

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING NOTES

May 8, 2012

Kent County Administration Complex

Members Present: William Pelham, Sarah Bucic, Dr. Jay Julis, Pamela Meitner, La Vaida Owens-White, Marvin Thomas, Harold Truxon, & Robert Frederick.

Members Absent: Dr. Bruce Allison and Bethany Hall-Long

A quorum was met with eight members present and two members absent.

I. Meeting Called to Order

Chairman Pelham called the meeting to order at 9:55a.m.

II. Meeting Protocol Review

The protocol was mentioned in as evidence on the backside of the member's nameplates.

III. Review/Approval of Meeting Notes

MOTION was made by Ms. Meitner to approve the minutes and a second was made by Mr. Julis. All in favor and the motion carried.

The next meeting of the Council will be on June 19, 2012 at the Smyrna Area Rest Stop.

MOTION was made by Ms. Bucic that future CEPF meetings and subcommittee meetings be recorded according to the Sunshine Act. The motion had one in favor and seven against. The motion did not pass.

Mr. Thomas said if there is an existing law the Council should follow the law.

MOTION was made by Ms. Meitner to look into what mechanisms the Council has for recording meetings and the process of carrying out the recording including the facility and equipment available and also checking into the Sunshine Law and how it applies to the Council and a second was made by Mr. Julis. All in favor and the motion carried.

CEPF PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

NEW CASTLE COUNTY CORRECTIONS presented by **Lt. Anthony McClellan**

Ms. Meitner asked Lt. Mcllellan if this project is similar to the Sussex County Project.

Lt. McLellan answered that it is very similar. The only difference is that Sussex has a lot more space and they are looking into getting more areas.

Mr. Thomas asked if businesses knew of the services they want to provide.

Lt. McLellan answered they are working on getting this information out and three of the other correctional facilities are already on board.

Ms. White asked what training offenders will have to use on the outside.

Lt. McLellan answered they will know how to use the bailer and how to cut grass. They will also learn about the benefits of recycling.

Ms. Bucic asked if the offenders get paid.

Lt. McLellan answered they get community service time towards fines. The offenders can shave 3 or 4 thousand dollars off their fines.

CLEAN AIR COUNCIL presented by Ms. Abigail Poses

Ms. Bucic asked how they plan to utilize DE City penalties and if they will be working with industries or a town.

Ms. Poses answered they will work with both industries and communities groups. She said they found that industries do not know what is good for their bottom line. They plan to show the industries the financial benefits of not idling and the exposure to risks.

Ms. Meitner asked if a lot of the money is devoted to staff.

Ms. Poses answered there are two staff people with a boss that oversees them. Mr. Eric Chum is the Administrative Director who will administer duties they cannot. She said this project is an incubator to get projects off the ground. Project includes education and outreach.

Ms. Owens-White asked how they will handle the enforcement.

Ms. Poses answered there is a lot of enforcement agencies that do not know that they can go out and do it or it is not a priority. They would make it clear to agencies that it is not just a DNREC law and know it has expanded to local governments for enforcement.

DE CENTER FOR HORTICULTURE presented by Jennifer Bruhler and Gary Schwetz

Ms. Meitner asked the location of the plantings.

Ms. Bruhler answered there are 40 trees along the trail and the others would be part of the demonstration at the community center. He said that 700 perennials will be planted in front of the community center that are designed to grown and fill the area eliminating the need to mulch.

Ms. White asked if there will be a contribution from the Forest Service.

Ms. Bruhler answered the Forest Service does not have an official role in this project.

Ms. Meitner asked what the \$11,000 for staff covers?

Mr. Schwetz answered the participation in all three of the projects including the community garden, workshops and outreach to the community. The remaining staff time goes to the design and demonstration of the screen planting and tree planning. He said the perennials and shrubs will be installed by a contractor and maintained by volunteers and DE City staff.

Mr. Julis stated his concern that this becomes an abandoned factory with native plants invading.

Mr. Schwetz stated that the rain garden at Brandywine Creek Park has been successful as far as maintenance.

Ms. Bruhler said they received a commitment up from Delaware City with the Mayor assuming the maintenance of the garden once it is installed.

SUSSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS presented by William Oettel

Mr. Thomas asked if the bailer is owned by the Department of Corrections.

Warden Oettel answered that yes it is owned by the facility.

Ms. Meitner asked when the 2 year service contract ends, who pays for the repairs.

Warden Oettel said the Department does.

Mr. Pelham asked if they have any other sources for funding.

