carol Riggs suggested three areas to explore.

- Prior legislative issues. (Mr. Fruehstorfer stated floodplain protection and stormwater regulations fall under this category.)
- City government conserving resources. Ms. Riggs stated the CAC could make recommendations to the city on such issues that would not require an ordinance or policy change. (Mr. Fruehstorfer stated issues such as carbon inventory would fall

under this category.) Carbon inventory will be handled by Ms. Morrison and Mr. Dentel. Additional new initiatives that may fall into this category will be handled by Mr. Fruehstorfer.

- Outreach programs. Ms. Riggs said programs would be geared to residents to suggest ways to conserve, that in long term would affect the city as a whole. Ms. Riggs volunteered to be the lead person in this category.

Ms. Riggs inquired with Dana Johnston, Community Affairs Officer for the City, the feasibility of having an interactive blog on the City's website to do outreach. The cost was determined to be prohibitive in terms of setup and maintenance. A blog without public comment could be setup without cost. Potential areas to post on the CAC blog included the benefits of using recyclable bags, the proposed Anti-Idling Ordinance, etc. Ms. Riggs will follow-up with Ms. Johnston with regard to the website.

Mr. McDowell will provide information at the next meeting on an educational program involving Community Habitat.

Mr. Zaleski advised there have been inquiries about having a Community Garden located in the City. In addition, he stated Mr. Emerson suggested that developments be required to set aside land within their community for such a purpose. Mr. Zaleski said a certain percentage of open area had to be set aside for open space, but he was not certain of the formula used to determine how large an area was required. Mr. Zaleski suggested that the Commission follow-up with Mr. Emerson at the next meeting on this topic. He noted there were rain gardens being discussed within the City, and explained there were many factors needed to be included in the planning of such open spaces, such as traffic patterns, mowing and draining patterns, and snow removal.

Mr. Zaleski recently completed a Community Garden Study at the request of Mr. Emerson. There are several suggested locations but further research needed to be done before determining which location would work best. The details about cost, lot size, maintenance fees, etc., need to be finalized as well.

Mr. Fruehstorfer believed that continuing to encourage recycling should also be included in the new initiatives for CAC. He also received information on the international incentive to turn your lights off for an hour, but the information came too late to participate this year. He suggested promoting this incentive next year.

The topic of Green Energy purchase for the City was discussed. It was agreed that Mr. Fruehstorfer would contact Dennis McFarland to determine where the City stands in Green Energy Purchase.

4. PROGRESS ON GREEN BUILDING INITIATIVES

Mr. Dentel stated that the CAC was awaiting notification of when this item would be on City Council's agenda.

5. CARBON INVENTORY FOR NEWARK

Ms. Morrison will be compiling the data with the software provided by Mr. Dentel. Ms. Sheedy stated that she would contact Ms. Amy Roe to obtain further information regarding the energy audit that Ms. Roe compiled of the City municipal building.

6. FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION AND STORMWATER REGULATIONS

Mr. Fruehstorfer will meet with interested CAC members to discuss the Floodplain Protection proposal outside of the regular CAC meetings.

Ms. Riggs contacted Linda Stapleford from the Watershed Management Committee to discuss the stormwater management report. The Watershed Management Committee may have money from a grant that would enable them to supply a consultant to hold a public workshop with the CAC to discuss stormwater issues. Mr. Fruehstorfer will follow-up with Ms. Stapleford to discuss details of this before the next CAC meeting.

7. PUBLICITY OF ANTI-IDLING ORDINANCE

The proposed Anti Idling ordinance is being reviewed and modified by the City Solicitor. It will be presented to Council for a first reading and second reading (at which time a public hearing will be held). Once the ordinance is passed, the CAC will decide what methods of publicity to promote the ordinance. Suggested methods were: a proposed blog on the City's website and Channel 22. Anti idling signs for parking lots will be discussed at the CAC's next meeting.

8. REVIEW OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

Mr. Fruehstorfer asked Mr. Zaleski for clarification about the Stine Haskell parkland. Mr. Zaleski stated a portion of land along the Christina River was donated to the City. Certain repairs along the embankment were necessary to maintain the integrity of the trail that runs through this area.

9. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

The award for the grocery stores that participated in the distribution of reusable bags still needs to be coordinated and will be discussed at the next meeting due to the early departure of Ms. Sheedy. The photos from 16 Minquil Drive will be printed once photo paper is obtained. The application from the Courtyard Hotel will be processed. Ms. Morrison referred Embassy Suites Hotel to the website as they lost the initial application she gave them to complete. Mr. Fruehstorfer proposed another potential award to a house located off of Valley Drive. The house had solar panels and a rainwater collection system and perhaps a geothermal water heater as well. Further information will be obtained for the next meeting.

10. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Annual Report – Ms. Riggs reported that she was waiting for the Green Building Initiatives section from Mr. Dentel. She emailed a draft report to the CAC for their review. After obtaining Mr. Dentel's report, she will combine and re-send the report.
- Community Day – Mr. Dentel will provide to the CAC Chair the vendor package application for completion.
- Second Annual Great Green Expo was attended by Mr. Stiegler, and he stated it was very informative.

12. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:59 PM.

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

/tas