



## Jersey City START - February Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2018

*Present:* Elmer Andal, Jeremiah Bergstrom, Yvette Coleman, Rosana Da Silva, Ben Delisle, Marques Eley, Kevin Force, Aaron Johnson, Kate Lawrence, Andrew Lim, David Ksyniak, Daryl Krasnuk, and Arjun Janakiram

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

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### I. Office of Sustainability Updates (*Kate*)

- **Year of Energy:** EV Infrastructure RfP has been released and a Solar Infrastructure RfP will be released in the next coming week. Once the office and the year of energy is officially launched, these proposals will be reviewed and awarded to kick off the initiative.
- **NFWF Five Star Brant Proposal with Hoboken:** A proposal was submitted which focused on expanding on the City's tree planting program to provide education/outreach programs to residents.
- **Green Infrastructure Standards and Maintenance Process:** Tree standards are waiting for final approval from engineering, but it is mostly completed.
- **Green Business Certification Program:** MSU student will be meeting with business owners and are hosting a talk on February 21<sup>st</sup> for business to consider alternatives for disposable items.
- **Sustainable Jersey:** A grant has been awarded for 18 months to develop a greenhouse gas action plan in partnership with MSU.
- **Open Space Master Plan:** In its current form, this plan is really an inventory and is five years behind with an outdated vision for the city. The Planning Director is interested in looking at this plan and identifying additional resources to improve the plan.

### II. Demonstration GI Project Discussion

- **Martin Luther King Drive (*Elmer/Jeremiah*):** MUA has been asked to resend the bid book to NJDEP and the tentative schedule will need to be pushed back to a March date.
- **Green Acres Stewardship Grant Park Projects (*Aaron*):** On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Division of Architecture will be submitting the design plans for each of the three parks. For Bayside Park, the project will look to install check dams while at Lafayette Park, the department will look at adding some stone and soil to the existing inlets. Within Thomas McGovern Park, the department will look to install an atrium drain. There is no word yet as to where the matching funds will be coming from but it is understood that the matching funds may come from DPW.
- **Riverview Park (*Aaron*):** The park has a blank space that a green infrastructure best management practice (BMP) can be implemented pending on available funding.
- **Sergeant Anthony Park (*Aaron*):** The Division of Architecture is looking to update the playground at the park and consider stormwater storage as part of the playground design.
- **DPW Rain Garden (*Kate*):** Amy Rowe, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, has provided a quote for a rain garden installation and training for DPW to the front of the new DPW building. This opportunity would be fairly easy to do, but there is some concern on the soil types in the area.



- **Columbia Park** (*Marques/Jeremiah/Aaron*): Aaron, Jeremiah, Rosana, and David attended the Columbia Park Association meeting earlier this month. An overview of green infrastructure and the potential right of way project was discussed with the group. One concern brought up by the group was parking. The association was hoping the scope of the project was much bigger than what was proposed. There is an opportunity to design for additional green infrastructure projects at the park to pair along with the right-of-way project to later look for alternative funding sources such as an EIT application. The next step will be for PVSC to draft an agreement with JCMUA and a call will be scheduled to discuss the agreement. Aaron will also provide David and Marques available data of the park (i.e., basemap, GIS, AutoCAD, utility data, etc.).
  - Marques/David to work on developing an agreement with JCMUA to move forward with the demonstration project
  - A conference call between the following representatives will take place to discuss the agreement further: PVSC- Bridget McKenna, JCMUA- Elmer Andal, Joseph Newman, Yvette Coleman, Brittney Keller, City of Jersey City- Kate Lawrence, Aaron Johnson, Rutgers- Jeremiah Bergstrom.
  - Aaron to provide Marques/David with available data of Columbia Park and Winfield Avenue to assist with investigation and design
- **Central Avenue Improvements by Hudson County** (*Kevin*): The Rutgers Green Infrastructure Manual was shared during the county staff meeting and with the county engineer. Kevin mentioned the interest from START about incorporating green infrastructure practices for Central Ave. The engineer was interested in incorporating green infrastructure, and this is a city road so engagement will need to be made with city engineering. County Engineer is also interested in incorporating green infrastructure practices throughout county projects and parks.
- **Mercer Park (Bayonne/Jersey City)** (*Kevin*): The former right-of-way of the Morris Canal site is an area that the county engineer will be looking to incorporate elements from the greenway plan including porous paver walkways and detention basins to mimic the canal pending on the infiltration rates of the soil. Redevelopment is purchasing areas nearby this property from Country Village and it would be great to be sure to match up efforts between the County project and Redevelopment.
  - Ben and Francesca to meet and discuss coordinated efforts near Mercer Park
- **Redevelopment Project (Ocean Ave b/w Dwight and Fulton)** (*Ben*): Ben has shared the Rutgers Green Infrastructure Guidance Manual to the developers who were not aware of technology but are interested to incorporate a practice with the city. There is a 200 feet of city block that will be replaced and provides a unique opportunity to turn around, rather quickly, a potential demonstration project. Department of Engineering (Drew and Joe) did go and look at the site to identify which BMP is best suited for the site. This is a housing unit that will have an onsite manager and Ben is encouraging a stormwater planter or tree trenches for the planned trees along the front of the building. The developer will need to identify where the utilities are and if they can excavate 3-4 ft.
  - Andrew to look up where utilities are placed on site and provide this information to Ben and Drew
  - Jeremiah to write a letter and narrow down specific green infrastructure practices that would be best suited for this area
  - Aaron to bug Drew on encouraging green infrastructure on site
- **AmeriCorp VISTA Projects** (*Kate/Aaron*): The VISTAs are also looking for projects. Aaron recommend they look into working on empty tree pits to do something with them



