



Jersey City START - January Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2018

Present: Elmer Andal, Jeremiah Bergstrom, Rosana Da Silva, Marques Eley, Kevin Force, Tom Gibbons, Aaron Johnson, Kate Lawrence, Andrew Lim, Christopher Perez, and Amanda Kahn

Next meeting: Thursday, February 8th at 10am in JCMUA's Conference Room

I. Year of Energy – Summary of Initiatives and 2018 Priorities (*Kate*): The Sustainability Office is on hold till February as a meeting with the Business Administrator is schedule to finalize the office budget. The office would have only two people on staff, Kate and there is an active ad for a Sustainability Engagement Officer. The Office of Sustainability will be at City Hall and will be working through focus areas over the years such as the 2017 Year of Water and now moving into the 2018 Year of Energy. Through yearly focus areas, the city will be in better position to achieve sustainability success (please note that although the Year of Water is over, the work will still continue). The Sustainability Office will also be working on establishing liaisons within each department to discuss overlapping sustainability efforts (monthly for those effected by the annual focus, quarterly for others). Under the Year of Energy, the city will focus on understanding the city's baseline energy usage (inventory of greenhouse gases - working with Montclair State University), begin process of updating energy usage in city buildings, adopting existing energy efficiency programs, and public engagement. Energy audits have been completed and the city is working to identifying a consultant to begin the process of identify funding. The city will also be working with several cities on a marketing strategy focus for energy related work. The city will also be submitting a proposal to the NFWF Five Star RfP in partnership with Hoboken to enhance on tree plantings and education programs in the city. Kate is also working with Grants to understand the NJEIT program to submit additional green infrastructure projects in 2018. Geotech work has begun on projects identified in the Resiliency Plan, more updates to come. Kate is working with Aaron to create green infrastructure standards and establishing a process/criteria for green infrastructure implementation/maintenance in the city.

II. Demonstration GI Project Discussion

- **Martin Luther King Drive** (*Elmer/Jeremiah*): Project has been submitted to EIT with final revisions submitted earlier this month. The project is schedule for a pre-bid meeting in early February and hope to get the project awarded in early March. The project will be coordinated with Traffic & Engineering due to spring repaving schedule. The project scope runs from Forrest to Bramhal.
- **Green Acres Stewardship Grant Park Projects** (*Aaron*): A \$80,000 grant was received for three rain garden projects (with match, a total of \$160,000 is dedicated to the project). Division of Architecture is working on finalizing 500 sq. ft. rain gardens at each of the parks - Thomas McGovern, Lafayette, and Bayside Park. Aaron is also working on Riverview Park and Audubon Park improvements for possible grant funding available to support adding green infrastructure components to the project. Sergeant Anthony Park is another project that is exploring possible funding.
 - Kate and Aaron to meet to discuss Thomas McGovern, Lafayette, and Bayside Park and the matching funds to support rain garden implementation



- Amanda to follow up with the DPW Parks Department regarding whether the 50% match will come from the department
- **Columbia Park** (*Marques/Jeremiah/Aaron*): Recommendation of Columbia Park came from START as there are active community groups/associations with the park and could be a great showcase project for Jersey City who is seeking a right-of-way green infrastructure project. PVSC is partnering with permittee holders to implement demonstration green infrastructure projects with the three largest CSO contributors its service area which includes Newark, Paterson, and Jersey City. The project implementation would be 100% funded by PVSC, but PVSC is looking for a commitment from the city to work with PVSC and its consultants and agree to maintain the project as part of the Long Term Control Plan. PVSC spoke to Rich to explore a project at the new MUA building but with the high visibility and high community engagement Columbia Park is favorable. The scope of the project is to complete a large scale project at a six figure level. PVSC/JCMUA are in need to identify who the point person will be that would be willing to work with PVSC and its consultants on the project and JCMUA would need to enter a MOU to commit to the maintenance of the project. There is a small core group at Columbia Park that would like to be an active participant and can also help to engage the public-at-large through their social media platforms.
 - Aaron will provide Rutgers/PVSC/MUA with a basemap of the park
 - Amanda will introduce the project at tonight's meeting and will ask if PVSC/JCMUA/Rutgers can attend the next meeting to discuss the green infrastructure project opportunity
 - PVSC/JCMUA/Rutgers to attend and present at the February 1st Columbia Park Association
- **Central Avenue Improvements by Hudson County** (*Kevin*): A portion of Central Ave (off of Journal Sq. near Newark Ave up to Rt. 139) will be rerouted and a developer has offered to pay the county for rerouting the road, but the county will design the project. The project has not entered into the design phase yet. The County Engineer and Planning Director will be meeting with the developer next week. The team encouraged green infrastructure to be considered as part of this project.
 - Jeremiah to provide Kevin with a copy of the Rutgers' Green Infrastructure Guidance Manual for New Jersey
 - Kevin to share the manual to the County Engineer and Planning Director

III. Green Infrastructure Policy Efforts

- **Stormwater Ordinance** (*Kate*): Kate met with JCMUA and engineers are looking at the ordinance update and feedback should be received by the end of the month. A final draft will be completed in March.
- **Tree Ordinance** (*Kate*): Ordinance has passed and Kate, along with an AmeriCorp Vista is working on tree standards. A guide is being developed and will have three sections, one section for homeowners, another for street trees, and the third section is the specifications for standards. Code 321 Trees and 345 Zoning (65 buffers/landscapes, 75 parking).

IV. Initiatives and Updates

- **Regional CSO Supplemental Team Meeting Recap** (*Marques*): The fifth regional CSO supplemental team meeting was held on Tuesday, January 9th in North Bergen. The systems characterization (sewer and surrounding waterways) report, compliance



- monitoring report, a public participation work plan report (supplemental CSO meetings, ad hoc meetings with the public, municipal action teams), and financial capability report (how a permittee finances current maintenance on sewer, EPA guideline says 2% of median household income is the “baseline” on the number of households). According to 2010 US Census, Jersey City’s median household income is around 50-55K which base on the EPA guidelines would result to \$100 a month for a household to pay for sewer upgrades in addition to the current household bills. The city was invited to take a seat as part of the regional team, but has not taken a seat or send a representative to be engaged with PVSC.
- Kate to send request to Jeremy for a city representative to participate in the CSO regional team with PVSC
 - **Jersey City’s LTCP:** The MUA and its consultants are working on an alternative analysis; the public is to be part of the process. This analysis, which is due July 1, 2019, will identify options for Jersey City to meet the CSO permit requirements. As the public will be paying for the LTCP and sewer upgrades, it is important that the public has a voice in how those funds will be allocated (tunnels, sewer separation, green infrastructure). This 18-month stretch is a crunch for the permittees to begin work on the alternatives analysis. Per the permit, green infrastructure is to look at but does not have to implement. JCMUA has not yet engaged the public on the LTCP, but Jeremy would like to begin this process.
 - Tom to follow up with Jeremy and Joe about engaging with PVSC and the regional CSO team
 - **Jersey City Open Sewer Atlas (*Deb*):** Rich shared data files as request, but no additional update was provided.

V. Action Items

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