



# Buffalo Environmental Management Commission

## MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, April 21, 2010

The meeting started at 8:10 AM and was held in Room 920 City Hall.

**Commissioners Attending:** John Hackney, Charles Grieco, Frank Armento, Joseph Gardella, John Bauda and Art Robinson

**Not Attending:** David Hahn-Baker

**Others Attending:** Paula Rosner (CAO)

### Minutes

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

**TIP Sheet** April tip sheet on urban farming in Detroit, based on a detailed report in the Detroit Free Press, was discussed and elicited strong enthusiasm as timely and relevant. Interim Chair Gardella will make contacts with planning and government agencies in Detroit to learn if we can collaborate. Commission requests that final copies be emailed to Paula Rosner at CAO for further distribution.

### SEQRA/Sustainable Development

Art Robinson informed the Commission that the Battaglia proposal for a waste transfer station and the SEQRA EIS process for a DEC permit had been withdrawn. Peter Battaglia has written to Council President Franczyk to indicate the withdrawal.

**LED Streetlights** – no report

**Brownfields Update** – no report

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

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

### Urban Farming

Paula Rosner updated the commission on the development of a composting facility to support urban farming, and indicated a new collaboration between CAO and a corporation that has grown from Riverkeeper, named Buffalo Green Power, led by Jerry Bove and Robbin Drake, who are proposing an anaerobic site that would also capture methane and produce electricity. The CAO has developed an agreement with Buffalo Green Power, to jointly develop the site, requiring 5-8 contiguous acres. The collaboration will focus the potential sites on east side zoning overlay district that is being proposed.

Cornell University has been assisting with a grant to assess urban farm soil quality and the workshop was on soil testing March 27<sup>th</sup> at the Wilson Street farm. Attendance from six urban farm groups in Buffalo created a vigorous farm.

**City Web Page** No action.

**Membership**

Art Robinson has been appointed by the Mayor and all paperwork with City Clerk is complete. Joe Gardella has been communicating with Emily Bauer and the Mayor's office to encourage appointments for renewal of Commissioner Frank Armento and filling final open seat.

**Other**

J. Gardella will send a letter to Brendan Mehaffy requesting that a meeting be arranged to meet with the selected zoning consultant.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM. Next scheduled meeting is to be May 19 , 2010.