Warden Oettel answered they do not.

DE CITY ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION presented by Sarah Bucic

Mr. Thomas asked about the financial cost for volunteers.

Ms. Bucic answered the volunteers are reimbursed for mileage and the pollution patrol volunteers are paid \$15 an hour.

Mr. Pelham asked if DE City contributes any money.

Ms. Bucic answered no.

Mr. Brunswick asked if they have received any formal commitments for industrial collaborative.

Mr. Black answered they received commitments from DE City Refinery and Dupont.

DE GREENWAYS presented by Ms. Andrea Trabelski

Mr. Pelham asked the location of the entrance road.

Ms. Trabelski answered off of Route 273.

Mr. Brunswick asked for an explanation of the changes to the budget.

Ms. Trabelski answered they would pulled out the tree planting at \$10,000 and the composting toilet out. The seed cutting and planting and the plant protection would be funded from another source.

Mr. Thomas asked what the revised amount is.

Ms. Trabelski answered \$46,272.

MAIN STREET, DELAWARE CITY presented by Mark Chura

Ms. Meitner asked what the 3 pieces of the project are.

Mr. Chura answered that one is to restore the marsh, one is for a kayaking trail and one is a platform.

Mr. Pelahm asked if the path and the platform be accessible for handicapped.

Mr. Chura answered that it will.

DE TRANSIT AUTHORITY presented by Semia Hackett

Ms. Meitner answered if we funded this year, would you be back again next year seeking funding?

Ms. Hackett answered they have put in a request for funding from DELDOT for next year.

Mr. Thomas asked since you have proven the need for the service, why is there a reluctance by DELDOT to fund it.

Ms. Hackett answered because the project is considered low priority because it does not have established ridership.

The council broke for lunch at 1: 15p.m.

The Council came back into session at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Thomas proposed asking applicants to use another presenter other than a Council member.

Ms. Meitner expressed a concern that some of the smaller organizations may not have that many people to give a presentation.

Mr. Thomas said as long as the person recusing themselves from voting they should be able to give the presentation.

MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas that a council member not give a presentation for an application for funding and a 2nd was made by Mr. Julis. The motion passed with a majority vote. Ms. Meitner and Mr. Frederick voted against.

The council members discussed the 25 percent allowed for salaries for staff by applicants..

Mr. Brunswick said the 25 percent is not written in the application.

Mr. Thomas suggested putting something in the instructions of the applicants.

The Council discussed the scoring methods of the applicants.

Ms. Meitner said the subcommittee after reviewing the applicants would give a score and then the average was determined.

Mr. Pelham said the council cannot just make a decision by a feeling. Maybe in the future we should have criteria with certain percentages for the scoring.

Mr. Frederick said we have evolved to this point over the past 6 years with the subcommittee and the 1 to 10 point system and the need for a sponsor.

Mr. Brunswick said we do have House 193 that says we have to look at the location for drainage of violations.

Ms. Meitner said we reviewed the first 11 projects at the last meeting. We should continue the process for the second half of the applicants. Then we can look at the drainage basin and make adjustments if necessary.

Mr. Pelham said we have \$325, 000 and the application requests amount to around \$850,000.

NEW CASTLE COUNTY CORRECTIONS

Mr. Julis said he likes the project because they are doing something concrete and it is going to the community.

Ms. Meitner said she thinks this an excellent program and the recycling aspect is significant,

Mr. Pelham asked if the council should be funding construction.

Mr. Julis answered that in order to do the recycling they had to do some construction to hold the bailer machine.

Ms. Bucic said she does not think this is the appropriate use of the funds. The DOC should fund this project.

Ms. Meitner said it would not get done. She said it is not just the offender training and jobs, it is the recycling aspect.

Ms. Bucic said she does not think this project is giving prisoners job skills and possibly taking away jobs from the public.

Ms. Owens-White said it is doing a service that would not ordinarily get done if the inmates did not do it.

Mr. Truxon said he is in favor of this project.

Mr. Pelham said the subcommittee voted an 8.

CLEAN AIR COUNCIL

Mr. Brunswick said this is a staff intensive project.

Mr. Frederick said it is also educational and informative. He said they have had success with the installation of LED lights at the Port of Wilmington. He said they have had tangible results.

Ms. Meitner said that most projects have had some hard tangible improvements. This is a much more nebulous projects. She does not like the idea of these people going to the police and telling them to ticket these trucks for idling. She does not want the community to go to truckers and tell them it has been more than 3 minutes.

