



# MEETING MINUTES

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

Alison Cucco, Chair

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

**Date / Location:** 20 March 2018 – 6:30 p.m.  
Room 213, City Hall, 280 Grove Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302

<b>Attendees:</b>	<b>Commissioners/City Representatives</b>	<b>Members of the Public:</b>
	Alison Cucco	Debra Italiano
	Michelle Luebke	Priti Khanal
	Mario Verdibello	Matt Trump
	Gregg Lanez	
	Takeya Meggett	
	Scott Mittman	
	Kate Lawrence, Secretary	

**Prepared By:** Michelle Luebke and Kate Lawrence

**Date Prepared:** March 20, 2018

## ROLL CALL

Environmental Commission Chair Cucco called the Commission to order at 6:37 pm. Six of eight active commissioners were present; four constitutes quorum. Commissioners Solowsky, Mirescu, and Ristorucci were absent. Welcome to our new Commissioner, Scott Mittman, professor of Environmental Science and Microbiology at NJCU.

## SUNSHINE ANNOUNCEMENT

Secretary Lawrence confirmed that the meeting agenda was sent on March 16, 2018 to the following media outlets: Jersey Journal, Jersey City Reporter, and the City Clerk's Office.

## APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

No comments or edits from commissioners. February 2018 minutes were unanimously approved.

## COMMUNICATIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

The Environmental Commission received nine (9) environmental notifications for projects in Jersey City.

## VICE CHAIR APPOINTMENT

Commissioner Mirescu was unanimously approved.

## SCHEDULED SPEAKER – DEBRA ITALIANO, SUSTAINABLE JERSEY CITY

- Launched in 2011, SJC strives to be a truly collaborative network of partnerships.

- SJC initially focused on three major parts of the Sustainable Jersey certification in community educational outreach, urban sustainability, green building (energy efficiency & carbon sequestration), green infrastructure
- Major program areas are:
  - Community composting
  - Sustainable network of community gardens
  - Greener buildings
  - Green Infrastructure
  - +ART
- SJC recently launched new certificate program in green building through the National Sustainable Structures Center
- Worked to distribute bokashi composting buckets to local community gardens
  - Model for community gardens to run this themselves - run out of the Peace Garden
  - HHS wanted each community garden to have drop-off points for household food scraps
    - Also interested in doing community outreach workshops
    - April is “growing soil” month!
  - Now partnering with Community Compost Company to address food waste in NJ
    - Doing a pilot at the Modera Lofts high rise to assist apartment dwellers
    - Can drop off their bucket at St. Paul’s for free or can get a residential pick up for a fee to CCC
- Hosting a number of film screenings of “The Soil Solution” in April, during Earth month
- Eat Well Guide for Jersey City - Grace org’s program that SJC helped advertise
- Green infrastructure
  - Built 2 rain gardens, 1 moss mural project, and street tree initiatives
- How can the JCEC play a part?
  - Most opportunity is through educational initiatives
  - Support a couple composting workshops?
    - Could provide support on social media?
      - Would need to vote as a Commission to put out this type of information each time

## OLD BUSINESS

### Caven Point Letter

- The updated letter and cited journal article have been circulated. Commissioners Mirescu and Verdibello made some minor changes. Commissioners voted to approve sending the letter pending the changes and will be posted on the website.

### Chlorpyrifos Letter

- This letter is in protest of an organophosphate that is used heavily in agriculture to send to Governor Murphy and Mayor Fulop. Commissioners voted to approve sending the



letter pending the changes that will be made.

## **Jersey City Green Business Certification**

- Commissioners voted to approve the applications for the following business:
  - Prato Bakery (#10)
- Montclair State University Student outreach effort
  - Chair Cucco reminded us that two students are working with Small Business Services to sign up additional businesses.
- March 28th there is an event called Energy Efficiency Opportunities for Your Business from 10a-12p in Council Chambers of City Hall.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Supplemental CSO Team Meeting, April 17**

- Next month we will attend this meeting in lieu of our regularly-scheduled meeting.

### **United Nations Making Cities Resilient Campaign**

- Tabled to May meeting.

