



Buffalo Environmental Management Commission

MINUTES

Meeting of Wednesday, May 18, 2016

The meeting started at 8:35 AM and was held in Room 901 City Hall.

Commissioners Attending: A. Robinson, J. Hackney, D. Hahn-Baker, J. Gardella, F. Armento

Not Attending: C. Grieco

Others Attending: D. Sutton (COB support staff)

1. **Minutes** – Minutes for the November 2015, January 2016 and April meetings were tabled. There were no meetings for December 2015, February and March 2016. J. Gardella to provide meeting minutes for July 2015.

2. **SEQRA/Sustainable Development**

The Full EAF for the proposed Danforth development on the Riverbend site was discussed. The Commission was concerned about having the parking for the development in front of the building, closest to the street, any environmental concerns that may still be present on the property and, the application of green infrastructure measures to the project.

The Commission would not support the City being designated lead agency until the above concerns were clarified.

J. Gardella to invite Danforth representatives to present information on project to the next BEMC meeting.

J. Gardella to communicate concerns to N. Marrero and B. Mehaffy.

3. **Review of Recent Items** – J. Gardella to invite developer representative to present additional information on the former Freezer Queen redevelopment project to the next BEMC meeting.

4. **Other**

D. Hahn-Baker presented information on lead childhood health concerns. He indicated that the City and the County have begun to cooperate on lead issues and are developing a comprehensive plan to address the concerns caused by lead exposure.

There have been subcommittees formed on the ECEMC and the BEMC to help develop programs to mitigate the effects of lead exposure.

Mr. Hahn-Baker indicated that:

- Lead testing kits haven't proven to be as accurate as what is needed and other testing techniques were likely more accurate;
- Most health concerns are caused by lead based paint and dust from lead based paint abrasion;

- Lead abatement programs historically did not accomplish as much as initially planned;
- Home improvements on homes of very poor condition should be reconsidered; and,
- The lead concerns are primarily attributed to older homes and surface soil surrounding the house.

There was a general discussion regarding how to do outreach to educate the community on lead issues. It was felt that door to door canvassing would be the best approach.

Mr. Hahn-Baker suggested that a veteran work force could be trained and employed to undertake lead mitigation work and that leadership was needed to promote and guide the lead programs.

- There was a general discussion regarding the Green Code and Planning Board activities.
- D. Sutton to invite the Chair of the Planning Board to the next BEMC meeting.
- J. Gardella to draft a letter of congratulation to T. Hersey for his promotion to Director of Erie County Dept. of Environment and Planning.
- D. Sutton expressed concern regarding the lack of regulations/structure/permitting process for urban farming activities in the City. He suggested that the Common Council and the Mayor should be made aware of the possible concerns that are connected with the farming activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2016.