

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

October 2, 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
Jonathan Midler, City Planner,
J.K. Gentile, Secretary**

Guests:

Kathy Lawrence, Eileen Corrales, Enrique Contreras

Meeting called to order 6:33 p.m.

• Public Comment on Agenda Items

None

• Environmental Justice Fellows 2023 Program

EJF Enrique Contreras reported on Planting Power Newburgh Interactive Training Day 1, September 23, 2023, 10:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. at Calvary Presbyterian Church; Planting Power Newburgh-A Food Forest for the Sanctuary, September 30, 2023, 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. at Sanctuary Healing Gardens at Crystal Lake.

EJF Eileen Corrale's reported on Planting Power and the videos made and the Sanctuary Healing Gardens event that attracted many new members from the community.

Ms. Lawrence reported on draft "Vespucci project", mapping the Streetscapes and a Mount Saint Mary presentation, "First Year Experience" with EJF, Emily Alta.

New Business

Projects

Site Plan Review

2 Bay View Terrace

Owner: Konranbloom 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 CAC determined that this project is consistent with the LWRP.

The Chairperson made a motion to accept the Coastal Assessment Form subject to correction requested.

Mark Sanchez Potter seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Site Plan Review

176 South Robinson Avenue

Owner: South Robinson Enterprise LLC

Applicant: Jonathan Moss/Berg + Moss Architects, PC

Jonathan Moss appeared before the Council and gave an overview of the proposed project.

The CAC reviewed the Coastal Assessment Form.

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.

Administration

Mark Sanchez-Potter made a motion to approve the September 5, 2023, minutes subject to changes.
Gail Fulton seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

- Monthly Financial Report
Mr. Murphy reported on the pending credit from Manza Nursery, the pending reimbursements for Ms. Marichal's ReLeaf conference expenses, and the current Devitt's invoice for tree supplies.
- Volunteer Hours -tracking and reporting
The Chairperson asked the Council to report their hours weekly using the volunteer tracking spreadsheet.
- 2024 Budget
The Chairperson said the CAC presented the 2024 CAC budget proposal at the City Council Work Session Hearing September 19, 2023.
The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the City Council budget hearing is scheduled on November 13, 2023.
- Online Access for the CAC meeting
The Chairperson requested the Heritage Center code to access the internet during CAC meetings.

Old Business

- Consulting Arborist
David Eylers reported on the status of the tree review requests and the tree risk assessments.
- NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Grant.
Mr. Zorrilla said a response is expected in the month of October.
- Tree City U.S.A. application -due December 1, 2023.

- CAC webpage on the City of Newburgh website

The Chairperson discussed the documents removed from the CAC webpage. He said he will draft the changes he proposes for the website for CAC review at the next meeting.

- Consolidated Iron Site/People's Park -Landscaping Recommendation
The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the city applied for an Orange County grant to put in pathways at the Consolidated Iron Site. The draft letter to the City Council in response to the shoreline clearing is pending.

New Business

None

- **Projects**

None

- **On-going Updates**

Sub-Committees:

- Urban Forestry Sub-Committee
Ms. Marichal reported on: the balance of Spring planting, plans for the Fall planting, submission of an event permit for the Christmas Tree Mulching Event in January 2023 and requested the Citizen Pruner Workshop be placed under Urban Forestry until March 2024 instead of it placed under "On-going Updates".

The Consulting Arborist said he recognized an Oak tree on South Street with what appeared to be bacterial leaf scorch. He took a clipping and recommended it be sent to a lab for investigation.

Mark Sanchez-Potter made a motion to send the tree sample for testing utilizing funds from the tree maintenance budget line.

Betty Bastidas seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel requested the coordination of the tree steward's and other volunteering groups responsibilities be included in the tree maintenance plan.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel asked if the locations for the balance of 31 tree plantings has been confirmed.

Ms. Marichal said the locations will be confirmed at the next Urban Forestry meeting. She discussed the plan to visit Manza Nursery with Mr. Murphy to return the dead trees and tag the 31 trees in preparation of the balance of the Spring planting and the upcoming Fall plantings.

- Newburgh Climate Ready Sub-Committee

Ms. Bastidas gave an update, referring to the Heat Pumps Campaign scoping document submitted for the Council's review. Mr. Zorrilla spoke about the tier system to achieve the different goal levels and grant funding.

Betty Bastidas made a motion to approve the scoping document.

Mark Sanchez-Potter seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel said this Heat Pumps Campaign scoping document will launch the task force community engagement campaign.

- DEC Natural Resource Inventory Grant -Kick Off

Jonathan Midler, City Planner, reported on; Hudsonian confirmed engagement; kick-off meeting to be scheduled to coordinate all organizations involved; the Vassar student has started working on draft maps that will be submitted by the end of the month and presented at the CAC December meeting.

- Restoration Advisory Board /Stewart Air National Guard Water Project

The Chairperson said the next big meeting will be October 25, 2023 at the Newburgh Armory .

- LWRP Update – Locally Adopted on 7-10-17

The Chairperson said there are no current updates.

- 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.

Upcoming events:

None

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

- 10-10-23 City Council Meeting
- 10-10-23 Architectural Review Council Meeting
- 10-11-23 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
- 10-13-23 Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy Meeting
- 10-16-23 Arts & Cultural Commission Meeting
- 10-17-23 Planning Board Meeting
- 10-23-23 City Council Meeting
- 10-24-23 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
- 10-25-23 Restoration Advisory Board Meeting
- 10-25-23 Newburgh Clean Water Project Facebook Event

- **Public comment on general CAC non-agenda items**

Gail Fulton made Motion to Adjourn

Mark Sanchez-Potter seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting concluded 8:39p.m.