

New Castle City Planning Commission Meeting
April 22, 2013 -- 6:30 p.m.
City of New Castle's Town Hall

Members Present: Jonathan Justice, Acting Chair
Joe DiAngelo
Dorsey Fiske
Josephine Moore
Florence Smith
Vera Worthy

Member Absent: David Bird, Chair
Susan Marinelli

Also Present: Marian Hull, City Planner
Jeff Bergstrom, City Inspector
Albert Vannucci, Councilman-Elect

In the absence of Mr. Bird, the meeting was called to order by Mr. Justice at 6:30 p.m. Roll call followed and a quorum was declared.

Minutes – Motions were duly made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of the 2/25/13 and 3/25/13 meetings.

Report on Parking Study

Dr. Joanne Viola presented and reviewed a report summarizing data from the parking survey study. The report will be submitted to the *New Castle Weekly* and will be available on the City website and at the library and city hall. In addition to the appointment of Jim Vincent in March, New Castle City Police Lt. Adam Brams and Sandra Scott of MSC have been appointed to the subcommittee. Recommendations of the report were discussed. It was suggested that the word “recommendations” should be changed to read “those issues for possible recommendations.”

Ms. Fiske made a motion to accept the report as amended and make available for publication. Ms. Smith seconded and the motion was approved.

Work Session on Neighborhood Plan – Ms. Hull distributed an updated report and reviewed same. Areas covered in the report were demographics, strengths and weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for each neighborhood. All neighborhoods in the City have been identified and been placed in groups for planning purposes. Specific issues have been identified for each neighborhood. She asked Commissioners to look at the updated report and provide suggestions and ideas, and adjust map lines as needed in preparation of a community workshop. It was suggested that a Commissioner be posted at each neighborhood at the workshop, if possible, to answer questions/concerns and learn about that neighborhood. The workshop would be followed by one final work session by the Planning Commission to finalize the plan. The plan would be the foundation for identifying issues and existing conditions for each neighborhood for the Comprehensive Plan update next year. Ms. Hull suggested having the community workshop the end of May/early June. Dates were discussed. The workshop would be advertised in City utility bills and on the City website. Ms. Moore said that flooding is a

major concern throughout the City and should be included as a threat for each neighborhood. There was further discussion about the report.

Update on EPA Technical Assistance Program – Ms. Hull reported the City could not meet the EPA's timeline for this program (election, search for new City Administrator) so the EPA will delay our program until 2014.

Other Business

Councilman-Elect Vannucci has provided some information pertaining to the four dikes in the City to the city office for interested parties. He briefly discussed what is contained in the information. He plans to have regular meetings with authorities, including local State representation, to keep City officials and residents updated on the dikes project. Mr. Vannucci expressed concern with the increase in train traffic through the City from the Delaware City refinery. He welcomed communication from residents.

Mr. D'Angelo recognized the recent passing of Richard M. Appleby, Jr., former Planning Commission Chairman. A moment of silence was taken.

Ms. Fiske raised the issue of DelDOT signage in the City and getting GPS directions corrected. Ms. Hull has initiated GPS corrections (two providers) and briefed Commissioners on the status. Ms. Fiske suggested exploring whether Centerpoint is also a problem. Ms. Hull had no resolution to report on the signage matter.

Ms. Fiske wants to move forward with dike control and look at other innovative ways that might be useful. She is hopeful that the Trustees of the New Castle Common will join the effort. The dike matter will be noted as a key issue in the Comprehensive Plan and may increase the potential for funding. The dike issue will be on the May agenda for more discussion. Mr. Vannucci will meet with local representation and invite them to a Planning Commission meeting to address dike concerns.

Commissioners' Comments

Ms. Moore thanked Mr. Vannucci for helping to get governmental agencies working with the City. Other members of the Planning Commission joined Ms. Moore in her acknowledgement.

Comments from the Public

Residents talked about truck traffic in the downtown area. GPS directions are problematic and better signage to the industrial park is needed. Illegal parking in the City sometimes creates problems for wayward trucks and enforcement of illegal parking is weak.

Budget – No report.

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Next Meeting & Adjournment – The next meeting is scheduled for 5/20/13 at 6:30 p.m.
There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Turner
Stenographer