



Buffalo Environmental Management Commission

MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, February 20, 2008

Commissioners Attending: Joseph Gardella, David Hahn Baker, Charles Grieco, John Hackney and Frank Armento. The meeting started at 8:10 AM and was held in Room 920 City Hall.

Others Attending: Dennis Sutton (staff) did not attend, he was out of town.

Information item: David Hahn Baker: March 7th Museum of Science meeting, 8am Citizen Action Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo on lead education, meetings on lead issues, agenda on brief kickoff talks by Mayor Brown, Judge Henry Nowak, Anthony Billittier, Rochester stakeholders on reduce lead poisonings, best practices on reducing lead exposure.

Monthly meetings on lead poisoning, CARE EPA grant, Buffalo has huge lead poisoning problem. Statistics on lead, housing stock, etc.

Municipal laws in place....therefore EMC might engage Common Council.

Action item: Letter from EMC to Common Council, cc: Cara Stillman, CARE grant

Minutes: The minutes for the December 2007 meetings were submitted approved.

TIP Sheet

Next meeting will involve a special session on LED streetlights. Members of the Sierra Club, LED manufacturers and National Grid are invited to participate.

Chair needs to confirm participation from National Grid. Former member Mike Sendor identified National Grid representatives who could be invited to attend.

SEQRA/ Sustainable Development

Mr. Greico analyzed the recent ruling by Judge Dillon regarding the Park Lane Condominiums, and EMC's role. This ruling noted.

Action: EMC Interim Chair will write City Law again asking for review of City ERO language and submitting revisions to make the law more consistent with SEQRA according to 2003 SEQRA task force recommendations. Work with Dennis Sutton on that letter.

Type 2 (exempt) categories Purchase or sale of 50 Acres or less is type 2. SEQRA size of transfer is less.

Frank Armento: Kohls project, Black Rock planning alliance did not have issues with Benderson's proposal, North Buffalo Good Neighbors planning alliance raised questions in a letter to Benderson. Project was approved. No traffic assessment was done. Planning Board approved the project, and it is not clear to NBGNPA that any comments were addressed by the Planning Board.

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Peace Bridge; consider letter for next meeting commenting on EPA and City's concerns on the Draft EIS.

Hickory Woods

No report this meeting J. Gardella is to draft a letter to Tim Wanamaker regarding the EAF for the purchase of the Steelfields property.

Brownfields Update

Dulski center update delays on Franczyk Park because of extra contamination, more sampling and a potential expansion.

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. Will write Deputy Mayor Casey and reinforce Kohls situation as an exemplar.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 AM. Next scheduled meeting is March 19, 2008, 8:00 AM.