



# MEETING MINUTES

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

Alison Cucco, Acting Chair

**Meeting:**

Jersey City Environmental Commission Public Meeting

**Date / Location:**

8 August 2017 – 6:30 p.m.  
Caucus Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall, 280 Grove Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302

**Attendees:**

**Commissioners/City  
Representatives**

Lucas Netchert  
Alison Cucco  
Gregg Lanez  
Gabriel Ristorucci (alt.)  
Takeya Meggett (alt.)

**Public Participants**

Matt Trump  
Evan Leig

Kate Lawrence, Secretary

**Prepared By:**

Gabriel Ristorucci, Kate Lawrence

**Date Prepared:**

8 August 2015

**ROLL CALL**

Five of nine active commissioners were present; four constitutes quorum. Commissioners Luebke, Solowsky, Verdibello, and Mirescu were absent.

Alison Cucco has been made a regular commissioner and Gabriel Ristorucci has been made an alternate commissioner. Alexander Mirescu has been appointed as a regular commissioner with an expiration date of September 7, 2017.

**SUNSHINE ANNOUNCEMENT**

Secretary Lawrence confirmed that the meeting agenda was sent on Thursday, August 3 2017, to the Jersey Journal, Jersey City Reporter and the City Clerk's Office.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

No other comments from commissioners. June 2017 minutes were unanimously approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

The Environmental Commission received 8 notifications regarding certifications of soil erosion and sediment control plans and one notice regarding a self-implementing cleanup of a contaminated site. These were compiled by the EC secretary and will be included in the meeting notes. The notifications will be available for review in the Planning Office for at least a year.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Diversity Survey

- Matt Trump of the Jersey City Green Team (a subcommittee of the Environmental Commission) noted that the Green Team has distributed a diversity survey to members of JC commissions and boards in order to satisfy the requirements of the Sustainable Jersey.
- Survey already went to the Planning Board, Zoning Board and JCEC. It is also being sent to the boards of the Housing Authority and Redevelopment Authority.
- EC Commissioners were asked to complete the survey within one week. It was recommended that Matt Trump send out a reminder email.

### JCEC Budget

- Postal Net said printing and binding the Environmental Resource inventory would cost \$147 per copy.
- Commissioner Cucco will incorporate cost of printing 10 copies into budget.
- Anticipate voting on budget at next EC meeting and then submitting to City for consideration.

### Resolution 17-517 letter (resolution to fight climate change)

- JCEC voted unanimously to approve resolution.
- Commissioner Cucco will send letter to the Mayor.

### Shade Tree Ordinance Letter

- Commissioner Cucco drafted a letter supporting the proposed changes to Chapter 321 (Trees) of the City Code and requesting that funds raised through tree-related fines be directed to the Open Space Fund rather than to the City's general fund.
- JCEC voted unanimously to support letter to the Mayor.

### Sustainable Jersey Green Team Meeting

- Next meeting on August 17, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., place TBD

### Planning Updates

- Secretary Lawrence stated that the Resiliency Master Plan, Adaptation Master Plan, and Urban Environmental Green Infrastructure Plan were adopted by the Planning Board as components of the City's Comprehensive Plan in May.
- The Innovation Office and Planning Division are working on a revised version of the Design Standards that were created as part of the Resiliency Planning Documents project in order to make it more usable for potential user.
- Planning Staff is also working on crafting potential zoning changes related to resiliency.



- Secretary Lawrence will be organizing two community meeting in the fall to discuss potential zoning changes and capital projects that were recommended in the Adaptation Master Plan.
- The Planning Division is working with the Jersey City Redevelopment Authority on the Grand Jersey Redevelopment Plan to make sure that necessary infrastructure improvements to prevent against flooding from Mill Creek are incorporated.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Community requests regarding potential JCEC action items

- According the City Forester, Jersey City would need to plant 25,000 trees in the next 10 years in order get to 40% shade tree cover (the percentage that Jersey City's peer cities average, according to the Shade Tree Report. This number takes into account the estimated 10,000 that would naturally be lost during this time. The City Forester suggested it would be helpful for the Environmental Commission to identify a target number recommendation for City Council.
- A campaign to highlight the benefit of trees to property owners would also be helpful.
- Secretary Lawrence also recommended that the JCEC consider appropriate zoning for curb cuts and front yard landscaping.