### **Earth Day 2018**

- Earth Day event will be held on Saturday, April 21st from 11a-4p at Liberty State Park
- The Office of Sustainability will have a table and will have some of our materials, too. Commissioners Verdibello and Lanez will table on the day to answer questions. Any other interested commissioners should reach out directly to Secretary Lawrence.
- The following weekend, Saturday, April 28th, is The 3rd Annual Great Jersey City Cleanup
  - There are ~1000 tree seedlings available for distribution. Commissioners Cucco and Luebke will be in touch with Secretary Lawrence about participation.

### **Potential 2018 projects**

- Milkweed Planting on Municipal Property
  - 50 plants available to 25 Environmental Commissions
  - Possible municipal locations:
    - Lincoln Park, Paulus Hook Park
    - Friends of Bayside Park? - Commissioner Meggett
- Tree Speech
  - A Twitter-based adoption project for Jersey City trees
  - Had been a project that the JC AmeriCorps volunteers had been doing
  - Would the JCEC or the Green Team be interested in taking this on?
  - Would need a person to be the contact person to do:
    - community outreach
    - being contact person
    - follow and use the #treespeech



- updating the spreadsheet tracking the hashtag use
- ANJEC - Open Space Stewardship Projects Grant
  - \$1500 for parks inventory
  - Last inventory was in 2008 and was documenting parks' deficiencies, rather than creating a true open space plan
  - If the JCEC wants to apply, could fund any number of projects. Secretary Lawrence will send around information; feedback needs to be back to her by the end of the week (3/23).
- Boonton Reservoir recreation request
  - The City of Jersey City has been contacted by a representative from the Open Space Initiative who would like to open up the Boonton Reservoir to recreational use. Secretary Lawrence will send around information; Commissioner Verdibello expressed interest in drafting a letter.
- Office of Sustainability updates
  - Secretary Lawrence is officially the new Director of Sustainability and it is open!
  - Hiring a Sustainability Engagement Officer to spearhead strategy for the office.

## 2018 Scheduled Speakers

- April 17 - meeting canceled, Supplemental CSO Meeting
- May 15 - Citizen's Climate Lobby, Hoboken Chapter
- June 19 - Dr. Allison Fitzgerald, NJCU
- July 17 - Justin Milliet, Passive House
- August - no meeting

## CLOSING REMARKS AND OTHER BUSINESS BY COMMISSIONERS

- None at this time

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Priti Khanal is interested in the single-use bag issue.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

## NEXT MEETING

The next Environmental Commission meeting is scheduled for 15 May 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, Jersey City, NJ 07302.



Notifications to Environmental Commission as of March 20, 2018\*

DATE	PROJECT	NOTIFICATION FROM	NOTIFICATION TYPE	PERMIT/CERTIFICATON REQUESTED	PERMITTING/ CERTIFYING BODY
3/6/2018	Essex Street Tide Gate Replacement, Essex Street Public Right-Of-Way	JCMUA	Notice of Submission	Individual Waterfront Development Permit	NJ DEP, Div. of Land Use Regulation
2/28/2018	124-142 1st Street	Antea USA, Inc.	Notice of Certification and Fact Sheet	Classification Exception Area/Well Restriction Area	NJ DEP, Site Remediation Program
2/27/2018	All House Kensington Apartments, 186-188 Kensington Ave	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District	Notice of Certification	Certifications of Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District
2/21/2018	Monitor Maple mixed use Building, 65-71 Monitor Street + 260-266 Pine Street	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District	Notice of Certification	Certifications of Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District
2/20/2018	PATH Replacement & Upgrade Substation 7 & DC#6: Fees & recertification for 3.5 years, Halleck Ave & Broadway	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District	Notice of Recertification	Certifications of Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District
2/16/2018	Hudson Exchange West Phase 1 Building B, 410 Marin Blvd	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District	Notice of Certification	Certifications of Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District
2/16/2018	Bergen Ave Investments Mixed use Development: rev stormwater management, 429 Bergen Ave	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District	Notice of Recertification	Certifications of Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District
2/14/2018	Davanne Realty Central Ave Remediation, 39-41 Central Ave	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District	Notice of Certification	Certifications of Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District
2/13/2018	Pegasus Enterprises Colden Street Demolitions, 100 Colden Street	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.