



Jersey City START - July
Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2018

Present: Elmer Andal, Jeremiah Bergstrom, Aaron Johnson, Mo Kinberg, Kate Lawrence, Andrew Lim, Scott Mittman, Ruth Mogro, John Pietrykoski, Elizabeth Pyshnik, Lindsey Sigmund, Crystal Wessel

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 9 at 10 AM in JCMUA's Conference Room, 555 Route 440, Jersey City, NJ 07304

I. Introductions

- Welcome to Lindsey Sigmund, the Environmental Planner for the City of Jersey City, John Pietrykoski of PVSC, Elizabeth Pyshnik of Rutgers, Scott Mittman of the JC Environmental Commission, and Crystal Wessel of the NJ Tree Foundation

II. Project and Policy Updates

- **Stormwater Ordinance** (Kate): New draft based on changes recommended by NJ Future, Resiliency Reports, and various city departments
 - Ruth, Rich, & Joe of the MUA met to discuss ordinance
 - Last step is to make decision regarding timing, enforcement, and maintenance
 - Updating sewer operations – currently MUA does not have the authority to levy fines
 - Working on a list of fines to have some form of enforcement
 - Green infrastructure was discussed during last MUA meeting
 - Another meeting will be held on August 8th to discuss enforcement; any changes will have to go to the board for final approval
- **Columbia Park Project** (John – Passaic Valley)
 - 3-party maintenance agreement between JC, MUA, PVSC still in the works
 - Waiting for soil testing; already have design plans which will be forwarded to the team
- **MLK Drive** (Jeremiah)
 - Enhanced tree pit project consisting of 24 trees along MLK DR
 - Includes curb cutouts to ensure water will enter pit which will operate as an underground detention basin
 - Jeremiah to add impermeable liners per MUA's concerns
 - Status: bid document to be approved by DEP for final authorization
 - Public outreach is up for discussion – may reach out to Jackson Hill SID since they have concerns

III. MUA Updates

- **Long Term Control Plan**
 - Mill Creek first flush chamber – catches the most polluted sewage (~ 1st inch of rainfall) to be treated before entering waterbody; meeting with developer in 2 weeks who is already planning a vast amount of GI including a GI park on top of the chamber
 - Long Slip Creek – another flush chamber proposed on site
 - Public engagement
 - Meetings in all wards with neighborhood groups proposed
 - MUA to give presentation at each
 - Plan is to hopefully piggy-back off existing neighborhood meetings
- **Fixing water issues before they occur**
 - MUA is meeting with Planning next week to become familiarized with proposed developments
- **Lead insurance program** in the works to help replace existing lead pipes throughout the city (will not be cutting lead pipes, will be replacing them)

IV. Other Updates/Brainstorming

- Kate has funding for GI – best way to utilize these funds?
 - Engineering studies – reports to supplement concept plans
 - Maintenance – watering plan, weeding, etc.
 - Lisa Sims with Camden suggests PowerCorps → <https://www.centerffs.org/powercorps-camden>
 - First 2 years after planting is the most critical
 - Can be contracted out, watering truck can be purchased, etc.
 - Follow through with planning documents
 - Enos Jones Park is a proposed complete redesign of a park and includes a lot of GI
 - Rutgers and Resiliency Planning docs identify areas suitable for GI
 - Where do priorities amongst departments overlap? Identify plans and projects approved and advocate for GI to be included (ex: new street? Turn into green street)
 - EIT Funding – only requires half of cost of a project to be repaid but is a long, drawn out process that should be reserved for very large-scale and long-term projects
- Jersey Water Works (JWW) will be hosting their annual membership meeting on July 19th to discuss NJ's ageing infrastructure and associated issues including CSOs and public engagement → <https://www.jerseywaterworks.org/event/jww-membership-meeting-2018/>
- Follow the Office of Sustainability on social media @JCMakeItGreen
- Fill out the START survey sent out via email!