



# Buffalo Environmental Management Commission

## MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, January 20, 2010

The meeting started at 8:05 AM and was held in Room 920 City Hall.

**Commissioners Attending:** Art Robinson, John Hackney, Charles Grieco, Frank Armento, Joseph Gardella and David Hahn-Baker.

**Not Attending:** John Bauda

**Others Attending:** Dennis Sutton (staff), Dave Hornung, (Public Works), Emily Bauer (Sustainability Intern), Gary Witulski (City Planner), Paula Rosner (Community Action Organization)

**Minutes:** the notes for the April 2009 meeting were taken by J. Gardella and not yet transcribed into minutes. The December 2009 minutes were approved.

### **TIP Sheet**

January's TIP SHEET featured information about the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Sustainability Planning Toolkit. Mailing list included Common Council members. E. Bauer to research any additional information regarding the Tool Kit.

### **SEQRA/Sustainable Development**

The BEMC will draft a letter to the NYSDEC requesting a one-month extension to the SEQRA comment period for the proposed 1055 Seneca Street transfer station. There is a concern that the proposed increased volume of traffic brought about by the transfer station expansion would cause undue damage to the roads in the adjacent neighborhood. C. Grieco will research the zoning designation for the area and F. Armento expressed concern that environmental justice concerns were not being met.

**LED Streetlights** – Dave Hornung to obtain project progress for next meeting

### **Brownfields Update**

An update was given regarding progress of 90 Hopkins, 1318 Niagara Street and Union Ship Canal Park projects.

**Pest Management Board** – no discussion this meeting

**Green House Gas Inventory and Report** – no discussion this meeting

### **Urban Farming**

Paula Rosner from the Community Action Organization was in attendance to discuss sustainable community gardens and urban farming. The CAO, with Paula as Director is developing urban

agriculture through the use of hoop houses financed through the American Recovery Act. The discussion included zoning issues, a proposed pilot project with the Broadway Market, district a demonstration project, and the desire for a large-scale compost center. Commissioner Stepniak will be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss composting.

### **City Web Page**

The Commission should work with Frank Honrado and Janet SanFillipo to develop the additional space. There was a discussion regarding having a link to urban farming activities on the City's web page.

### **Membership**

Awaiting paperwork regarding appointment of Art Robinson and John Bauda. Art Robinson has been appointed by the Mayor and indicated that the appointment notice would be received in the near future. Council appointees to the Commission were reappointed in March of 2009.

### **Other**

Gary Witulski was in attendance to discuss the final EIS for the Peace Bridge and the Canal Side project. He indicated that the City had been very active in the process leading to the final Peace Bridge EIS and had advocated a shared boarder management plan but that it was not approved. There is now a plan to incorporate a gateway design into the City Plan for Niagara Street approach to the Peace Bridge. He also indicated that the issues of migratory birds and fish habitats were being addressed and publicly vetted.

The Canal Side project is located at the foot of Main Street, includes the Webster Block, former Donovan Building and the former Auditorium Site. It is a \$3 million project and is being managed by the Erie Canal Harbor Authority. The final EIS for this project is scheduled for public review soon and the area should be ready for redevelopment by May 2010.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:40AM. Next scheduled meeting is to be February 17, 2010.