

Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

The Heritage Center, 123 Grand St., Newburgh, NY 12550

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Council Members:

Chuck Thomas, Chair
Andrew Murphy, Treasurer
Betty Bastidas
Gail Fulton
Marianne Marichal
Mark Sanchez Potter
Ronald Zorrilla



Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting

January 3, 2023

6:30 p.m. – Heritage Center (123 Grand Street)

- **Roll Call**

Present: Chuck Thomas, Chairperson, Betty Bastidas, Marianne Marichal, Andrew Murphy Mark Sanchez Potter, Ronald Zorrilla

Also Present: Tallie Carter, Assistant Corporation Counsel
J.K. Gentile, Secretary

Absent: Gail Fulton

Guests: Dave Eylers, Elizabeth

Meeting called to order 6:32 p.m.

The Chairperson introduced the Conservation Advisory Council new members; Marianne Marichal and Mark Sanchez Potter.

Public Comment

Environmental Justice Fellowship Update

Mr. Zorrilla said the Environmental Justice Fellowship made a final presentation to City Council December 12, 2022. He said they plan to have a wrap up dinner within the week.

Administration

- Consulting Arborist Report -Dave Eylers
Mr. Eylers gave a summary of the tree risk assessments. All the risk assessments received have been reviewed and sent in.
He spoke about the updates made to Davey Tree Keeper Software.
He gave an overview of how the software works and what the role of a consulting arborist is.

The Council discussed the possibility of strengthening the communication between the CAC and the DPW.

The Council discussed the importance of nominating a new Chairperson for the Urban Forest Sub-committee.

The Chairperson made a motion to nominate Marianne Marichal as the Urban Forest coordinator.

Betty Bastidas seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Ronald Zorrilla made a motion to approve the December 5, 2022 meeting minutes, subject to the discussed changes.

Mark Sanchez Potter seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Monthly Financial Report by Treasurer Andrew Murphy

Mr. Murphy gave a review of submitted invoices for December:

NYSACC subscription and consulting arborist/Dave Eylers 2022 final invoices.

The Council discussed the importance of completing a CAC action plan and budget schedule.

- Volunteer Hours -tracking and reporting.

The Chairperson asked the Council to submit all their hours for 2022.

Old Business

- DEC Urban & Community Grant -Broadway Pits

The Chairperson gave an overview of the conclusion of this grant.

He said the final report has been submitted to the DEC.

He said the presentation at a City Council work session will be scheduled for February 9, 2023 at 6:30p.m.

- Recycle your Christmas Tree event January 7, 2023 at the Activity Center. The Council discussed the final details.
- Tree City USA Arbor Day Event
The Council discussed the proposed plan to plant nine trees on April 28, 2023 on upper Broadway.
Ms. Marichal presented an idea to engage school age children to create a poster in honor of Arbor Day and the possibility of inviting the Arts & Culture Commission to be involved.
- Annual Report of CAC to City Council -Observations & Plans
The Chairperson asked the Council to submit a paragraph on projects they worked on and the issues they are interested in.

New Business

- Nomination of CAC Chair for recommendation to City Council discussion
The Council discussed the recommendation of Ronald Zorrilla as Chairperson.
The Chairperson made a motion to nominate Ronald Zorrilla as the new Chairperson beginning November 2023.
Betty Bastidas seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.
- RFP for 2023 Arborist
The Assistant Corporation Council recommends that the Council assess the needs of the CAC and clearly define what they would like the next arborist to accomplish.
- Quassaick Creek Greenway Project
The Chairperson said Scenic Hudson is scheduled to present at the February 6, 2023 CAC meeting.
- DEC Natural Resource Inventory Grant
The Chairperson spoke of the RFP & Utilization Plan. The current status is the City Planner is reviewing the submitted draft RFP.
- EPA Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities
No updates to report.
- **Projects**
The Chairperson informed the Council of the proposed Britain Woods Project and the approved Union Avenue Hotel, both located in the Town of

Newburgh. He said these projects have an impact to the City of Newburgh watershed if storm water runoff is not controlled.

On-going Updates

- Newburgh Climate Ready sub-committee
Betty Bastidas gave an update on the customized website proposal. She said they are working with The Pratt Institute students on the website design elements. She said they found a website developer. Mr. Zorrilla said the City of Newburgh signed a resolution to be a Climate Smart Community in 2018.

The Assistant Corporation Council said before any further work is completed for the proposed website, the designation of a task force needs to be established. She said she and Council woman Ramona Monteverde have spoken about the process of working through what it takes to establish a task force. She said Council woman Ramona Monteverde would propose to name the committee the Newburgh Climate Ready Committee. The Committee would have seven members; one council person, one CAC member and five local residents, all appointed by City Council with a term of three years. The Assistant Corporation Council recommended the CAC discuss the most effective path to move forward with this initiative.

The Council discussed naming the official task force as CAC's Climate Ready sub-committee.

Betty Bastidas made a motion to recommend to the City Council the CAC be designated as the Newburgh Climate Ready Task Force.

Mark Sanchez Potter seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Zorrilla asked the Assistant Corporation Council if the plan forward should be that the website proposal be tabled, establish a work plan and map out a timeline for the task force.

The Assistant Corporation Council agreed.

- Restoration Advisory Board /Stewart Air National Guard Water Project
Mr. Zorrilla said they had a conversation with the Environmental Protection Network to receive technical assistance. The Chairperson said it was a phone meeting with James Wolford, EPA Superfund Director. He said 250 formal EPA volunteers are willing to donate time to EPA projects

- LWRP Update – Locally Adopted on 7-10-17
No current update.

- Website

Marianne Marichal discussed the reordering the content. Ms. Marichal to work with the Land Use secretary to make changes.

Upcoming events:

- Recycle your Christmas Tree event
- Arbor Day planting Friday April 28, 2023
- River Sweep Saturday May 6, 2023
- Environmental Justice Fellows begin again April 2023

Marianne Marichal said National Pollinator Week is June 19 through the 25th and she proposed an event on June 24, 2023 to promote Pollinators and Pollinator Health at the City of Newburgh People’s Waterfront Park, Pollinator Garden.

Public Forum

Calendar of Upcoming events (webinars, training, community events)

- 01-07-23 Recycle Your Christmas Tree Event
- 01-09-23 City Council Meeting
- 01-10-23 Architectural Review Council Meeting
- 01-11-23 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
- 01-17-23 Planning Board Meeting
- 01-23-23 City Council Meeting
- 01-24-23 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

Mark Sanchez Potter made Motion to Adjourn

Andrew Murphy seconded

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting concluded 9:01 p.m.