

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

September 5, 2023

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

• Roll Call

Present: Chuck Thomas, Chairperson, Gail Fulton Marianne Marichal, Andrew Murphy,

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

Absent: Betty Bastidas, Mark Sanchez-Potter, Ronald Zorrilla

Guests: Kathy Lawrence, Eileen Corrales, Tyrese Billups,
Emily Alta, Enrique Contreras

Meeting called to order 6:38 p.m.

• Public Comment on Agenda Items

None

• Environmental Justice Fellows 2023 Program

Kathy Lawrence welcomed the Environmental Justice Fellows to the meeting. She said they were able to bring on a fifth Fellow.

Emily Alta's pillar in Environmental Justice is assisting with social media. She reported on the activities taking place; on August 26, 2023, the EJ Fellows, in collaboration with the

Nature Museum of the Hudson Highlands taught two environmental education classes at the Armory to 6–12-year-olds. The classes on tree care and ailanthus tree included field guides and an orchard visit. The EJ Fellows made several instructional videos that have been posted on Instagram, and developed postcards in English and Spanish about the Planting Power Program in Newburgh.

EJF Eileen Corrale's pillar is assisting with education and public relations. She reported they have developed flyers in English and Spanish to inform and educate the public about the ailanthus tree and the spotted lanternfly; the engagement with the students at the Armory on August 26th; they created field journals for the students to assist them in engaging with the outdoors.

Ms. Lawrence said the August 26th class was the first time the EJ Fellows taught at the Armory Center, and they are hoping to hold more classes in collaboration with the Hudson Highland Nature Museum. She praised the Fellows for the hard work they put into developing the class.

EJF Tyrese Billups's pillar is assisting with data. He reported the Fellows canvased Ward 1 to record the status of the trees; developed tree surveys to gather information; currently have collected 50 surveys, city wide.

EJF Enrique Contreras pillar also assisting with data. He spoke about the tree surveys, focusing on curb conditions.

Ms. Lawrence said they are conducting surveys to locate where trees could be planted in the Fall and reviewing two streets that run through all four wards: First Street and Robinson Avenue checking the condition of curbs, width of the tree lawns, width of the sidewalks and the conditions for potential tree pits.

Administration

- Approval of minutes
Unanimously accepted by the Council as written.
- Monthly Financial Report
Mr. Murphy said the only expense for this month was a partial reimbursement to Marianne Marichal for travel to the Re-Leaf conference.

There was discussion regarding the upcoming tree purchase for the balance of the plantings from the Spring on Renwick Street and Wisner Avenue. Ms. Marichal said there is a 50% credit per tree with Manza Nursery for three trees planted in the Spring that are no longer alive.

- Volunteer Hours -tracking and reporting
The Chairperson said Mr. Zorrilla created a tracking spreadsheet and sends weekly reminders to submit hours.
- 2024 Budget
The Chairperson said the Work Session Hearing-CAC date to present is September 19, 2023, at 5:45p.m.

Old Business

- Consulting Arborist
David Eylers was not present to give an update.
The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the consulting arborist's report and invoice is due the 4th Monday of the month.
- NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Grant.
Mr. Zorrilla was not present to give an update.

New Business

- People's Park/Consolidated Iron – Tree Clearing
The Chairperson would like to draft a letter to City Council in response to the shoreline clearing.

Ms. Marichal said she would like to make a recommendation to plant five trees and scrubs as part of the Fall tree planting to replace what was cleared.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the CAC will not include any plantings at Consolidated Iron site as the approved plan/budget is already in place for the 2023 tree plantings. She said the city put in for a grant to do the pathways and necessary maintenance.

The Chairperson made mention of the Tree City U.S.A. application that is due the first week of December. He asked that this information be placed on the October agenda.

- **Projects** -none

- **On-going Updates**

Sub-Committees:

- **Urban Forestry Sub-Committee**

Ms. Marichal reported on the following:

Sub-committee met August 21, 2023; the Fall planting plan was updated; September 1, 2023 the Assistant Corporation Counsel held an Urban Forestry coordination meeting with City Staff, Consulting Arborist and the sub-committee; possible shared tree maintenance plan between the CAC, DPW, Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy, Environmental Justice Fellows and the Downing Park Conservancy.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the DPW is planning on planting the 16 trees leftover from the Spring planting plan immediately. She said there is a small window of opportunity to plant the 49 trees for the Fall tree planting plan. She asked for clarification of the Downing Park trees- the CAC had a grant to remove trees and the CAC is responsible for replacing trees out of their tree planting budget. The Chairperson confirmed.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel requested the tree planting plan on a spreadsheet for record keeping and information sharing. She asked that all the volunteers submit information on what they are working on, location and date.

- **Newburgh Climate Ready Sub-Committee**

Ms. Bastidas and Mr. Zorrilla were not available to give their updates.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel update: she, Ms. Bastidas and Mr. Zorrilla plan to meet again September 8, 2023; subcommittee presented a first attempt for the website; the first project they propose is a “heating and cooling” campaign using the \$5000 grant towards this campaign; the other two campaigns will be the Natural Resource Inventory and the Community Choice Aggregate.

- **DEC Natural Resource Inventory Grant -RFP & Utilization Plan**

The Chairperson said the contract will be formalized at the City Council meeting September 11, 2023.

- **Restoration Advisory Board /Stewart Air National Guard Water Project**

The Chairperson said monthly local RAB updates. He said the local RAB is experiencing success moving forward in obtaining funding from the Department of Defense.

- LWRP Update – Locally Adopted on 7-10-17
The Chairperson said there are no current updates.
The Assistant Corporation Counsel suggested the Council consider drafting language offering advice and recommendations post the clearing of the Consolidated Iron site.
- Tree Permit -Local Code Revision.
The Assistant Corporation Counsel said a draft is being reviewed.
- EPA Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities
No current updates.
- Holtech -Radioactive wastewater
No current updates.
- CSX Underpass
The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the beautification plan is pending.
- Citizen’s Pruner Workshop
Ms. Marichal said George Profeus could not confirm that he would be available to participate, and the workshop has been postponed to the first quarter of 2024.

Upcoming events:

None

- **Calendar of Upcoming events (webinars, training, community events)**
 - 09-11-23 City Council Meeting
 - 09-12-23 Architectural Review Council Meeting
 - 09-13-23 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
 - 09-18-23 Arts & Cultural Commission Meeting
 - 09-19-23 Planning Board Meeting
 - 09-25-23 City Council Meeting
 - 09-26-23 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
- **Public comment on general CAC non-agenda items**
Ms. Lawrence said that Tree Keeper’s calculations are not represented correctly.

Andrew Murphy made Motion to Adjourn

Gail Fulton seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting concluded 8:01p.m.