



# MEETING MINUTES

Jersey City Environmental Commission  
City Hall – 280 Grove Street, Jersey City NJ 07302

Sara K. Schultzer, Chair

**Meeting:** Jersey City Environmental Commission Public Meeting

**Date / Location:** 16 February 2016 – 6:30 p.m.  
Directors Conference Room, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, HED&C, 30 Montgomery Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302

**Attendees:**

<b>Commissioners/City Representatives</b>	<b>Public Participants</b>
Willow Latham, Secretary	Michael Witt, Chasan Leyner & Lamparello
Alison Cucco	Jean-Marie-Hartman, Rutgers University
Eric Goldsmith	Tom Gibbons, MUA/GI
Gregg Lanez	Tom Hilmer
Sara Schultzer	Mary Mills
Mario Verdibello	Takeya Meggett
	Daniel Gere
	Debra Italiano, SJC
	Sunny Kulkarni, SJC
	Elizabeth Reynoso
	Yolanda Keahey
	Robert Mannanice, SJC
	Giorgio Dell'Acqua
	Joseph Mele

**Prepared By:** Gregg Lanez

**Date Prepared:** 16 February 2016

## ROLL CALL

Five of nine commissioners were present; four constitutes quorum. Commissioners Luebke, Nicholls, Ristorucci, and Solowsky were absent.

## SUNSHINE ANNOUNCEMENT

## APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

No further comments from commissioners. January minutes approved.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Environmental Resource Inventory – Dr. Jean Marie Hartmann, Rutgers University

- The Rutgers team presented initial Phase 1 (Physical Resources) maps and narratives, and requested feedback from Commissioners and the public on tone, level of detail, content, and presentation.

- All documents are available on Google Drive, and anyone can request access to review the documents and provide comments via email or in Drive comments.
- Cultural resources maps will be provided in March, and biological resources maps in May.

## **Municipal Energy Audit**

- Commissioner Cucco provided an update on which municipal buildings will undergo the audit, for a total of 25 municipal buildings.
- This excludes LEED certified buildings, temporary buildings, libraries, schools, and municipal vehicles.

## **Municipal Stormwater Ordinance**

- Secretary Latham reported on progress with an update to the Municipal Stormwater Ordinance to make it stricter and more robust to include green infrastructure requirements. Currently, Planning is coordinating with JCMUA on this, as the JCMUA is simultaneously moving forward with updating their stormwater management plan.

## **GIS Tree Inventory**

- Chair Schultzer reported that tree inventory parties met as per January's meeting decision.
- Hudson County Planning, Jersey City Planning, JCEC, NJCU, and JCST met on February 5<sup>th</sup> and discussed information platforms and programs used, field location accuracy, collection methodology, and having consistent data fields. All parties were receptive and enthusiastic to collaborate and share resources.
- Tree plantings included in Bigger Dig 2020 campaign will also be coordinated and shared.

## **Resolution ACR 249/SCR180 of the Flood Hazard and Control Act**

- Commissioners Verdibello and Cucco drafted a letter addressed to Assemblyman Mukherji to show JCEC support of Resolution ACR 249/SCR180 to continue to protect waterways.
- Commissioners had no further comment on this letter. A motion to send this letter to Assemblyman Mukherji passed 5-0.

## **Composting**

- Commissioner Cucco attended SJC's meeting and presentation on composting and spoke with SIMS Recycling Center about utilizing their Recyclarium (Traveling Museum). She suggested providing community outreach programming for Earth Day (April 22<sup>nd</sup>).
- Commissioner Verdibello cited use of separation receptacles to promote waste reduction. Debra Italiano cited the existing solar compacting receptacles and the Greener Corners program.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Presentation by Mike Witt (Chasan Leyner & Lamparello), Attorney representing the Passaic Valley Sewage Commission (PVSC)**

- Mr. Witt presented regarding the PVSC's Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) planning process to reduce the number of combined sewer overflow events. The PVSC is working with its 9



contributing municipalities for this process—Jersey City is represented by the Municipal Utilities Authority (JCMUA). The PVSC will require municipalities to reduce CSO by percentages proportional to each municipality. The top 3 PVSC contributors are Paterson, Newark, and Jersey City.

