

# Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

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

Phone: (845) 569-7383 e-mail: [conservation@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov](mailto:conservation@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov)

## Council Members:

Chuck Thomas | Chair

Ronald Zorrilla | Incoming Chair / NRI

Andrew Murphy | Treasurer

Betty Bastidas | Climate Smart

Gail Fulton | Parks

Marianne Marichal | Urban Forest

Mark Sanchez-Potter



## Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting

July 10, 2023

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

### • Roll Call

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

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

**Guests:** Kathy Lawrence, Karen McCarthy, Brian Hersey

Meeting called to order 6:38 p.m.

- **Public Comment on Agenda Items**  
None

### **Administration**

- Approval of minutes -June 5, 2023  
Marianne Marichal made a motion to approve the June 5, 2023, minutes subject to changes.  
Andrew Murphy seconded the motion.  
The motion passed unanimously.

- Monthly Financial Report  
Mr. Murphy said there were no new expenses to discuss.
- Volunteer Hours -tracking and reporting  
New tracking form submission pending.
- 2024 Budget Proposal for July.  
Ms. Marichal presented a spreadsheet for the 2024 estimated event costs. She also spoke on utilizing money from the 2023 budget to begin working on improvements at the People's Park/Pollinator Garden.

Ms. Marichal gave a verbal overview and presented a written estimated budget for the Parks subcommittee to make improvements at three city parks.

Mr. Zorrilla recommended submission of a narrative of this proposed plan for discussion at the August CAC meeting.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the Enabling Legislation/General Provisions of the Conservation Advisory Council have been distributed. She advised reviewing, that the budget proposals speak to the proposed objectives and goals and to justify each budget line request. She said the budget is not due until the second week of August and that the CAC budget proposal can be solidified at the August 7<sup>th</sup> CAC meeting. She also recommended each subcommittee meet and provide narratives for their proposals.

The Chairperson gave a brief overview of each line item for the proposed 2024 CAC budget.

- CAC Chair Transition  
The Chairperson will maintain his position until his term ends in November 2023. Members: Chuck Thomas, Marianne Marichal, Andrew Murphy and Ronald Zorrilla are due for re-appointment in November 2023. Mr. Zorrilla will apply to be appointed as Chairperson at that time. Mr. Thomas will apply to stay on as a Council member.

## **Old Business**

- RFP for 2023 Arborist  
Ms. Marichal said the City Council is passing a resolution 7/10/23 to award David Eylers the position. She said she plans to schedule a meeting with Mr. Eylers to discuss the completed 2023 Spring planting and the upcoming 2023 Fall tree planting.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel said a meeting will be scheduled between Mr. Eylers and City staff to discuss coordination of services.

- NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Grant.  
The Chairperson said the grant was submitted to update the tree survey and a 5-year planting plan.
- National Pollinator Week Event  
Ms. Marichal said the event is postponed until July 2024.  
She said there was not adequate time to coordinate all the necessary steps to fulfill a successful event.

### **New Business**

- Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA) training opportunity grant.  
Mr. Zorrilla gave an overview of a Cornell NOAA grant to initiate a program that focuses on getting municipality land use board members trained in climate resilience and flood resilience. He said they reached out asking for a letter of support.

The Chairperson made a motion to approve submission of a letter of support.

Gail Fulton seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Citizen's Pruner Workshop  
Ms. Marichal gave an overview of the proposed workshop.  
The Assistant Corporation Counsel said a quorum of volunteers pruning trees on city property will not be approved due to liability. She said volunteers can be trained to prune their own trees. She encourages this workshop as an education opportunity.

### **On-going Updates**

#### **Sub-Committees:**

- Parks Sub-Committee  
Ms. Marichal gave an overview of "City of Newburgh Parks Partners". She said it is a collaborative group of representatives from The Downing Park Planning Committee, Crystal Lake Sanctuary and Healing Garden, Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy, The Environmental Justice Fellows, Quassiack Creek Watershed Alliance, The City of Newburgh DPW, The City of Newburgh Recreation Department and the CAC.

This group would develop a work plan to address the betterment of parks in the City of Newburgh.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel said that this group requested on behalf of the CAC and the City of Newburgh needs to follow the approval process to act on the City's behalf.

Ms. Marichal said the CAC would be participating in this Parks Partners Group only.

- Urban Forestry Sub-Committee

Ms. Marichal said visits were made on Broadway and Renwick Street to check in with the tree stewards and condition of the trees. She said she met with the Environmental Justice Fellows who assisted in correcting the incorrect implementation of the tree diapers and assistance with weeding. She stressed the importance of tree maintenance; water, weeding, mulching and trash removal.

Mr. Zorrilla said Julia Raskin, President of the Downing Park Conservancy is applying for the Urban and Community Forestry Grant #2 to assist in tree maintenance of Downing Park. He said Ms. Raskin is requesting a letter of support and that the grant is due August 16, 2023.

- Newburgh Climate Ready Sub-Committee

Ms. Bastidas said members met on June 20, 2023. She said they are waiting on approval regarding the content.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel asked that the minutes be submitted for that meeting.

- Environmental Justice Fellows 2023 Program

Kathy Lawrence introduced the new Environmental Justice Fellows for 2023: Emily Alta, Nicole Villachica, Tyrese Billups and Eileen Corrales. Each Fellow introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their environmental interests.

- DEC Natural Resource Inventory Grant -RFP & Utilization Plan

The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the contract to hire the consultant is scheduled to be voted on at City Council in August 2023.

- Restoration Advisory Board /Stewart Air National Guard Water Project

The Chairperson said there was a hybrid meeting in June. He said they are pushing hard to clean up the lake. Mr. Zorrilla said Cornerstone Family Healthcare is holding blood testing.

- LWRP Update – Locally Adopted on 7-10-17  
No current updates.
- Tree Permit -Local Code Revision.  
No current updates.
- EPA Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities  
No current updates.
- Holtec- Radioactive Wastewater  
Mr. Sanchez-Potter said a resolution is being passed tonight at the City Council meeting. He said Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg’s bill is pending Governor Hochul’s signature.
- CSX Underpass  
The Assistant Corporation Counsel said beautification is part of the plan. She said the plan is pending and the City of Engineer is handling.

**Upcoming events:**

Mr. Zorrilla spoke about the Love our City Fest at Delano Hitch July 22, 2023 from 1p.m. to 5p.m.

**Public Forum**

None

- **Calendar of Upcoming events (webinars, training, community events)**
  - 07-10-23 City Council Meeting
  - 07-11-23 Architectural Review Council Meeting
  - 07-12-23 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
  - 07-17-23 Arts & Cultural Commission Meeting
  - 07-18-23 Planning Board Meeting
  - 07-22-23 Love our City Fest at Delano Hitch
  - 07-25-23 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

**Gail Fulton made Motion to Adjourn**

**Ronald Zorrilla seconded.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Meeting concluded 8:53 p.m.**