



Buffalo Environmental Management Commission

MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, ~~February 18~~ December 16, 2009

The meeting started at 8:10 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), Mike LoCurto (Council Member), Brendan Mehaffy (Assistant Corporation Counsel), Kevin Matheis (U.S. EPA), 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 November 2009 minutes were approved.

TIP Sheet

November's TIP SHEET featured information about projects that the U.S. EPA has undertaken in the City of Buffalo, NY. Mailing list included Common Council members.

Kevin Matheis of the U.S. EPA was in attendance to accept recognition for the work he has undertaken for the EPA in the City of Buffalo. The EPA has conducted projects approximating \$40 million in value over the past 20 years in Western New York. His next project in Buffalo will be the former Marlette Plating facility near the River Rock Business Park.

SEQRA/Sustainable Development

There was a general discussion regarding UB's proposed EOC project and the sequence of activities under SEQRA. F. Armento and C. Grieco expressed concerns regarding how UB was designated the lead agency.

There was a general discussion regarding comments on the accepted design for the Peace Bridge and the revised environmental impact statement. There were concerns about the potential health impacts. F. Armento indicated that the draft impact statement would be available for public review in Spring 2010.

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 Bengart Memel projects. The status of the South Buffalo BOA and the EPA assessments was also discussed.

Pest Management Board – no discussion this meeting

Green House Gas Inventory and Report – C. Grieco will circulate Portland, Oregon’s Climate Action Plan

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 goal is to construct 10 hoop houses and develop a sustainable business program that benefits low income neighborhoods. The CAOs priority is to develop infrastructure to support a self-sufficient program, address environmental justice concerns, and conduct training programs.

Other topics of discussion included composting, quality soil concerns, revising zoning cods to promote urban agriculture and selling urban farm produce to the public.

City Web Page

The Commission should work with Frank Honrado and Janet SanFillipo to develop the additional space.

Membership

Awaiting paperwork regarding appointment of Art Robinson and John Bauda. Art Robinson had spoken with 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

Council member LoCurto was in attendance to discuss the approved Colvin Estates subdivision. The City is considering public support for the project by providing funds for road construction in the subdivision. Council member LoCurto’s was concerned that the environmental issues associated with the former rail right-of-way where the subdivision is located have not been adequately addressed.

Dave Hornung of Public works indicated that he was not familiar with the subdivision approval of a site plan. Additional discussion focused on implementing SEQR review for the roadwork and the actions should not be segmented

Council member LoCurto requested a letter from BEMC to delineate the next steps to be taken.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:40AM. Next scheduled meeting is to be January 20, 2010.