- The importance of green infrastructure in reducing CSO events and educating the community regarding stormwater management was highlighted. The EPA (Region 2) and NJDEP in fact require a robust green infrastructure (GI) component for LTCPs.
- Emphasized need to coordinate with JCMUA and other agencies, and to rollout comprehensive plans that will be effective and approved to avoid having to redo and refund efforts later. Emphasized importance of outreach process to work with municipalities and groups like JCEC. The JCEC can support this LTCP process and will continue to be appraised of progress and updates.

## **Tom Gibbons, JCMUA – Green Infrastructure Presentation**

- Mr. Gibbons presented regarding the JCMUA’s efforts to promote green infrastructure and conduct outreach.
- Update on Rain Barrel Program:
  - Goal: to promote water conservation, visibility of green infrastructure, increase public awareness.
  - 142 55-gallon barrels are still available, and MUA to fill on any subsequent orders. Cost is \$25 each.
  - Residents expressed issue with picking up barrels from 555 Route 440.
  - Debra Italiano inquired about deliveries to schools.
  - Chair Schultzer inquired about collaboration to present rain barrels at environmentally-themed events. Tom Gibbons was receptive to idea, can coordinate with partners.
- Mr. Gibbons invited Commission and community groups to present any potential collaborations, particularly involving green infrastructure and/or collection/reduction of water runoff.
- The MUA Rutgers Green Infrastructure Study was completed. Expecting to review end of February, and can distribute to JCEC and Jean Marie Hartmann as per their request.

## **Liberty State Park Letter to DEP**

- Chair Schultzer provided update on JCEC support as part of Coalition for the SaveLSP campaign.
- Drafted a letter addressed to NJDEP to request key stakeholder status and to be involved in public stakeholder process.
- Motion to authorize sending the drafted letter to the NJDEP passed 5-0.

## **Public Access Task Force**

- Chair Schultzer updated the Commission regarding the creation of a Public Access Task Force to provide recommendations for the NJ waterfront access bill.
- Senator Smith assigned 4 co-chairs representing NY/NJ Baykeeper, NJ Business and Industry Association, American Littoral Society, and NJ Chamber of Commerce.
- Fast-track of 3 meetings to provide draft to Senator Smith in April. First meeting was February 9<sup>th</sup>, with subsequent meetings scheduled in March and April.
- Jersey City and Hoboken were present, and represented urban waterfronts. Other stakeholders included special interest groups, ports, marinas, and shores/beaches.



## Redundancy in Creation of Environmental Commission

- Secretary Latham summarized redundancy in JCEC enabling ordinance in the JC Municipal Code.
- Motion to recommend deletion of redundant Chapter 31, retaining Section 345-10, passed 5-0.

## GENERAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### Tom Hilmer & Mary Mills, JC Heights Residents

- Architect and Horticulturalist, respectively.
- Initiated own study on Leonard Gordon Park
  - Evaluated run off and proposing a running track/walking path, landscaping, and a retention wall.
  - Proposed changes to prevent run off eroding landscaping and existing path.

## CLOSING REMARKS AND OTHER BUSINESS BY COMMISSIONERS

- SJC Urban Sustainability Certification
  - February 19, 2016 Early Bird Registration deadline
  - Program starts February 29, 2016
- Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> Conservation Dinner
  - To honor Sam Pesin of Friends of Liberty State Park
  - Fundraiser for SaveLSP campaign
  - Chair Schultzer can distribute email flyer and requests people share with communities.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

## NEXT MEETING

The next Environmental Commission is scheduled for ~~15 March 2016~~ 12 April 2016 at 6:30 p.m at the ~~Law Department Conference Room, Room 332~~ Council Chambers, City Hall (280 Grove Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302).

