

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING NOTES

SMYRNA AREA REST STOP CONFERENCE ROOM

December 4, 2012

Members Present: Chairman Pelham, Pamela Meitner, Dr. Jay Julis, & Marvin Thomas.

Members Absent: Robert Frederick, Dr. Bethany Hall-Long, LaVaida Owens-White & Harold Truxon.

I. Meeting Called to Order

Chairman Pelham called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

II. Meeting Protocol Review

Chairman Pelham read the protocol.

III. Review/approval of Meeting Notes

MOTION was made by Mr. Julis to approve the minutes and a second was made by Mr. Thomas. No vote was taken because of a lack of a quorum.

IV. CEPF Project Update

DE Center for Horticulture

Gary Schwetz of the DE Center for Horticulture's spoke about their revised project budget. He said their application was for \$45,000 and the Secretary approved \$30,896. Mr. Schwetz said their application proposed a demonstration, community and a buffer gardens along the Branch Canal. He also said they eliminated the third tree buffering project. Mr. Schwetz said he is working with other groups to solicit participants and community gardeners for the designing and maintenance of the gardens. He also said they are planning to plant shrubs and perennials. He said it will be an effort the first year to get everything established, but over the long term they will grow in and be less of a maintenance issue. Mr. Schwetz said the municipal will provide follow up maintenance and watering.

Mr. Pelham asked about the changes in their planting schedule.

Mr. Schwetz said the planting meetings will be held in January and February and the planting of the beds will take place in March and April. He said he wants to use a coalition of people that are using both gardens to help with the demonstration garden.

Mr. Thomas asked if there is a cost to use the community garden.

Mr. Schwetz answered they are hoping to develop a self-governing unit that will make the decisions on a minimal fee and keep the group going. He said the seeds and plants are provided for the first planting, and after that the self-governing unit will decide how they will continue.

Joe Matassino of the DE Center for Horticulture said the tree planting is not as labor intensive as the planting and starting up of the community garden. He said they plan to hold a meeting to find community members to train.

DE City Environmental Coalition

Mr. Brunswick said that at the Councils last meeting they asked Main Street Delaware City (MSDC) to come before the CIAC to formally request the transfer of the Bucket Brigade project from the Delaware City Environmental Coalition to Main Street Delaware City. He also said that Mark Chura, the MSDC Director was unable to make the meeting today. Mr. Brunswick said that Vanja Bucic, from the MSDC Board of Directors, and the Chairperson of the MSDC Bucket Brigade Oversight Committee were here today to address the Councils concerns and answer any remaining questions.

Mr. Brunswick said that since our October meeting the Coalition has been hard at work restructuring the project. MSDC has recruited a core group of 6 to 8 people to conduct the air monitoring. The monitoring group includes community residents, two of which are members of the Delaware City; City Council; Delaware City Environmental Coalition; Sierra Club and Main Street Delaware City volunteers. The project is managed by an Oversight Committee with representatives from each of the partners. The duties of each member group are defined in a signed Memorandum of Agreement which also includes their commitments of volunteers and the in-kind contributions from each partner.

Mr. Brunswick said that the Oversight Committee has addressed the Secretary's requirement for a Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QAQC) plan that would meet the Division of Air Quality (DAQ) standards. DAQ Director, Ali Mirzakhilili, has met with the leadership of the group to lay out the QAQC requirements. He said the DAQ staff had reviewed the air sampling plans and QAQC protocols.

Mr. Bucic explained that the Delaware City Environmental Coalition did not pursue non-profit status as they had proposed in the 2011 CEPF application. He said that Main Street Delaware City, their fiscal sponsor for the 2011 project, is a 501C 3, so they decided against having their own. He said the Bucket Brigade is better managed now through Main Street Delaware City. Mr. Bucic said that Main Street is responsible for the entire project, and not just the fiscal management. Mr. Bucic also explained that the Delaware City Environmental Coalition was not responsible for the collecting the air samples in the 2011 project. It was done by a professional firm. They collected samples before the refinery opened and after it resumed operation. In this

new project, Main Street Delaware City has agreed to collect the samples the way that DNREC has recommended.

Mr. Brunswick reminded the Council that the Secretary's requirement for an approved QAQC plan was a result of the sampling protocols in the first project. The DAQ found that the wind direction at the time the samples were collected for the first project did not come from the direction of the refinery. There could not be any certainty that the Delaware City Refinery was the source of the pollutants. He said the 2012 QAQC plan calls for 36 air samples, and 24 particulate matter samples. Mr. Brunswick said the group will take samples in response to releases and at regularly scheduled intervals.

Chief Faedtke said the original samples were just a snapshot. He said the bucket brigade will allow people to take samples at different times and different locations.

Mr. Brunswick said that the Secretary encouraged the Delaware City Environmental Coalition to incorporate some of the elements from the Claymont Dust Study. He said that Evraz Steel has a good working relationship with the Claymont Community Coalition and DHSS Division of Public Health is a partner in the Claymont project. DHSS assesses the health risks from the pollutants identified in their samples.