## CLOSING REMARKS AND OTHER BUSINESS BY COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Lanez noted a report stating that JC water is fairly clean.
- Commissioner Meggett will lead JCEC efforts to establish public email addresses for EC commissioners.
- Secretary Lawrence asked the commissioners what type of projects they would like to work on for the rest of the year
  - Commissioner Lanez expressed interest in emergency escape routes signage.
  - Commissioners Lanez and Meggett expressed interest in CERT training.
  - Commissioner Ristorucci expressed interest in identifying means through which community can contribute to efforts to ensure PATH developments align with JC goals and community needs.

## ACTION ITEMS

1. Set up Environmental Commission email addresses – Commissioner Meggett
2. Diversity survey – All commissioners to complete survey by the end of the week
3. Shade Tree cover goal letter – Commissioner Lanez will draft letter and Secretary Lawrence and Commissioner Cucco will edit
4. Front yard parking/ curb cuts – Commissioner Lawrence will bring additional information to the next EC meeting



## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- Participant Evan Leig asked about what projects the City create as part of the “Year of Energy” (2018).
  - Secretary Lawrence responded that JC will respond to the “Year of Energy” by making internal municipal operations more energy efficient and raising community awareness of what individuals can do to be more energy efficient.
- Mr. Leig also asked how energy efficiency standards could be incorporated into redevelopment plans.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next Environmental Commission meeting is scheduled for 19 September 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers, City Hall, Jersey City, NJ 07302.



Notifications to Environmental Commission as of September 19, 2017\*

DATE	PROJECT	NOTIFICATION FROM	NOTIFICATION TYPE	PERMIT/CERTIFICATON REQUESTED	PERMITTING/ CERTIFYING BODY
8/31/2017	Greenville Substation GIS & 69kV Improvements, 41 Garfield Ave	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District	Notice of Certification	Certifications of Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District
8/29/2017	PSEG Duncan Ave 69kV Outside Plant, Duncan Ave	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District	Notice of Recertification	Certifications of Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District
8/29/2017	New jersey City University Building 5B, 33 University Place Blvd	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District	Notice of Certification	Certifications of Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District
8/29/2017	Chromium Cleanup Sites on Garfield Avenue (Hudson County Chrome Site No. 114, 880-900 Garfield Ave)	PPG	Notification as per NJ state law for contaminated site cleanups	Investigation and/or Remediation	NJ DEP
8/28/2017	Revetment House (a.k.a. The Grover Cleveland) - Proposed 7-story multi-use building at 310 Tenth Street	Dresdner Robin	Notice of Submission	Form TWA-1 – Treatment Works Application	NJ DEP, Div. of Water Quality
8/28/2017	John & Maryann Terrace 3-2FD, 214, 214.5 & 216 Terrace Ave	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District	Notice of Recertification	Certifications of Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District
8/28/2017	John & Maryann Old Bergen 3-2FD, 274, 276 & 278 Old Bergen Road	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District	Notice of Certification	Certifications of Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District
8/23/2017	Diversified Global Graphics Group -- DG3, 100 Burma Road	NJ DEP, Division of Air Quality	Notification of intent to approve permit	Air Pollution Control Operating Permit	NJ DEP, Division of Air Quality
8/8/2017	Next Level Palisade Mixed Use Building, 424-432 Palisade Ave	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District	Notice of Certification	Certifications of Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District

\*Copies of notices made to the Environmental Commission are available for review by the public for up to one year at the office of the Division of Planning, 30 Montgomery Street, Suite 1400, Jersey City, 07302.