



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: 19 January 2016 – 6:30 p.m.
Caucus Room, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 280 Grove Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302

Attendees:	Commissioners/City Representatives	Public Participants
	Willow Latham, Secretary	Alison Fitzgerald, NJCU
	Alison Cucco	Jean-Marie-Hartman, Rutgers
	Eric Goldsmith	Zenon Tech-Czarny, Rutgers
	Gregg Lanez	Aaron Johnson, Jersey City Division of Architecture
	Michelle Luebke	Elizabeth Phillips Lorenzo
	Gabriel Ristorucci	Florence Holmes, Bethune Center
	Sara Schultzer	Shannon Pennock, resident
	Allison Solowsky	Bill Montgomery, NJCU
Mario Verdibello	Marcia Montgomery, resident	

Prepared By: Gabriel Ristorucci

Date Prepared: 08 February 2015

ROLL CALL

Eight of nine commissioners were present; four constitutes quorum. Commissioner Nicholls was absent.

SUNSHINE ANNOUNCEMENT

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

No further comments from commissioners. December minutes approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Municipal Stormwater Ordinance

- Comments from the JCMUA are expected on Friday.
- Legal questions on state-level have re-emerged. Secretary Latham will provide updates as they become available.
- Going forward, point persons on the Commission will help to facilitate legislative action.

Rebuild by Design

- Chair Schultzer and Secretary Latham attended the Open House on December 17, 2015.
- Feasibility study will end in 2nd quarter of 2016.
- Jersey City administration and City Planning are participating in the RBDH process to ensure no negative impact to Jersey City and its property owners.

Climate Energy Audit

- Commissioner Cucco reported the city is in the process of applying for 25 municipal buildings to be audited for energy efficiency. Goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Sources can vary based on size of building and energy used.
- Greener by Design was the firm awarded the work, pending applications for each building.
- Issue as to whether vehicles are included – Commissioner Cucco to report.

JCPC Bigger Dig 2020 Update

- JCPC met with New Jersey Tree Foundation (NJTF) on December 18, 2015.
- Fundraising going well (\$300,000 over 5 years); Mayor Fulop is matching funds raised.
- NJTF is seeking to run Tree Keeper program; awaiting pending funds from SJC.
- Commissioner Goldsmith will take lead on a potential Shade Tree Fund ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation by Dr. Alison Fitzgerald – New Jersey City University

- Professor Fitzgerald is carrying out a “habitat mapping” study (initiated Fall 2015) of Jersey City’s shorelines with NJCU students, including a natural habitat inventory (bacteria type, temperature, other natural indicia), water quality assessment (temperature, pH), assessment of ease of access to waterfront, and GPS coordinate mapping. The information is entered into interactive GIS map. Results will hopefully be able to be compared with historic shoreline maps from Rutgers.
- The NJCU team is also analyzing samples for invertebrate species and toxins in water (pending analysis).
- Goal is to enter data over winter 2015-2016, collect data from the remaining points over summer 2016, and finish mapping winter 2016-2017.

Environmental Resource Inventory – Jean Marie Hartmann & Zenon Tech-Czarny

- Jersey City has contracted a group from the Rutgers Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability, led by Professor Jean-Marie Hartman and Zenon Tech-Czarny to prepare an urban Environmental Resource Inventory for the City.
- This will include natural as well as social and cultural resources, and will assist the JCEC in providing advice to Council and Zoning/Planning Boards for the city.
- Objective is to utilize existing data and provide comprehensive data that will be relevant and usable by all stakeholders in both the immediate and long-term future.
- Process: Rutgers will develop and distribute Inventory maps for JCEC review, feedback, and education. They are seeking input from JCEC on what maps would be useful. Various other City departments and groups will also provide feedback and data for the development of the ERI.

SAVE LSP Petition

- Petition is available at www.SaveLSP.org.
- Many groups have signed petition, and Mayor Fulop has come out against private development of LSP. Looking to build support to SaveLSP including statewide elected officials, individuals, and organizations joining the Coalition.
- Ties into legislation that enabled privatization of LSP. Senate President Sweeney wants to give North Jersey option to privatize state parks. Some plans would build casion next to golf course.



- Press conference scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2016.

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

- Commissioner Verdibello provided the Commission with an article relating to the issue of the DEP's new regulations on riparian development.
- Commissioners Cucco and Verdibello agreed to draft a letter to the City's assemblypersons in support of Resolution ACR 249/SCR180 for stricter DEP rules protecting watersheds—in particular, the City's Boonton Reservoir.
- The letter will be presented to and voted on by the Commission at their February 16, 2016 meeting.

Garfield Avenue Chromium Cleanup Update

- As of November, the cleanup met all requirements, including stringent DEP air-quality limits.
- Transition in administration of project. New site administrator's presentation postponed.
- He will present to JCEC and the public at the April 12, 2016 meeting.

GENERAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Professor Bill Montgomery – Tree Canopy Update

- Professor Montgomery is working with a group of NJCU students to GIS map trees in Hudson County parks.
- They would like to coordinate with other similar efforts in Jersey City.
- The JCEC will facilitate the connection with JC Street Trees' mapping project and any Jersey City tree mapping efforts.

CLOSING REMARKS AND OTHER BUSINESS BY COMMISSIONERS

- ANJEC is hosting an Environmental Commissioner training all JCEC commissioners should attend. Secretary Latham is coordinating with ANJEC and will provide more details.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next Environmental Commission is scheduled for 16 February 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in 30 Montgomery Directors Conference room, 14th Floor, City Hall, Jersey City, NJ 07302.

