

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING NOTES

SMYRNA REST STOP CONFERENCE ROOM

FEBRUARY 19, 2013

Members Present: Dr. Jay Julis, Pamela Meitner, La Vaida Owens-White, William Pelham and Harold Truxon.

Members Absent: Robert Frederick, Bethany Hall-Long, and Marvin Thomas.

A quorum was not met.

I. Meeting Called to Order

Chairman Pelham called the meeting to order at 9:49 a.m.

II. Meeting Protocol Review

Chairman Pelham asked each of the council members to read one out loud of the bullet items of the protocol.

III. Review/Approval of Meeting Notes

MOTION was made by Ms. Owen-White to approve the meeting notes and a second was made by Mr. Julis. All in favor and the motion carried.

IV. CEPF Grant Review Subcommittee Meeting

A. Reappointment

Mr. Brunswick said he was contacted by Ms. Monique Hampton, Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions, to discuss the vacant seats and composition of the council as defined in Senate Bill 33. She asked about the September 2012 expiring terms of Dr. Jay Julis and Mr. Robert Frederick and their interest in continued service on the Council. Ms. Hampton advised they should re-submit their applications if they are interested in another term. She also said the council does not have representation from Kent County and they are interested in recruiting candidates to fill the remaining open seats.

B. Recruitment

Mr. Brunswick said that Joe Farrell, University of Delaware, Sea Grant College, is very interested in joining the Council. He said that Lydia Prigg, the Director of the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions, will contact members for reappointment and possible new members.

Ms. Owens-White said she will contact the Health Committee for possible new members.

C. By Laws

Mr. Brunswick asked if the Council could appoint a subcommittee to begin the process of working on the By Laws. He said he may be able to bring in some model by laws from other councils to help the subcommittee.

Mr. Pelham said the By Laws are something that has to be done but is not easy. He asked Mr. Julis to work with him on the By Laws.

Mr. Brunswick suggested the Council also look at developing a budget. He said the Council has a record of past expenses to help with the initial planning. He said there is the \$100,000 administrative reserve for the CEPF which covers a portion of the Ombudsman's salary and benefits, and the CIAC member's travel expenses. Mr. Brunswick said that Senate Bill 33, our enabling legislation, allows for the Council to conduct studies, research, or planning to advise the Secretary. He said a budget could help us to identify potential projects that could help the CIAC and the Secretary do a better job in carrying out our mission.

V. OMBUDSMAN REPORT

A. Manor Park Civic Assn. Meeting

Mr. Brunswick explained that Senate Bill 235 requires the Department of Health and Social Services to produce a state-wide census tract analysis and report of cancer incidents each year. The Council discussed at their December meeting that Tim Ratsep, the Site Investigation and Research Branch (SIRB) Manager, had participated in the September meeting at Manor Park with DHSS to explain the elevated rates of cancer in the Manor Park community that had been identified in the 2010 census tract analysis. Mr. Brunswick said that questions surfaced about potential environmental sources of cancer that could not be addressed by Mr. Ratsep or by DHSS. He said he reported that joint planning between DNREC and DHSS was underway to prepare for a second meeting with Manor Park. Mr. Brunswick said they had developed a standard agenda for the meetings to be held in Kent and Sussex County communities with elevated rates of cancer. He said the format they devised involved mixed media presentations. He also said that DHSS had the majority of the agenda to explain lifestyle, hereditary factors, etc., as primary sources cancer. DNREC would have a limited amount of time to explain potential environmental sources. Mr. Brunswick said that DHSS informed him that unfortunately, Manor Park does not want a second meeting. He said that Tim Ratsep, Christina Wirtz and he had a video conference call with Division of Air Quality Director, Ali Mirzakhilili, to discuss the path forward. He said that Mr. Mirzakhilili explained that DHSS was making substantial revisions to its cancer study and that the small population size of the census tracts in the original study skewed the data to make it appear as if there was a much higher number of census tracts with elevated cancer rates and the revised report may have fewer tracts with elevated cancer rates. Mr. Brunswick said that DNREC would be better prepared to participate if DHSS could identify the census tracts with cancers that can be linked to environmental causes and then each Division

within the Department could identify the regulated sites and pollutants to determine if they are potential sources of exposure.

Ms. Owens-White said there are a lot of concerns from the communities that believe the risks come from the environmental factors more than from personal health and choices.

