

**CITY OF NEWARK
DELAWARE**

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES**

August 12, 2008

- MEETING CONVENED:** 7:00 p.m., City Manager's Conference Room
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Steve Dentel Presiding, Robert Bennett, Tom Fruehstorfer, Ann Morrison, Ajay Prasad, Kass Sheedy, Fred Stiegler
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Wayne Casanova, Steve Beard
- STAFF PRESENT:** Charlie Emerson, Parks & Recreation Director
- GUEST PRESENT:** Councilman Ezra Temko

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON MAY 13, 2008

MOTION BY MS. SHEEDY, SECONDED BY MR. FRUEHSTORFER: THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 13, 2008 MEETING BE APPROVED AS RECEIVED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. VOTE: 7 to 0.

AYE: Bennett, Dentel, Fruehstorfer, Morrison, Prasad, Sheedy, Stiegler.
NAY: 0.
ABSENT: Beard, Casanova.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments forthcoming.

3. MOTION BY MR. DENTEL, SECONDED BY MR. STIEGLER: THAT AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 10, OLD/NEW BUSINESS, BE MOVED AFTER PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA .

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. VOTE 7 TO 0.

AYE: Bennett, Dentel, Fruehstorfer, Morrison, Prasad, Sheedy, Stiegler.
NAY: 0.
ABSENT: Beard, Casanova.

4. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

a. A Better Newark Award

Robert Bruner, a local landlord, was present to explain the nomination of his rental properties for the A Better Newark Award. The properties included the following:

- 382 South College Avenue
- 370/372 South College Avenue
- 11 Prospect Avenue
- 901 Devon Drive

Mr. Dentel suggested that Mr. Bruner select one property to nominate at this time and after a short discussion, Mr. Bruner suggested 901 Devon Drive.

There was an additional discussion regarding the renovations at 370/372 S. College Avenue and the fact that Mr. Bruner would like to eventually have all of his properties Bonistall certified.

Because of the number of properties and the amount of renovations that were made to each property, Mr. Dentel said he would load the pictures on the UD Drop Box and send the committee members the link via e-mail. That would give them the opportunity to view all the properties and be better prepared to vote at their September meeting. Mr. Bruner was advised that he should complete the A Better Newark Award nomination form for each property he wanted to nominate.

There was a discussion of last month's nomination, Campusside Apartments, located on New London Road, as well as the nomination for the local grocery stores for selling reusable grocery bags that the Committee selected last month but did not officially vote on.

Ms. Sheedy advised she spoke with Dana Johnston regarding organizing a photo shoot with a representative from each grocery store. Those stores included: Acme, Pathmark, Super Fresh and the Newark Co-op (Newark Natural Foods). Ms. Sheedy suggested asking each of the supermarkets to donate one of their reusable grocery bags for the CAC to display at Community Day.

MOTION BY MR. BENNETT, SECONDED BY MR. STIEGLER: THAT PATHMARK, ACME, NEWARK NATURAL FOODS AND SUPER FRESH RECEIVE A BETTER NEWARK AWARD FOR SELLING REUSABLE GROCERY BAGS.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. VOTE 7 TO 0.

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

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: Beard, Casanova.

b. Mr. Dentel advised that he would be resigning as chair. This item will be placed on the September agenda.

c. Councilman Ezra Temko advised that although Council did not pass his proposed resolution regarding supporting energy efficiency in the City of Newark, Council did ask staff to develop a report relating to the six ideas proposed in the resolution no later than November 11th. If any ordinances were needed, they would be enacted by July 1, 2009. He noted that a recommendation was to establish a Green Fund for the City to finance energy conservation projects, funded by monies generated from establishing a local community foundation and increasing the system benefit charge. Mr. Temko thought the CAC could be involved with this aspect.

Mr. Dentel believed the CAC would be comfortable making recommendations for the use of these funds, but they should not get involved with the handling of any monies. Mr. Temko thought their role would be to only rank the projects, not recommend the amount of money that should be given.

d. Ann Morrison will hold an informal meeting of members on September 6th to plan for and to create a poster for Community Day (scheduled for September 14th).

e. Mr. Temko reported that three public meetings would be held on August 26th, 27th, and 28th from 6 pm to 7 pm in the Council Chamber with the top three candidates for the City Manager position. The names of the candidates will be released on August 19th, and information regarding the applicants would be on the City's website at that time.

5. 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

A draft of the 2007 Annual Report was reviewed the by the members. Mr. Bennett suggested a few minor changes that everyone agreed to for incorporation into the report that will be forwarded to Mayor and Council.

MOTION BY MR. STIEGLER, SECONDED BY MS. SHEEDY: TO APPROVE THE 2007 ANNUAL REPORT AS AMENDED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMIOUSLY. VOTE 7 TO 0.

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

NAY: 0.

ABSENT: Beard, Casanova.

6. PROGRESS ON GREEN BUILDING INITIATIVES

Mr. Dentel discussed the Building Department's 90-day trial period for obtaining data regarding the LEED certified checklist. Mr. Sciulli was not able to get significant information from the trial period because only one checklist was completed. It was obvious that the checklist would have to be mandatory and could be made a part of the building permit process. Mr. Dentel will discuss this further with Mr. Sciulli before recommending that the CAC should propose it to City Council.

7. PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING

A discussion was held regarding the ban of plastic bags. It was Mr. Fruehstorfer's opinion that if they were to recommend to City Council banning plastic bags, they should wait until the County did the same. At this time, he thought the Commission needed to encourage businesses to not use plastic bags. The idea of a "Green Newark Directory" was suggested by Mr. Fruehstorfer. What this would entail was any business in town that wanted to be included would have to list what they did to be 'green.' This might encourage other businesses to be 'green.' The question came up as to who would be responsible for producing a "Green Newark Directory" and whether it could be linked to the City's website. Ms. Sheedy suggested the possibility of the CAC having a "Greener Newark Award."

It was suggested that this item be placed on the next agenda for further discussion and the Committee should think about forming a subcommittee to study this further.

(Secretary's Note: A. Prasad left the meeting at 9:02 pm.)

8. CONSIDERATION OF ANTI-IDLING ORDINANCE

Mr. Dentel advised that Delaware's state code had an anti-idling law for vehicles over 8,500 lbs. He planned to try and strengthen that language and draft a proposal for the CAC to review and consider forwarding to City Council. This item will be discussed further at the next CAC meeting.

9. BIKE SHARING

It was agreed that this item should be put on hold until the City becomes more bike friendly.

10. CARBON INVENTORY FOR NEWARK

Mr. Dentel suggested the CAC should draft a summary of the advantages and/or disadvantages of joining ICLEI. He pointed out that there were other programs to consider such as Cool Cities. This item will be put on the next agenda for further discussion.

11. REVIEW OF PLANNING DEPT. REPORTS REGARDING POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There were no comments forthcoming.

12. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:44 PM.

/pmf