

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

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

August 7, 2023

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

• Roll Call

Present: Chuck Thomas, Chairperson, Betty Bastidas, Gail Fulton (arrived 6:50p.m.), Marianne Marichal, Andrew Murphy, Mark Sanchez-Potter, Ronald Zorrilla

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

Guests: David Eylers, Kathy Lawrence, Kippy Boyle, Michele Basch, Julia Raskin, Michael LeBron

Meeting called to order 6:36 p.m.

- **Public Comment on Agenda Items**
None

Administration

- Approval of minutes
Unanimously accepted by the Council as written.
- Monthly Financial Report
Mr. Murphy said there were no new expenses to discuss.

- Volunteer Hours -tracking and reporting
Mr. Zorrilla said a google tracking form is forthcoming. He recommends that the hours be submitted weekly.
- 2024 Budget Proposal
CAC 2023/2024 proposed treasury report and a 2024 estimated event costs budget report was submitted for the record.
The Council discussed the line items to present for the City of Newburgh 2024 budget.

Old Business

- Consulting Arborist
David Eylers was present. He discussed his activities that have taken place since he has accepted the consulting arborist position.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel said a meeting with the Executive Office, DPW, the CAC Urban Forest Committee, and Mr. Eylers is forthcoming to discuss how to coordinate communication between City Staff and the consultant. She said within the next 30-60 days the City will employ a part-time arborist.
- NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Grant.
Mr. Zorrilla said a response is expected in the month of October.
- Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA) training opportunity grant.
The Chairperson said a letter of support was submitted.
The Assistant Corporation Counsel directed the Chairperson to forward the letter submitted. She said all correspondence is to be pre-approved by Corporation Counsel before distribution.

New Business

Projects

Site Plan Review

7:00 p.m.

158 Montgomery Street

Owner: Seymour B LLC

Applicant: Chris Berg/Berg + Moss Architects, PC

Chris Berg appeared before the Council and gave an overview of the proposed project.

The CAC reviewed the Coastal Assessment Form.
The applicant was asked correct #2 i and re-submit the Form to the Land Use Board Secretary.

The CAC determined that this project is consistent with the LWRP.

Ronald Zorrilla made a motion to accept the Coastal Assessment Form subject to correction requested.

Mark Sanchez Potter seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

On-going Updates

Sub-Committees:

- Parks Sub-Committee
Ms. Fulton said the sub-committee met on July 14, 2023.
Ms. Bastidas said they will not continue to have a sub-committee as all initiatives related to the City's parks should include outside organizations and not isolate the discussions within a sub-committee.

Gail Fulton made a motion to disband the Parks Sub-Committee.

Marianne Marichal seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Urban Forestry Sub-Committee
Ms. Marichal gave an overview of her attendance at the Re-Leaf Conference.
- Newburgh Climate Ready Sub-Committee
Ms. Bastidas said content revisions are pending, the execution of a website proposal is pending, and the next meeting is August 11, 2023, 1p.m. to 2p.m. via Zoom.
- Environmental Justice Fellows 2023 Program
Kathy Lawrence gave an update on the Environmental Justice Fellows's current activities. She said recommendations will be made to plant more trees within Ward 1. She said the Fellows will focus on producing education materials and engaging in opportunities to educate the community with assistance from the Nature Museum of the Hudson Highlands and interfacing with two professors at Mount Saint Mary's College.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the City budgeted for five Fellows and asked why there are only four Fellows this year.

Ms. Lawrence said there were numerous organizations reaching out to that age range earlier in the year and so there was a reduced pool of candidates.

- DEC Natural Resource Inventory Grant -RFP & Utilization Plan
The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the City Council will vote on the contract in September. She said an intern from Vassar has been assigned to this project. She said the City Planner will be reaching out for assistance in developing an orientation period for the intern before the consultant is hired.
- Restoration Advisory Board /Stewart Air National Guard Water Project
The Chairperson said the next meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2023 at 6p.m. He said there will be a poster session at the Armory before the October meeting. The Assistant Corporation Counsel directed the Chairperson to forward the agenda as soon as received to prepare for participation.
- 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 the Governor has not signed the bill yet. He said the EPA continues to monitor.

Mr. Zorrilla said the EPA will be sampling the PCBs in the Hudson region.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel informed that a meeting will be scheduled with the Planning Department, the CAC and an EPA representative to discuss Lower Hudson River sampling and investigation work related to the Hudson River PCB's Superfund site.

- CSX Underpass

The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the beautification plan is pending.

- **Citizen's Pruner Workshop**
Ms. Marichal said she will be coordinating this workshop with Kippy Boyle and George Profeus. She said Karen McCarthy agreed to have the workshop at the Downing Park Shelter House.

The Council discussed the transfer of \$400 from the Pollinator Event to the Citizen's Pruner Workshop. The Assistant Corporation Counsel explained the expenses for this workshop must be preapproved by the City Manager.

Andrew Murphy made a motion to transfer \$400 from the Pollinator Event to the Citizen's Pruner Workshop event.
Betty Bastidas seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming events:

None

Public Forum

The clearing of trees at the People's Park
Gita Nandon submitted a letter of objection.
Alison Filosa spoke against the action.
Kippy Boyle spoke against the action.
Kathy Lawrence spoke against the action.

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

- 08-08-23 Architectural Review Council Meeting
- 08-09-23 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
- 08-14-23 City Council Meeting
- 08-15-23 Planning Board Meeting
- 08-21-23 Arts & Cultural Commission Meeting
- 08-22-23 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

Betty Bastidas made Motion to Adjourn

Gail Fulton seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting concluded 8:29p.m.