B. Nemours Health and Prevention Asthma Project

Mr. Brunswick reported that he had a meeting with Lyn Chaiken and Sheranni Patterson of Nemours Health & Prevention Services on February 1. He said that Nemours received a three year Health Care Innovation Award for innovations and improvements in health care and that funding will support new creative linkages between the Asthma treatment, public health and reductions in health care costs. Mr. Brunswick said the Nemours staff is interested in collaborating with DNREC on three Nemours pilot project sites in Wilmington (19802 and 19801 zip codes), Dover, and Seaford.

Mr. Brunswick explained that he gave them an overview of the 2009 CEPF Asthma Action Project and the indoor air monitoring component of the project was not successfully completed. He said that a well-executed project could establish links between indoor asthma triggers and asthma attacks. He also suggested a meeting with the Division of Air Quality to explore links with anti-idling projects and school bus retrofit projects with the Brandywine and Red Clay School Districts and there will be meeting in March with the Division of Air Quality.

Mr. Pelham said the Council should meet with one of the policy people and he would like to involve the city.

Mr. Brunswick said that Mr. Ibrahim, the new Director of Community Development, had met with the Nemours staff at the January Southwest Planning group meeting. He said he anticipates that there will be some collaboration with the City of Wilmington on the project.

C. EPA Community Involvement Conference

Mr. Brunswick said the EPA Community Involvement Conference will be held in Boston, Mass. on July 30 and August 1, 2013. He asked for the CIAC's approval to submit an application to present the proposal of the Claymont Community Coalition and Delaware City Environmental Coalition air monitoring projects as models for effective community involvement. He said he had discussed the prospect of a joint presentation with Denny Larson of Global Community Monitor (GCM), and that GCM is very interested. He said that it would be ideal if a community leader from the CEPF projects and a member of the CIAC could also attend and the deadline for submitting the proposal to the EPA is this Friday, February 22, 2013.

Mr. Brunswick asked if a Council member could go with him to the conference and that funding for the trip could come out of the monies set aside in the CEPF Administrative Reserve.

Ms. Meitner said she had no problem with Mr. Brunswick attending the conference.

Mr. Pelham suggested that Ms. Owen-White go with Mr. Brunswick to the conference.

Mr. Emory said he thought it would be a great opportunity for Mr. Brunswick and one of the council members and asked if DNREC could put up some money and the CIAC would put up some money instead of it all coming from one source. Mr. Emory said he could pay for Mr. Brunswick's from his budget and the council members could come from the CIAC budget.

VI. OPEN FORUM

Mr. Truxon informed the Council that he had reported a mobile home community with poor quality drinking water to Mr. Brunswick and asked for an update.

Mr. Brunswick said the name of manufactured home community is Country Side Glen and that Public Health inspected it and found their poor water quality was the result of heavy iron but not the type of bacterial contamination that would result in a Notice of Violation. He said the residents of the community do not feel the water is fit for their consumption, so they are buying their own water for drinking and for bathing.

Mr. Brunswick said that he and Mr. Truxon have both served on the Board of the Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project (SERCAP) and he is the current low income community representative on the SERCAP Board of Directors. He said that the SERCAP State Director, Marie Betty Lafortune, called to inform him that Tidewater Utilities had advised her of the availability of a \$10,000 grant and that the company was looking for a low-income community with drinking water or waste water issues to award the grant to. Mr. Brunswick said he offered Countryside Glenn as a potential grantee. Mr. Brunswick said that Marie Betty researched the community problem and wrote up a proposal to purchase a filter for the Country Side Glen community water system. He said there was collaboration from both the owner and from community residents and the owner agreed to pay for the portion of the costs that would not be covered by the \$10,000 grant. He said that the residents would pay an additional \$1.25 each month in the homeowners utility bills to provide assistance to needy homeowners and they agreed to pay a portion of the cost from their fund. Mr. Brunswick said that unfortunately, Country Side Glen did not receive the grant but they could go back again next year if funding was still available. Mr. Pelham said he would like to see a proposal for the Council to help in writing.

Ms. Meitner said the Council should pursue the project like an emergency project and get a sponsor if needed.

Mr. Pelham asked Mr. Brunswick to please send the proposal to all of the council members.

Ms. Meitner said she was concerned they might be opening a Pandora's Box by helping with one particular group of modular homes.

Mr. Pelham said it should be OK if the project has singular or unique characteristics. He also said we should help communities as they come along.

Mr. Emory suggested that Mr. Brunswick talk with Mr. Gerry Esposito about another possible funding source.

Mr. Pelham asked for Mr. Brunswick and Mr. Emory to follow up and see what is possible.

Mr. Emory said he, Mr. Brunswick and Mr. Truxon will go and see Mr. Esposito.

MOTION was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 by Mr. Julis and a second was made by Mr. Truxon. All in favor and the motion carried.

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.