



Buffalo Environmental Management Commission

MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, ~~February 18~~ March 18, 2009

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

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

Others Attending: Dennis Sutton (staff), John Bauda (HSBC), Arthur Robinson (Seneca Babcock Block Club)

Minutes: the minutes for the February 2009 meeting were approved.

As opening remarks, the Interim Chair indicated that Mr. Robinson's appointment by the Mayor to the BEMC, as Commissioner was imminent.

TIP Sheet

March's TIP SHEET featured information about Milwaukee's Water Council. Mailing list included Common Council members and Mayor's office.

SEQRA/Sustainable Development

J. Bauda has drafted a letter for the BEMC to forward to the City Law Dept. regarding the inconsistencies between the SEQRA and the City Environmental Review Ordinance.

The BEMC has received and reviewed the SEQR Part I applications for 18 Agassiz Circle and 136 North Division and has informed the Planning Department that no comments will be forthcoming.

There was a general discussion regarding the propose expansion of the Battaglia transfer station. It was noted that the NYSDEC assumed lead agency status. Questions were raised as to whether there would be a modification of the existing facility permit, whether a traffic study had been undertaken and whether a DEIS was completed. J. Gardella indicated that a request for information regarding the facility was submitted to the Mayor's office.

J. Gardella to submit another request for information regarding the Battaglia transfer station to the Mayor's office, City Law Department and NYSDEC. The BEMC will also request Interim City Planner to attend next BEMC meeting to discuss SEQRA and business development issues.

Information was presented on a recent NYSDEC policy regarding the assessment of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in environmental impact statements. David Hahn-Baker indicated that he would draft a letter to the NYSDEC commenting on the new policy. Commissioners were encouraged to forward their comments about the policy to David.

Community Gardening

A. Robinson presented information about the Community Gardening Program. The program involves planting and maintaining vegetable gardens on City owned vacant properties. He indicated that a program at School 26 had been approved by the City and was ready to proceed.

Mr. Gardella stated that he has received a number of requests from the community to undertake Community Gardening activities. He wanted to know if there were City policies, approval processes, practices and guidance in place and available so interested parties could apply for the program. He requested that Grass Roots Gardens be invited to the next BEMC meeting to discuss the program.

LED Streetlights

No report this meeting

Brownfields Update

The Buffalo Harbor BOA grant application and the status of the Union Ship Canal park project were discussed. J. Gardella indicated that the BEMC would issue a letter of support for the Buffalo Harbor BOA grant application

Pest Management Board

D. Hahn-Baker indicated that he would be attempting to meet with Senator Antoine Thompson regarding IPM matters.

Green House Gas Inventory and Report

No report this meeting

Membership

All current commissioner terms have expired. J. Gardella to request that an update on appointments from Dana Bobinchek. He will draft a letter to notify Council members of their reappointments.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 AM. Next scheduled meeting is to be April 15, 2009.