



# 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:** 16 October 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	Deb Italiano
	Gregg Lanez	Marco Palladino
	Michelle Luebke	Denise Bailey
	Scott Mittman	Sarah Burroughs
	Gabriel Ristorucci	Dave Ace Case
	Mario Verdibello	Jolie San Miguel
		Dr. Bill Montgomery
	Carlene Magurne, Office of Sustainability	Bill Armbruster
	Keith Donath, Mayor's Office	

**Prepared By:** Michelle Luebke, Alison Cucco, Carlene Magurne, and Kate Lawrence

**Date Prepared:** October 17, 2018

## ROLL CALL

Environmental Commission Chair Cucco called the Commission to order at 6:40 pm. Six of nine active commissioners were present; four constitutes quorum. Commissioners Meggett, Solowsky, and Mirescu were absent.

## SUNSHINE ANNOUNCEMENT

Secretary Magurne confirmed that the meeting agenda was sent on Thursday October 11, 2018 to the Jersey Journal, Jersey City Reporter (aka Hudson Reporter) and the City Clerk's Office as a courtesy.

## APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes from the September 4 and September 18, 2018 meetings received no other comments from commissioners and were unanimously approved.

## COMMUNICATIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

No communications were reported.

## SCHEDULED SPEAKER

Sam Pesin of Friends of Liberty State Park was unable to attend the meeting.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

### **Society Hill Shelterbelt Trees**

- Denise Bailey, from Friends of the Walkway, and Deb Italiano of Sustainability Jersey City (SJC) spoke about the planned removal of 84 mature shade trees from Society Hill Walkway by the Droyer's Pointe Walkway Association (DPWA) and asked the JCEC to help stop this from happening.
- The Friends of the Walkway have 1000 signatures and are urging the City to stop the removal of the trees.
- The Commissioners drafted a letter to the DPWA and City Council to request additional information regarding the tree removal.

### **Sustainable Jersey City (SJC)**

- Ms. Italiano also spoke about SJC's upcoming initiatives.
  - Screening the film, "Bag It" on Friday December 14, 2018
    - Deb has penciled Director Lawrence to speak at the screening and asked the Commission if anyone would like to speak.
  - The focus of the SJC's Fall meetings are:
    - Composting and recycling
    - Solar energy
    - LED Street lights - working with the Board of Utilities.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Boonton Reservoir Public Access Discussion**

- There are no updates on the OSI plan for public access to the reservoir since the last meeting. Commissioners Luebke and Mittman will take the lead in following up with OSI about this. Commissioner Mittman expressed concerns about an open trail with public access.
- Keith Donath of the Mayor's Office reported the studies have begun. Some studies may be available in approximately six months.
- Sarah Burroughs of the JC Reservoir Alliance stated proposals were submitted and will take approximately two years. A Scope of Work should be available soon. An impact study and Threatened and Endangered Species survey needs to be conducted before a plan goes before City Council.
- Commissioner Luebke suggested OSI raise money to purchase land around the Reservoir to act as a buffer and help manage stormwater runoff..

### **Green Business Certification**

- Secretary Magurne informed the Commission that Henderson Lumber and Outside the Box Interactive LLC had resubmitted applications to become Certified Green Businesses.
  - Outside the Box Interactive LLC – approved
  - Henderson Lumber Mills, Inc. – approved



## NEW BUSINESS

### **Sierra Club's Ready for 100 campaign (no later than 2050)**

- Bill Ambruster of the New JSQ Community Association discussed the importance of the Sierra Club Ready for 100 Campaign.
- Dave Case of the Sierra Club highlighted the principals of the Ready for 100 Campaign.
  - Efficiency
  - Equitable and just
  - Clean and renewable
  - 100% Renewable Electric by 2035 not 2050
  - All energy clean by 2050
  - Inclusive Implementation
  - Local Generation and job creation
  - Collaborate with communities
  - Advocate-JC has done a great job
  - Demonstrate clean energy projects in your community
- Bill Armbruster stated that the Ready for 100 Campaign had growing support, with 88 cities and Councils participating.
- If the Environmental Commission writes a letter to Council in support of this campaign, they should be realistic in goal-setting, particularly in relationship to where we currently are.
- Commissioner Ristorucci nominated himself to take on this project.

### **JCEC Sunshine Law**

- As per the suggestion of the City of Jersey City Clerk Robert Byrne, the JCEC moved to only Sunshine the meeting dates once a year in the paper and to as a courtesy send the agenda to the City Clerk, Jersey Journal and Hudson Reporter.
- All commissioners voted in favor.

## **JCEC Bylaw Updates**

- Changing the bylaws would require changing the City code.
  - Commissioners agreed they need a better way to distribute work among themselves.
  - The Commission discussed redefining 1.1-7 to include professional or financial interest. All Commissioners voted in favor of the change.
  - Chair Cucco suggested the Commission annually vote on those roles to make sure that members are still able and interested to complete appointed tasks.
- This will be discussed and voted on in the November meeting.

### **Plastic Bag Ban Education Campaign**

- The JCEC talked about “Take a Bag Leave a Bag” program.
- Commissioner Ristorucci suggested we do a bag drive through churches to create “Donation Banks” or “Bag Drops” for individual who cannot afford to buy them.
- Further discussion tabled until the November meeting.



## **JC Green Team Update**

- No Straw November – launched in partnership with Rethink Disposables.
  - Straw reduction campaign putting forth the use of straws only by request.
- Secretary Magurne reported that businesses would be canvassed by two interns working for the Office of Sustainability. Interns could go to businesses with the “No Straw November” table cards and information to ask that they only provide customers straws upon request.

## **JCEC 2019 Meeting Calendar**

- Secretary Magurne passed out perspective dates for next year’s meeting schedule.
- Dates will be discussed at November Meeting

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next Environmental Commission meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in Office of Innovation Room 213, City Hall, Jersey City, NJ 07302.

