

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

June 9, 2009

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Fruehstorfer presiding, Bob McDowell, Carol Riggs, Kass Sheedy, Fred Stiegler

ABSENT: Steve Dentel, Ann Morrison, A.J. Prasad

STAFF PRESENT: Charlie Emerson, Parks and Recreation Director

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD MAY 12, 2009

MOTION BY MR. FRUEHSTORFER, SECONDED BY MS. SHEEDY: THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 12, 2009 MEETING BE APPROVED AS RECEIVED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments forthcoming.

3. NEW INITIATIVES FOR CAC

There were no comments forthcoming.

4. PROGRESS ON GREEN BUILDING/ENERGY INITIATIVES

Ms. Sheedy advised that the proposed Chipotle restaurant would qualify as a "green restaurant" in that they plan to use organic foods, buy supplies from local merchants, recycle and use energy efficient lighting. City Council will be considering a Special Use Permit to allow this cafeteria style restaurant at 136 E. Main Street.

Ms. Riggs contacted Dana Johnston regarding issuing a press release for Green Building. Ms. Johnston suggested the CAC send her some quotes so she could prepare a press release. It was agreed that Mr. Dentel be contacted to prepare the quotes and forward them to Ms. Johnston.

5. CARBON INVENTORY FOR NEWARK

Due to the absence of both Mr. Dentel and Ms. Morrison, this item will be discussed at the next meeting.

6. FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION AND STORMWATER REGULATIONS

Per Ms. Riggs, Linda Stapleford of the Watershed Management Committee submitted proposals to the City for review and discussion as they pertain to floodplain and stormwater issues. Ms. Riggs suggested that Roy Lopata be asked to attend a CAC meeting to discuss these issues. Mr. Emerson suggested the CAC contact department heads with requests to keep the committee advised of any updates.

7. PUBLICITY OF ANTI-IDLING ORDINANCE

Ms. Sheedy asked Mr. McDowell to suggest to Newark High School, (where he is a teacher) to install anti-idling signs in the parking lots. Mr. McDowell said he would do that in September in conjunction with his planned publicity at the school for the anti-idling ordinance.

Mr. McDowell mentioned that he knew of someone that had received a warning from Newark Police for idling.

Mr. Emerson advised that the City had a stringent anti-idling order in effect for their vehicles for quite some time.

8. COMMUNITY HABITAT

Mr. McDowell is waiting for a return call from John Harrod at the Delaware Nature Society. He also contacted the National Wildlife Federation and inquired as to how many backyard habitats were registered in the City. Their records indicated there were currently 140 certified habitats. Townsend is the only other town in the state that is registered, however, they have not received their certification. Mr. McDowell will contact the National Wildlife Federation to clarify the difference between the two rankings. Once certified, there were post certification goals that need to be met to maintain the certification. Mr. McDowell suggested the CAC build a Community Wildlife Habitat team and volunteered to be the team leader. Mr. Fruehstorfer suggested this concept be a focus at the CAC's booth at Community Day. Mr. McDowell agreed to approach local schools with this

concept and encourage their participation as well. Mr. McDowell will compile information during the summer for inclusion at the Community Day booth.

9. GREEN RECYLING

Mr. Fruehstorfer provided answers for the CAC in regard to the approximately 3% of the City's electricity that was green and whether it included the elective amounts. It does not include the elective amounts; they were in addition to the 3%. The reason there was a limit in the amount of what people were allowed to purchase was because that was all that was available at that price.

In regard to Amy Roe's letter to Dennis McFarland regarding Green electricity, Mr. McFarland is in the process of responding to her inquiry. Mr. Fruehstorfer suggested that the CAC wait to see the City's response prior to addressing the issue as a committee.

In the future, the City will have to increase its Green Energy usage, but the amount of increase and when it would increase was still in the planning stages.

10. A BETTER NEWARK AWARD

Ann Morrison was not present to provide an update.

11. REVIEW OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

There were no comments forthcoming.

12. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

1. Mr. Beard said he spoke with a professor at UDEL and learned the University started a Community Garden in Townsend, DE that was available for anyone to utilize. Mr. Emerson added the City was still considering a Community Garden. He also noted there have been discussions when new development plans are submitted, a suggestion would be made to developers to set aside land to be used as a Community Garden. That would qualify as the open space requirement. Mr. Emerson discussed this with Roy Lopata who agreed this was a pliable option.

Mr. Emerson pointed out areas such as Fountainview would be a good option to initiate a Community Garden, as the retirees that reside there would have the time to spend on such a project.

2. Mr. Emerson advised that an RFP was completed for the Curtis Paper Mill Site and the open space across the street from the reservoir. A firm will be hired to complete a master plan on both sites. It was hoped to be completed by the end of this year. Once the master plan was completed, the City would work towards finding the

funding to develop these areas.

3. Mr. Emerson stated that the previous weekend was National Trails Day. The City had been working with the Delaware Trail Spinners, a mountain biking group that does trail building. They have completed trails in the White Clay Creek State Park and Mill Run Valley. Trail Spinners work in conjunction with county and state park staff. Mr. Emerson noted several trails were being redone at Red Park with the assistance of the Delaware Trail Spinners.

13. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:40 PM.

Tara A. Schiano
Secretary

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