

DEPARTMENTAL WEEKLY REPORTS

March 9, 2012

Planning & Development

Planning

On Wednesday afternoon, Planner Mike Fortner and I met with the developers of the proposed Rittenhouse II development. Because of cross easement issues on Rittenhouse Road, the applicants requested the development be withdrawn from the Planning Commission agenda for March 6, 2012. As there were no other development proposals on the agenda, the meeting was canceled.

On Monday afternoon I met with Councilman Athey to discuss Planning & Development Department restructuring plans and "163" development plans. Councilman Athey will host a community meeting with the developer of 163 on Thursday evening.

On Tuesday afternoon, Mike and I met with Nadine Bangerter of the Conservation Advisory Committee to discuss issues related to transit in Newark.

Considerable time was spent this week reviewing applications for the Planner position in the department and setting up interviews for same.

Some time was been spent this week preparing and then enjoying Roy's Retirement Dinner held Friday, March 2nd.

This morning I will be accompanying Electric Director Rick Vitelli and Code Enforcement Supervisor Steve Wilson to a University initiated meeting to discuss the Bloom Energy development.

Some time was spent this week preparing for the upcoming City Council meeting during which BB Zoning apartment density, department reorganization, the Science and Technology Campus zoning category, parking meter time limits and instant tickets will be discussed.

Economic Development

On Tuesday Mike hosted a meeting of the Downtown Newark Partnership's Design Committee. The proposed BB Zoning change regarding apartment density was among the items discussed.

This morning Mike hosted a meeting of the Downtown Newark Partnership's Merchants Committee. Newark's Wine & Dine Downtown and the Register to Win Contest were among the items discussed.

The Downtown Newark Partnership meeting originally scheduled for Thursday, March 8, 2012 has been canceled due to lack of a quorum.

Parking

Parking Administrator Marvin Howard reports normal maintenance and operations were performed this week.

Work continued on revising lease agreements for Lot #3.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Supervisor Steve Wilson reports that a C/O will be issued this week for Yi Palace in the Park n Shop Shopping Center. Yi Palace is on the City Council agenda for March 26, 2012 for consideration of a Special Use Permit to permit alcohol sales in the restaurant.

Steve also reports that Wawa's C/O should be issued this week as well.

Fraternity and Sorority inspections begin the week of March 19th thru 22nd.

Public Works

Engineering/Planning and Inspection

- Madeline Crossing – B.M.P. Maintenance: Met with Lang Development's new maintenance man to review needed maintenance of the (7) ultra drain guard inlet inserts on site.
- 307 Markus Court – Drainage Complaint: Met with owner (on site during rain event) to analyze existing drainage on his lot and the drainage of the lot to the west.
- Sand Filter Inspections: Conducted inspections during rain event at 120, 122, and 134 Sandy Drive and at 322 Markus Court to observe function. Returned to same locations 12 hours after rain ended to observe function, and all systems had functioned well.
- DeIDOT Roads Maintenance Inspections: Spent considerable time inspecting 41 DeIDOT maintained roads within Newark City limits, compiled a list(s) of items that need attention, and sent to appropriate DeIDOT departments for their review.
- Proposed 2012 Ramps for the Handicapped: Revised number and numbering of 37 pictures of proposed ramps in computer folder.
- Investigated a soil complaint at University Courtyard.
- Met with Jen Egan, White Clay Wild and Scenic Management Plan Coordinator, about the upcoming retrofit grant.
- Reviewed proposed Sediment and Stormwater regulations and provided feedback to the Engineering Assistant.
- Investigated a discharge complaint at the outfall behind Foxcroft Apartments. Continued the investigation with the University of Delaware on their property.
- Performed wet weather SWMA inspections during a rain event.
- Obtained a water quality sample as per our Industrial Stormwater Permit for the maintenance yard, and delivered them to the lab.
- Investigated a creek complaint at Rittenhouse Park.

- Road Survey Management System: Started street survey for the west section of the city.

Survey Crew

- Completed Miss Utility Mark-outs as needed.
- Resolved laptop issue with the help of IT Department and obtained weekly Gas Boy numbers at the Municipal Fueling Station and updated the fuel inventory spreadsheets.
- Completed drawing of Barnes & Noble parking lot for Planning Department Director.
- Began preliminary work for upcoming topographic survey at Iron Glen yardwaste facility.

Field Operations/Streets

- Repaired potholes with cold patch at various locations.
- Hauled one load of sweeper material from the city yard to the landfill.
- Cleaned culverts of debris and blockages on Park Drive, Church Road, Barksdale Road, and Bellevue Road.
- Assisted Refuse Department on the knuckleboom and 3-man packer.
- Concrete crew excavated concrete sidewalk at various locations in Devon for future sidewalk repairs.
- Catch basin crew cleaned catch basins on the north side of S. College Avenue Bridge and starting catch basin cleanings as per schedules.
- Sign truck relocated "Welcome to Newark" sign on Route 72, repaired and replaced signs and poles as needed.
- Sidewalk sweeper continued with duties on Main Street.

Parks & Recreation

Administration/Planning

I began working on the 2013-2017 Capital Budget.

Joe and I met with the Skate Spot Committee on Wednesday night. Much of the meeting involved discussions and plans for the Public Workshop scheduled for March 29.

