



# Buffalo Environmental Management Commission

## MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, February 17, 2010

The meeting started at 8:15 AM and was held in Room 920 City Hall.

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

**Not Attending:** John Bauda, Art Robinson

**Others Attending:** Dennis Sutton (staff), Dave Hornung, (Public Works), Paula Rosner, Mike Lee, Mike Harter (Community Action Organization), David Majewski (PSI), Sean Myers.

### Minutes

The notes for the April 2009 meeting were taken by J. Gardella and not yet transcribed into minutes. The January 2010 minutes were approved.

### TIP Sheet

February's TIP SHEET featured information about New York State's Clean Water funding. Mailing list included Common Council members.

### SEQRA/Sustainable Development

The BEMC will draft a comment letter to the NYSDEC regarding the proposed 1055 Seneca Street transfer station within the next week. There is a question regarding the SEQRA lead agency designation. C. Grieco indicated that a permit for such a facility is required every year and that the application appeared to be incomplete. 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 South Buffalo BOA project.

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

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

### Urban Farming

Paula Rosner, Mike Lee, Mike Harter (Community Action Organization), David Majewski (PSI) were in attendance to discuss sustainable community gardens and urban farming. 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.

Ms. Rosner indicated that there was a need for clean compost material and the CAO was exploring funding for a composting facility. The facility is envisioned as a social enterprise whereby compost would be provided to small-scale gardeners at no cost and sold to others, with the profit being used to promote urban agricultural programming. It was proposed that the compost material could be used to raise organic food crops.

The CAO was soliciting City involvement in addressing siting, zoning and environmental impact issues. D. Hornung expressed concerns with regard to rodent control, odor issues and addition traffic volume. Ms. Rosner indicated that many of the expressed concerns were addressed in the developed business plan for the proposed facility. It was suggested that guidance, once developed, for urban farming be posted on the City's web site.

There was a general discussion regarding urban farming, immigrant farmers and farmers relocating to urban areas.

It was suggested that the CAO prepare an informational presentation for the Common Council. The BEMC is prepared to support the CAO effort. The CAO is requested to send a formal letter to BEMC requesting their support.

### **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.

Sean Myers was present to observe and would like to be considered as a candidate for a Commissioner position.

### **Other**

D. Sutton to check with the City Clerk's office regarding financial disclosure forms for the Commissioners.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM. Next scheduled meeting is to be March 17, 2010.