Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York
The Heritage Center, 123 Grand St., Newburgh, NY 12550
Phone: (845) 569-7383 e-mail: conservation@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov

Council Members:
Chuck Thomas | Chair
Ronald Zorrilla | Incoming Chair / NRI
Betty Bastidas | Climate Smart
Gail Fulton | Parks
Marianne Marichal | Urban Forest
Mark Sanchez-Potter

Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting
February 5, 2024
6:30 p.m. – Heritage Center

- **Roll Call**

Present: **Chuck Thomas, Chairperson, Betty Bastidas Gail Fulton, Marianne Marichal, Mark Sanchez-Potter**

Absent: **Ronald Zorrilla**

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

Meeting called to order 6:33 p.m.

- **Public Comment on Agenda Items**
  None

- **Projects**

  Site Plan Review
  1 Lafayette Street / 50-76 Liberty Street
  Owner: Mid-Hudson Film, LLC
  Applicant: Andrew Schrijver

  Andrew Schrijver and Chris Berg, R.A. appeared before the Council and gave an overview of the proposed project.

Mr. Potter-Sanchez asked how much of a shadow the proposed building could cast onto Washington Headquarters.

Mr. Schrijver presented their shadow study to demonstrate.

Ms. Bastidas asked how many trees are proposed to be planted on site.

Mr. Schrijver said approximately twenty-four trees.

The CAC reviewed the Coastal Assessment Form.

Determination: Project is consistent with the LWRP.

Gail Fulton made a motion to accept the Coastal Assessment Form.
Betty Bastidas seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

- **Presentation**
  EPA Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities
  Md. Aynul Bari/University of Albany

  UAlbany's Residential Air Quality Exposure Study-General Information and Flyer-Invitation to participate were made matter of record.

  Mr. Bari appeared virtually and gave a presentation on the EPA project and plan for recruitment. He reported the study would ask the participation of twenty indoor studies, $30. gift cards would be given as a participant incentive, handouts would be provided in May/June and the monitoring is scheduled to begin in the summertime.

Administration

- Approval of minutes

  Mark Sanchez-Potter made a motion to approve the December 4, 2023, minutes subject to changes.
  Marianne Marichal seconded the motion.
  The motion passed unanimously.

  Mark Sanchez-Potter made a motion to approve the January 2, 2024, minutes subject to changes.
  Marianne Marichal seconded the motion.
  The motion passed unanimously.

- Monthly Financial Report
  No new expenses to discuss.

- Volunteer Hours -tracking and reporting
  The Chairperson stressed the importance of submitting all volunteer hours onto the spreadsheet.

- Board Appointments
  The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported that applications have been received, are being reviewed and planned to present for City Council approval at the second City Council meeting in February.

- 2023 Annual Report
  The Chairperson said the report is pending.

  The Assistant Corporation Counsel requested the submission of a draft, including Climate Smart as an attachment, for CAC review at the next meeting.

Old Business

- NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Grant.
  The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported: the contract is being circulated, first step is the hiring of a consultant to conduct a tree inventory and an RFP for the consultant will be made available publicly, it is a two-year schedule and begins when executed, and managed internally by City staff.

- Friends of a Clean Hudson Coalition -municipal sign-on letter
  Tabled.

- NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge/Hudson Valley Flood Resilience Network -letter of support
  The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported this continues to be reviewed.

- **On-going Updates**
  Sub-Committees:

- Urban Forestry Sub-Committee
  Ms. Marichal reported on:
  1) Spring tree planting plan.
  2) Fall tree planting plan.

3) Tree Recycling Event January 6, 2024
4) Citizen Pruner Workshop
5) Arbor Day 2024
6) RFQ Part time Arborist RFP.
7) Volunteer report
8) Tree planting brochures
9) Tree City USA application
10) Shoreline planting plan, "Consolidated Iron Site" landscaping recommendations

- Newburgh Climate Ready Sub-Committee
  The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported: IT is working on the website, City Council review pending, and the launch date to be determined.

- DEC Natural Resource Inventory Grant
  The Chairperson reported: base maps that will be used for the report have been shared at the last meeting.

  The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported: the site review date is tabled for better weather, meeting with the historian is scheduled for next week, and the consultant community engagement plan is pending.

- Restoration Advisory Board /Stewart Air National Guard Water Project
  The Chairperson reported: the last meeting was January 31, 2024, and he will circulate the next agenda upon receipt.

- LWRP Update – Locally Adopted on 7-10-17
  No update to report.
  The Chairperson asked if state comments have been received by the City Planner to share those with the Council.

- Tree Permit -Local Code Revision.
  No update to report.

- Holtech -Radioactive wastewater
  Mr. Sanchez-Potter reported: Holtech is potentially delaying their decommissioning process by up to eight years based off the bill that Governor Hochul's signed.

- CSX Underpass
  The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the beautification plans are available and will be shared.

New Business

- **Open Space Steering Committee/BOA**
  Ms. Marichal proposed the CAC draft a letter.

- **Riverkeeper Sweep**
  The Chairperson reported that the upcoming 13th annual Riverkeeper Sweep Hudson Valley is scheduled for May 4, 2024, and proposed organizing a South Street Park clean up event. He said the registration deadline is March 22, 2024.

Gail Fulton made a motion to make a resolution to apply for a permit.
Mark Sanchez-Potter seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events

- **Pollinator Event**
  Ms. Marichal reported that the event is scheduled for June 22, 2024, time to be determined, an event organizing meeting is pending, and plans to engage involvement from the Environmental Justice Fellows.

- **Re-Leaf Conference**
  Ms. Marichal reported the next conference is scheduled for July 24, 2024 in Albany, NY.

- **Calendar of Upcoming events (webinars, training, community events)**
  - 2-07-24 Downing Park Conservancy Monthly Meeting 5p.m. at the Shelter House
  - 2-09-24 Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy Stakeholders Meeting
  - 2-12-24 City Council Meeting
  - 2-13-24 Architectural Review Council Meeting
  - 2-14-24 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
  - 2-19-24 Newburgh Wants a Park Campaign, Outside Promise and Scenic Hudson Hike at Crystal Lake 10:30a.m.
  - 2-20-24 Planning Board Meeting
  - 2-26-24 City Council Meeting
  - 2-27-24 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

- **Public comment on general CAC non-agenda items:**
  Kippy Boyle expressed her frustration related to communication and Board capacity.

Mark Sanchez-Potter made Motion to Adjourn
Betty Bastidas seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.
Meeting concluded 8:48p.m.