Tom, Rich and I met with those involved with the Redd Park Trail project to discuss completing Phases III and IV. Following a winter break, work will begin again later this month.

I attended the monthly update meeting for the Pomeroy Trail. We continue to make good progress. This week Merit worked in the area of Kershaw Park installing a drainage system, soil stabilization on slopes and installed fencing in two locations.

Parks Superintendent and Supervisor

- Conducted park inspections

- Continued researching options for irrigation of Elkton Road traffic medians
- Daily scheduling of field staff and volunteers
- Inspected landscape installation at the Wawa store
- Laid out and set up detour on Hall Trail for removal of invasive Bamboo
- Met with Parks Director and Recreation Superintendent about skate spot project
- Completed preparing a contract for the replacement of bollards along the Hall Trail
- Met with all parties involved with the Redd Park trail installation concerning trail layout
- Started working on the next phase of the Main Street tree pit project
- Contacted seasonal employees with start dates

Parks/Horticulture

- Completed/started work orders at City Hall, Police Station, Fairfield, Devon, Phillips, Wilson Center, Lewis, Karpinski, and Kells park areas
- Did daily trash sweeps at City Hall
- Maintained interior planting bed areas at City Hall
- Set up detour route on Hall Trail

Networks completed the following

- Continued working on trailer #1419

Recreation Services

Coordinated start of Multi-Level Yoga, Gentle Yoga, and Soccer Shots programs this week and held the championships for the Winter Adult Volleyball Leagues.

Attended the Junior Basketball League championship game and handed out trophies after an exciting overtime victory.

The latest session of the CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child's Health) after school program held for at risk students at Downes Elementary concluded on Wednesday, February 29. We had 10 students complete the session.

Sharon and the recreation staff finished the 2012 Summer Camp Guide and it will be sent out and available online this week.

Sharon has been working with Theresa (our intern) on the Egg Hunt. They're working on setting up times for the UD volleyball team to volunteer to stuff eggs and have been preparing a mailing list for basket donation requests.

Charlie and I held a Skate Spot Committee meeting in preparation for the public meeting that will be held on March 29.

I worked on the quotation results for our t-shirt and portable toilet needs for 2012. We will make the awards this week to the lowest responsible and qualified companies.

Sharon and I met with the University of Delaware Alumni Relations about their Alumni event and Newark Day. Both events will be held on the same day, June 2, as they have for the past several years.

We are close to finalizing the Pomeroy and Newark Trail kiosks after several months of research and changes to the design. They will now be passed along to Merit to have the kiosks produced for the project.

The recreation staff is working on the Summer Activity Guide that will go out electronically on April 30.

Electric

The line crews have been building structures and pulling cables in preparation for energizing the new substation transformer that arrived last week. The vendor is sending technicians next week to finalize some control wiring and witness the testing the City is having done before commissioning.

The directional bore contractor has completed pulling in primary cables along Radcliffe Drive. He is starting bores from Nottingham Road to the backyards of Baylor Drive to install primary cables which will decrease outages caused by large trees looming over the backyard lines.

The electricians have continued working on installing the conduits needed for the future upgrades to East Main Substation. Conduits for DC power and SCADA communications are needed before new relays can be installed at the transformers.

Engineering met with the University about the upcoming Bloom Energy facility at the old Chrysler site. Plans were revealed showing the building's location which is a prelude of the information needed to design the electric service.

Water & Wastewater

The Well 14 production test was conducted this week. The well performed well. We are awaiting the test results of the water and well production efficiency to make certain that they comply with the contract standards.

We are working on the development of the Capital Improvement Program for the following years.

I met with an equipment supplier to discuss improvement projects that we have for this year. The solutions that they offer are intriguing and we will continue to investigate to see if they are something that we can use.

I met this week with members of the Brandwine Valley Association to discuss conservation efforts in the surrounding watersheds. We continue to make progress towards the restoration and preservation of these crucial water resources.

Police

On Saturday morning the Newark Police Department responded to Christiana Hospital after being alerted that a 24-year-old male had been severely shocked by electricity while climbing on a freight train at approximately 4:30 a.m.

Officers learned that the victim who resides in the 200 block of East Park Place in Newark had trespassed onto the railroad tracks just south of Kells Park. For an unknown reason the victim, who was alone at the time of the incident, climbed onto a Norfolk Southern freight train and once on top was shocked by electricity from an overhead high voltage line. The victim apparently lost consciousness and when he awoke was lying on the railroad tracks. He managed to walk back to his residence and alerted his roommates who then transported him by private vehicle to Christiana Hospital.

The victim was initially treated at Christiana Hospital for burns to approximately 35% of his body including left hand, neck, face, right arm, shoulder, back and right leg. He was then transported to Crozer Chester Medical Center where he is currently admitted for his injuries, which are not believed to be life threatening.

Detective Michael Watson has completed polygraph training. New polygraph equipment was ordered and has arrived at the police station. Detective Watson expects to begin polygraph examinations next week.

Chief Tiernan and Charles Zusag have been preparing to administer the police promotion exam for the ranks of Master Corporal and Sergeant. This year the exam will be written and scored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The Department continues to prepare for the on-site grant audit by the Department of Justice. The auditor will be meeting with members of the police and finance departments on March 15th.

CSH/mp