



Buffalo Environmental Management Commission

MINUTES

Meeting of Thursday, December 17, 2010

The meeting started at 8:10 AM and was held in Room 901 City Hall.

Commissioners Attending: J. Gardella, A. Robinson, D. Hahn-Baker, J. Bauda, C. Grieco and J. Hackney

Not Attending: F. Armento

Others Attending: Dennis Sutton (COB support staff), Gary Carrel (NYSERDA), John Fell (COB), Jacques Gourguechoen (Camiros), Jack Swenson (Camiros), Chris Hawley (COB), Andy Rabb (COB)

Minutes

The November 2010 meeting minutes were approved.

TIP Sheet

The December TIP SHEET discussed the New York State's Green Remediation Program.

SEQRA/Sustainable Development - No report this meeting

LED Streetlights – J. Gardella to contact S. Stepniak regarding follow through on LED street lights.

Brownfields Update – no update this meeting

Pest Management Board – no discussion this meeting

Green House Gas Inventory and Report – no discussion this meeting

City Web Page – no discussion this meeting

Membership

Joe Gardella has been communicating with the Mayor's office to encourage appointments and renewal of Commissioner Armento's term. J. Gardella to submit Mr. Cammarata's name to the Mayor's Office for consideration.

Urban Farming

J. Gardella continues to work toward a joint meeting with UB Baldy Law Center, Cornell University, the Environmental Justice Action Committee, the BEMC, the City of Buffalo and other interested parties regarding land use and zoning in connection to urban farming and gardens. A February 2011 date is being proposed.

Other

- Gary Carrel from NYSERDA attended the meeting and presented information on NYSERDA's Energy Smart Programs. This included information on job training, energy audits, Local Government, Flex Tech and Existing Facility Programs. The programs are

focused on energy conservation and efficiency measures for New York State businesses and residents. More information can be found on their web site: www.nyserderda.org. J. Gardella proposes to have NYSERDA meet with Mel Alston and Commissioners Stepniak and Comerford regarding their municipal programs.

- Jacques Gourguechoen and Jack Swenson of Camiros attended the meeting and presented information of the City's Green Code project. This is a citywide land use and rezoning effort that incorporates the City's Comprehensive Plan. The work will be done in two phases: 1) the development of a broad framework that incorporates place making, and incorporates mixed use and smart growth principles. This will be done while incorporating input from numerous public outreach meetings; and, 2) undertaking SEQRA activities regarding the land use and zoning revisions. It was anticipated that the Lead Agency would be designated in January of 2011 and that a Scoping Session would be held in March of 2011 with a EIS completed by late Spring 2011.

J. Gardella mentioned the concerns the City has regarding the urban farming efforts and the present zoning. He mentioned the proposed UB Baldy Law Center meeting, to be held in January or February and invited Camiros to attend. A general discussion about urban farming and inherent concerns was held. J. Bauda asked about green infrastructure set aside areas and sustainability principals to be incorporated into the new zoning ordinance. C. Grieco asked about the possibility of incentive zoning.

Andy Rabb of the City's Parks Department presented information regarding the designation of properties listed as City parks. He explained the different types of parks and properties under his management and the challenges of operations and maintenance. He proposed to meet with Camiros to more specifically discuss park issues such as open space restrictions, preservation of rail lines, establishing setbacks and future use.

J. Gardella mentioned the GIS resource available to Camiros at UB and Buffalo State.

- J. Gardella expressed concern about a recent article in the Buffalo News that indicated that the Common Council proposed to form a new environmental committee to promote green jobs. He will draft a letter, for review, to Council members Locurto, Franczyk and Kearns expressing his concern that the BEMC was not consulted on the matter.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM. Next scheduled meeting is to be January 19, 2011.