Mr. Brunswick said The Delaware City Environmental Coalition samples that indicated the presence of benzene and naphthalene in the original project were taken on Clinton Street at a time when ships were docked to load or offload deliveries to the refinery. The Coalition suspected that this lightering may have been the source of the pollutants. Mark Chura has met with the chief engineer at the Delaware City Refinery and the refinery is willing to participate in the project. **Mr. Brunswick** said that having the refinery involved means that the engineers will be able to explain the delivery schedule so volunteers will be prepared to take their samples when they are delivering. He said there will be a meeting with Jamie Mac and Doctor Gregory Perkins in the Division of Public Health, to ask them to be involved and do the same sort of risk assessment.

Mr. Emory said that the Secretary is supportive of the transfer of the grant application.

Mr. Brunswick said that Main Street has complied with all of the conditions that the Secretary established to transfer the grant to MSDC. He said they presented a QAQC plan to meet DAQ approval, the project has a solid base of volunteers, and there is a Memorandum of Agreement between the partners. He said the Refinery and DHSS will be active partners in the 2012 project.

Mr. Thomas said if the Secretary has approved everything then it should move forward.

Ms. Meitner said the original QAQC was done with unreliable data, so she wanted them to come to the next meeting. She said she now feels they have answered all her questions.

Mr. Pelham said he fully supports the grant as long as they have the sponsorship from the Air Quality Division. He said he felt that the representative answered all of the Council's questions.

Mr. Bucic said it would be nice to have an official position of the Council on this at some point.

Mr. Julis suggested a motion be made to endorse with DNREC's approval Main Street Delaware City to take over Bucket Brigade grant.

Mr. Pelahm asked if there is a consensus of opinion among the Council to support the Main Street project fully as long as Division of Air Quality approves the new sampling plan.

The Council members present made a recommendation to approve Main Street DE City request to take over the Bucket Brigade grant based on what they have heard and the approval of the Division of Air Quality.

DNREC/DHSS Joint Meetings

Mr. Brunswick said that Wilmington Manor is a community which, according to DHSS, is located in a census tract with elevated rates of cancer. DHSS convened a meeting in the community, with DNREC participation to explain the health risks and potential environmental sources of the elevated rates of cancer. Throughout the course of the meeting, the community raised some very specific concerns that could not be addressed by DNREC or DHSS, so the community has requested a second meeting to address their concerns. This was the first of a series of meetings that DHSS is planning in census tracts throughout the state. Paul Silverman, a DHSS Deputy Director has asked for DNREC and DHSS to form a subgroup to develop a standard agenda for these meetings. Mr. Brunswick said they held the initial meeting and hope to have a draft agenda soon. He said this seems to be a big step forward in creating a model for communicating environmental-health issues to the community.

Christina Wirtz, the DNREC Waste and Hazardous Substances Community Ombudsman, cautioned the Council to be very careful in the use of the term cancer cluster. Cancer clusters are actually very rare and they are defined by very precise statistical characteristics.

Ms. Meitner asked if there are particular types of cancer.

Mr. Brunswick answered yes.

Mr. Thomas asked if someone from the Dept. of Public Health can come to the City of Wilmington and discuss this issue.

Mr. Brunswick answered that he would ask if DHSS could designate someone to explain the cancer study to the Council and about the possibility of a Wilmington meeting.

West Side Grows Friends of Judy Johnson Park Cameras

Mr. Brunswick said that Judy Johnson Park is a part of the West Side Grows Initiative and neighbors around Judy Johnson are concerned about trash dumping in the Park. He said that as a part of the West Side Grows Initiative, there has been a request for DNREC's Environmental

Crimes Unit to install cameras in the park to prosecute the people responsible for the trash dumping Pat Emory, Mr. Brunswick said that he and Chief Faedtke attended a meeting with several Wilmington City Councilmen and West Side Grows staff from the West End Neighborhood House.

Mr. Emory said it is a strange situation. He said there are 55 gallon trash containers in the park and when the containers are filled, the bags pile up around the park.

Chief Faedtke said they discussed the possibility that renters, who do not pay for monthly trash disposal, bring their garbage to the park in bags to place them in the 55 gallon containers. He said that when the trash containers are full, the renters stack their trash alongside the trash containers or place them along the curb for trash collection.

Mr. Emory said the best answer is to educate the public about not dumping their trash before enforcing it. He said he is looking for new legislature where monies from fines received from the cameras come directly back to the environmental crimes unit.

Annual Report

Mr. Brunswick said he brought the draft of the Annual Report of 2011 grantees. He said that Main Street Delaware City, the Friends of Lums Pond, and Duffy's Hope received extensions. Mr. Brunswick said that the Air Quality report is coming from DE Transit Corporation for the DE City bus extension project.

Ms. Meitner asked Mr. Brunswick if he could send the printed version of the annual report to the Council before it is final.

Grant Review Subcommittee

Mr. Brunswick said he would like to establish a grant review subcommittee to be trained on how to rate the CEPF grants.

Ms. Meitner suggested that a date be selected and the subcommittee members be contacted by email to check their availability.

Mr. Brunswick, Ms. Owens-White, Mr. Frederick and Ms. Meitner volunteered to be on the grant review subcommittee.

MOTION was made by Ms. Meitner to adjourn the meeting and a second was made by Mr. Julis. The motion carried with a unanimous vote at 11:25 a.m.