Mr. Thomas said that the Captain from the City of Wilmington police has attended his civic association meetings and carries the information back to his officers.

Ms. Meitner said this project does not rise to the level of what should be funded.

DE CENTER FOR HORTICULTURE

Mr. Frederick said he likes the fact that the Mayor said the City would take care of the maintenance.

Ms. Bucic said she would abstain from voting on this project.

Mr. Brunswick said the Center for Horticulture was not successful in getting volunteers to do the planting or to do the maintenance last year. Everything else was successful.

Mr. Julis said they finally got the soil OK'd to proceed with last year's seeding.

SUSSEX COUNTY CORRECTIONS

Mr. Julis said that what they are going after is a legitimate environmental need. If they can find a way to get rid of it, it would be good.

Mr. Truxon said the old bailer had to be repaired.

Ms. Meitner said she asked the question about who would pay for the repairs and was told that DOC would be responsible for the repairs. She said that in general it is a good idea but she does not want to fund two things for the same organization. She would rather see the new project started in New Castle than expand the old one.

Ms. Bucic said the Council has spoken in the past against funding private development. She asked if the DOC was benefiting from this. She does not think this is the best use of penalty funds.

Mr. Pelham said that municipalities have requested funding in the past.

Mr. Thomas said they have the bailer that is still functioning.

Mr. Brunswick said they want a new one they can dedicate to the plastic recycling.

DE CITY ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION

Mr. Brunswick said the Secretary is in favor of community involved projects.

Mr. Frederick said this project is directly connected to the penalty. The project could bring quality data to the Refinery to get them to come to the table instead of DNREC bringing enforcement actions. He said he likes the collaborative effort between the community groups and the refinery.

Ms. Meitner said she see both sides. She said she is reluctant to see private parties taking samples and paying them.

Mr. Frederick said he can see both sides also. But politically, it is DNREC's neck on the line if something creates itself with faulty sampling.

Mr. Brunswick said the sampling has completely changed the conversation between the community and the refinery. The community focuses on things that the Department can address.

FRIENDS OF WILMINGTON PARKS

Mr. Julis said it is a good program and he would approve it if it were cut in half. He said he would approve at \$27,000.

Mr. Frederick said they seemed very responsible.

DE AEROSPACE EDUCATION

Mr. Brunswick said the Energy and Climate office is really reassessing geothermal as a cost saver.

Mr. Julis said the Secretary rejected this project last year because he does not want to get into funding heating projects.

Mr. Brunswick said he spoke with Carolyn Snyder and they now have a sponsor.

Ms. Meitner said it is a good organization but she think it does not fit the kind of things we want to fund.

Ms. Bucic said it does not help the impacted community and does not fit what we are trying to dol.

Mr. Frederick said they have other funding sources.

AMERICAN LEGION

Ms. Meitner said that the Town of Dagsboro is in Sussex County also. There is \$14,000 in penalties and Town of Dagsboro is requesting \$12,000.

DE GREENWAYS

Mr. Brunswick said they could not afford an audit so they are going to do a financial statement.

Ms. Meitner said if they do not have one now when will we get one. She said we should give them an incomplete.

MAIN STREET DE

Mr. Julis said they do not have a wetland permit.

Mr. Pelham said they are building in the wetlands and the permit process can take a long time.

Ms. Meitner expressed concern in that a great deal of costs was in management fees.

Mr. Brunswick said that \$70,000 is for construction. There are no staff fees.

Ms. Meitner suggested they split the program into three separate pieces.

Mr. Frederick said the Kayaking trail is \$15,000 and the marsh cleanup is \$10,000 for a total of \$25,000.

DE TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Mr. Thomas said his concern is that their agency will not contribute any monies toward this project.

Ms. Meitner said she is concerned they will return again next year.

Ms. Bucic said this is an environmental justice project. It should be funded by the same people that fund all buses.

Mr. Julis asked why the refinery can pay for it.

Ms. Bucic answered because there is no leverage with them.

Mr. Julis said that other companies are helping to fund their low rider transits.

Mr. Truxon said that DELDOT is being investigated for their finances.

Ms. Owens-White said it should be incumbent on DELDOT to fund.

MOTION was made by Mr. Thomas for adjournment and a 2nd was made by Mr. Julis. All in favor and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Gail Henderson

Gail Henderson
Administrative Specialist II, DNREC

The notes of this meeting are not intended to be a verbatim record of the topics that were presented or discussed. They are for the use of the Community Involvement Advisory Council members and the public in supplementing their personal notes and recall of presentations.