



# Buffalo Environmental Management Commission

## MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, December 19, 2007

**Commissioners Attending:** Joseph Gardella, Michael Sendor, Charles Grieco, John Hackney and Frank Armento. The meeting started at 8:05 AM and was held in Room 920 City Hall.

**Not attending:** David Hahn-Baker

**Others Attending:** Dennis Sutton (staff)

**Minutes:** The minutes for the September, October and November 2007 meetings were submitted approved with revisions.

### **TIP Sheet**

November's TIP SHEET featured additional information regarding Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology for street and traffic lights. Mailing list included Common Council members, Mayor's office and Public Works. Interim Chair will attempt to have a representative from National Grid at the next meeting to discuss LED applications in the City of Buffalo. Council Members and Sierra Club members will be also encouraged to attend.

### **SEQRA/ Sustainable Development**

The BEMC has recently been receiving Part 1 EAFs for review and comment from the Planning Department. J. Gardella is to draft a letter to Tim Wanamaker regarding the EAF for the purchase of the Steelfields property.

Interim Chair requested that Land Use Coordinator be present at next meeting to discuss ways that EMC can better track SEQRA items as they move through the Planning process.

C. Grieco questioned the choice for Lead Agency for the Erie Canal Harbor Development Agency, regarding the properties on Main Street. The question was whether the City should be the Lead Agency and if there was a Law Office Review. He requested that Interim Chair draft a letter to T. Wanamaker and City Council to clarify issue.

### **Hickory Woods**

No report this meeting

### **Brownfields Update**

The cleanup at 858 East Ferry has been completed. The reinitiated cleanup 90 Hopkins and 1318 Niagara Street were also discussed. There was a general discussion regarding the South Buffalo BOA. The project had been started and J. Gardella was presented a schedule of activities for the

project. F. Armento indicated that the consultants for the BOA will format a link from the City's web site to a site that presents the status of the BOA activities.

**Pest Management Board**

No discussion this meeting

**Greenhouse Gas**

No discussion this meeting.

**City Forestry, Parks, Vacant Properties**

No discussion this meeting

**Membership**

All current commissioner terms have expired except C. Grieco. Interim Chair will also remind mayor of vacant positions for his appointment.

J. Gardella to petition Common Council to reappoint those that it can and request that the Partnership appoint a new Commissioner to replace M. Sendor, who has resigned after this meeting. The Commission thanked and wished well Mr. Sendor for serving on the Commission and his contributions to its purpose.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM. Next scheduled meeting is January 16, 2008, 8:00 AM.

**To do before next meeting**

- Send copy of Tip Sheet regarding LED street lights to Andrew Goldstein of Erie County and follow up with M. LoCurto regarding City actions;
- Schedule joint meeting with PMB,
- Query Erie County Forestry Dept. regarding use of pesticides on City Parks;
- C. Grieco and F. Armento summarize issues regarding the City's SEQRA regulations, with input from G. Burnas, so a submission to the Common Council can be prepared; and,
- D. Hahn-Baker request the County to address the Commission on County pesticide use on City parks and the County's forestry plan for the City of Buffalo.

**Awaiting Response or Follow up Action**

- Awaiting response to J. Gardella's letter to Mayor regarding update on Environmental Management Commission appointees. Letter copied to R. Tobe and T. Wanamaker;
- Awaiting response from Mayors office regarding green house gas issues;
- Awaiting feedback from Council Members Kearns and LoCurto regarding information from National Grid and Erie County's forestry practices, including planting, trimming and maintenance;
- J. Gardella to receive BEMC files from B. Coleman's widow;
- J. Gardella to draft letter for April's Tip Sheet, send to Partnership, ECEMC, Common Council, UB Green Office, Waterfront Redevelopment Corp, UB Planning Office.