and look for other grant funds to replace those trees. Rosana suggested that the VISTAs work with Elmer and the MUA's rain barrels. The MUA still has over 100 rain barrels and are selling them at \$25 per barrel to residents. Rosana suggested having the VISTAs provide free rain barrel installations with a resident's purchase of a barrel OR if funding is available, the VISTAs could purchase barrels from the MUA and run a rain barrel workshop for free for residents.

- Rosana to connect with the new AmeriCorp Ambassador and introduce that representative to Kate to further discuss a training for the VISTAs

### III. Green Infrastructure Policy Efforts

- **Stormwater Ordinance** (*Arjun*): Has been working with the MUA and comments have been received from the MUA on the proposed updates to the ordinance. Additional comments from Raj will be coming in the end of the month and he was interested in developing a step by step guide for developers. The goal is to make the stormwater ordinance much more readable and organized that would make compliance easier.
- **Tree Standards and Guide Book** (*Kate*): No update as of yet. The resilience guide has been reedited and Kate is exploring how to build this up. The Green Guide is still in play, and Kate has received the okay to utilize the information in the guide.

### IV. Initiatives and Updates

- **Jersey City's LTCP Discussion:** The next supplemental team will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month in April. Jersey City has volunteered to host the next meeting. Kate will check in with City Hall to confirm space that would accommodate the number of folks that attend these meetings. There is typically 30-40 people and will run from 5:30-8:30pm. Bridget McKenna from PVSC has passed along information to Tom Gibbons regarding corporation from JCMUA as part of the regional LTCP submission to NJDEP. A discussion was further held on the costs of not just the development of the LTCP but the amount that will be required to implement the LTCP.
  - David to send an email to Kate to coordinate logistics of the Regional Supplemental CSO Team meeting

### V. Action Items

- Marques/David to work on developing an agreement with JCMUA to move forward with the demonstration project
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- Aaron to provide Marques/David with available data of Columbia Park and Winfield Avenue to assist with investigation and design
- Ben and Francesca to meet and discuss coordinated efforts near Mercer Park
- Andrew to look up where utilities are placed on site and provide this information to Ben and Drew for the Redevelopment Project along Ocean Ave between Dwight St and Fulton Ave



- Jeremiah to write a letter and narrow down specific green infrastructure practices that would be best suited for the Redevelopment Project along Ocean Ave between Dwight St and Fulton Ave
- Aaron to bug Drew on encouraging green infrastructure for the Redevelopment Project along Ocean Ave between Dwight St and Fulton Ave
- Rosana to connect with the new AmeriCorp Ambassador and introduce that representative to Kate to further discuss a training for the VISTAs
- David to send an email to Kate to coordinate logistics of the Regional Supplemental CSO Team meeting