



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: 15 September 2020 – 6 p.m.
Via Zoom

Attendees: **Commissioners/City
Representatives**

Alison Cucco
Luz Guzman
Mario Verdibello
Ashley Metius

Members of the Public:

Denise Bailey
Paula Mahayosnand
Elizabeth Morrill
Joyce

Carolina Ramos, Sustainability

Prepared By: Carolina Ramos

Date Prepared: October 13, 2020

ROLL CALL

Chair Cucco called the Commission to order at 6:15 PM. Four of eight active commissioners were present; four constitutes quorum. Commissioners Metius, Cucco, Verdibello, and Guzman were present.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Secretary Ramos announced that meeting notice was sent on September 8 to the Jersey Journal, Hudson Reporter, and the City Clerk.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The meeting minutes for July were approved.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Communications regarding development projects were provided to the Commissioners. They will be attached to the meeting minutes and are available in the Office of Sustainability.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Denise Bailey would like to share a recent report regarding Jersey City's tree canopy. The Shade Tree Committee was presented the report and a proposal from Sustainable Jersey City (SJC).
 - SJC has inventoried 5,000 trees on the OpenTreeMap platform through the OpenTreeMap Census Project.
 - Denise stated that documents were sent to the JC Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA). Denise will follow up with the MUA to identify who will forward the proposal to the JCEC.

- Since there will be a guest speaker for the October meeting, the report and proposal may be presented at the November meeting.
- Paula Mahayosnand is attending on behalf of the Parks Coalition.

OLD BUSINESS

ANJEC Pollinator Project update

- The initial site was Oak Street Park on Ocean Ave, but the City had to proceed with their work at the park to meet other deadlines. The Environmental Commission is looking at Bergen Hill Park as an alternative site. There will be a spring 2021 planting with the Bergen Hill community.

Sustainability Incentive Program

- Commissioner Mittman was not present so the item was tabled for the next meeting.

Language Access Recommendation

- Arjun Janakiram from the Office of Innovation prepared a draft of the recommendation for the Environmental Commission. The final version will be shared at the next meeting for feedback.

NEW BUSINESS

JCEC Vice-Chair Vote

- The former vice chair Alex Mirescu resigned from the JCEC in early 2020. Due to new obligations, Chair Cucco will be taking a step back from the Commission so the vice chair may need to be more involved.
- Commissioners Guzman and Verdibello nominated Commissioner Metius. Before accepting the nomination, Commissioner Metius will speak with Chair Cucco in the following weeks to understand the role and responsibilities of the vice chair.

Sewage Free Streets and Rivers update

- Sewage Free Streets and Rivers focuses on engagement in the Jersey City community. At the moment the Environmental Commission will not be able to get involved in outreach, but they will like to provide support in other ways.
- All voted in favor to communicate to Mo Kinberg to remove the JCEC as partners from Sewage Free Streets and Rivers.

Plastic Bag Ban during COVID-19 & the Story of Plastic showing

- During COVID, there has been an increase in the use of single-use plastics. To bring attention to this issue, the JCEC and ANJEC will be co-hosting a virtual event on



September 22 at 6pm. Dini Checko from ANJEC works on plastic pollution issues in NJ. She will share the “Story of Plastic” which is about 7 minutes long.

- During the event, there will be an overview of the current Bag Ban followed by the amendments proposed by Councilman Solomon. Further event planning will be discussed on a separate call with ANJEC.

Skyway Park Coalition

- Commissioner Verdibello shared that he will be involved in the new proposed park. The JCEC may be asked to weigh in on the proposal.
- Chair Cucco inquired about the site’s superfund status. Commissioner Verdibello explained that according to the EPA the site has been remediated and it will be removed from the Superfund sites list. Although the removal process is lengthy, the site is remediated and may be used for passive recreation opportunities.
- The Commissioners will wait for more information before voting on this proposal.

Green Business Program application – Rosebud Florist

- All voted to approve Rosebud Florist with a total of 32 points. The flower shop on West Side Avenue has installed energy efficient fixtures and systems. Additionally, they have been accepted into the New Jersey Sustainable Business Registry.

Shade Tree Committee updates

- This item was tabled for the next meeting since Commissioner Trump was not present.

Office of Sustainability updates

- Over the summer, the Office of Sustainability held two virtual meetings with the Climate Action Plan Working Groups and the Steering Committee. The final draft of the Climate Action Plan is tentatively scheduled for release at the end of the year.
- The Composting Drop-Off Program has expanded to a total of 11 sites. For more information, visit jcmakeitgreen.org/composting.

Closing remarks and other business by commissioners

- Commissioner Verdibello inquired about the proposed NJ Transit natural gas plant. Matt Smith, who brought this to the JCEC’s attention, will be contacted for updates.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.

NEXT MEETING

There will be an Environmental Commission meeting on October 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.



Jersey City Environmental Commission
September 2020 Submission and Application Notices

DATE	PROJECT	NOTIFICATION FROM	NOTIFICATION TYPE	PERMIT/ CERTIFICATION	PERMIT/ CERTIFICATION
9/1/2020	Site 067 -Chapel Avenue Block: 27401, Portion of Lot 42 PI# G000008695	Honeywell/Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.	Notice of Remedial Action Report	Remediation Investigation Report (RIR)/Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP)	NJ DEP, Site Remediation Program
8/6/2020	Emerson Leasing Co. II, LLC 325 15th Street Block: 6903, Lot: 2.01	Urban Architecture	Notice of Submission	Individual Flood Hazard Area Verification and Permit	NJ DEP, Div of Land Use Regulation
6/18/2020	Route 1 & 9 Pulaski Skyway Rehabilitation - Contract 8B No.054123300	Dresdner Robin	Notice of Submission	Form TWA-1 – Treatment Works Application	NJ DEP, Div. of Water Quality
6/15/2020	Former Jiffy Lube #1125 221 Route 1 Block: 11705, Lot: 1 PI# G000033429	Sovereign Consulting Inc./Equilon Enterprises LLC dba Shell Oil Products US	Notice of Submission	Soil Remedial Action Permit Biennial Certification	NJ DEP, Site Remediation and Waste Management Program
6/8/2020	Site 094, Eighteenth Street Sewer (between Coles St. and Jersey Ave.) PI# 244883	Honeywell/Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.	Notice of Remedial Action Report	Remediation Investigation Report (RIR)/Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP)	NJ DEP, Site Remediation Program
5/29/2020	95 Monitor Street Development (AKA 89 Monitor St.) Block: 19003, Lot: 8.01 (formerly lots 8 & 9)	Chisvette Engineering	Notice of Submission	Form TWA-1 – Treatment Works Application	NJ DEP, Div. of Water Quality
5/22/2020	Overlook Development 32-42 Oakland Avenue Block: 8203, Lot: 1.01 (formerly lots 1- 6, 17, & 18)	Chisvette Engineering	Notice of Submission	Form TWA-1 – Treatment Works Application	NJ DEP, Div. of Water Quality
5/14/2020	Allegro Sanitation Corp. TS/MRF Secaucus Town, Hudson County Facility ID No: 132250	DEP - Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste	Notice of Submission	Solid Waste Transfer Station Permit Renewal	NJ DEP, Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste
5/4/2020	Morris Canal Greenway / Country Village Section Multi-Purpose Trail from Route 440 to McGovern Park	T&M Associates/JCRA	Notice of Submission	Individual Flood Hazard Area Verification and Permit	NJ DEP, Div of Land Use Regulation