

**New Castle City Planning Commission Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**May 20, 2013 -- 6:30 p.m.**  
**City of New Castle's Town Hall**

Members Present: David Bird, Chair  
Joe DiAngelo  
Dorsey Fiske  
Jonathan Justice  
Josephine Moore  
Florence Smith\*  
Vera Worthy

Member Absent: Susan Marinelli

Also Present: Marian Hull, City Planner  
Donald Reese, Mayor  
Jeff Bergstrom, City Inspector  
Albert Vannucci, City Councilman

\*joined meeting at 6:35 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll call followed.

Minutes – A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 4/22/13 meeting as distributed. Motion carried.

Way Finding Report

Ms. Linda Ratchford, Project Leader, reviewed regional and detailed maps with legend that were distributed. Removal of certain trails throughout the City will be discussed at this week's DelDOT meeting; funding is an issue. DelDOT has installed historic signage in and around the City. The Way Finding Committee will work with the Parking Subcommittee on directional signage in the City. Any sign designs will go to the Historic Area Commission. Commissioners commended the committee's work.

Report on Parking Study – Dr. Joanne Viola said the committee will be looking at the residential parking permit issue and any quick fix signage that can be done. Event parking still needs to be addressed.

Neighborhood Plan Community Meeting—June 5, 2013 – The meeting will be in the Community Room(basement) of the new library from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It will be structured as an open house. At the sign-in table neighborhood issue summaries will be available to residents. Displays for each neighborhood will be made and should be staffed by Commissioners, Ms. Hull and other URS staff. Flip charts will be at each station for comments and stories. Information/comments will be compiled and distributed to Commissioners in time for the June meeting.

Waterfront Flood Study Update –The solution for waterfront flooding is a long-term issue. Ms. Hull said Duffield Associates is determining what it would cost to do an initial look at the waterfront flooding issue in areas of the City that won't be covered by the

dike project. DNREC has approved the use of unused monies from the bond bill grant (~\$17,000). She does not know the flexibility level to use another consultant. A meeting is needed with residents and property owners of The Strand first. We need to understand what options are available to us and what resources the City and its partners can contribute.

Ms. Fiske is concerned that Duffield's ideas run counter to ForeSite Associates (Andrew Hayes). Mr. Hayes reported he gave a presentation to the Trustees of the New Castle Common on his observations on performance of vegetation along the waterfront during Hurricane Sandy and how to manage current vegetation and creating a designed shoreline environment for long-term stabilization.

Mr. Bergstrom announced that new preliminary flood maps are now available and he encouraged citizens to look at them. They are available by request to the City and should be on the website.

#### Commissioners' Comments

Mr. Bird – The Delaware League of Local Governments is dedicating the George C. Wright Municipal Park in Smyrna on 6/15/13.

He is the City's representative on WILMAPCO. Topics covered at their recent meeting include:

- Increase in train traffic;
- Sequence of stop lights in certain areas of New Castle County;
- Overall transportation planning for New Castle County, Elkton and areas in between;
- Transit traffic with Amtrak;
- Concept of having a downstate train corridor.

#### Comments from the Public

Councilman Vannucci believes funds will be available to assist with the City's dikes. He hopes to have local representation at a future Commission meeting.

Budget – Costs associated with next year's Comprehensive Plan Update, training, new projects, and general expenses were reviewed. Other funding sources (WILMAPCO, State Planning Office) were noted.

New Business – Due to Ms.Hull's work schedule, another URS staff member will be attending future Planning Commission meetings and the neighborhood community workshop. This is to ensure their level of service is not impacted and no additional charge will be assessed to the City.

Ms. Hull informed that DelDOT will be having an open house on 5/23/23, 5-7 p.m. in the new library looking at potential paths for bike trail in the City.

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Next Meeting & Adjournment – The next meeting is scheduled for 6/24/13 at 6:30 p.m.  
There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Debbie Turner  
Stenographer