

Community Advisory Group (CAG) Minutes for November 7, 2011

UNAPPROVED

Present: Nels Bohn as City Facilitator, Ken Deschere, Regina Deschere, Jennifer Dotson, John Graves, Michele Palmer, Kathy Woodcock

Guest: David Gower, Intertek, and Student Representatives, Inna and Lucy, from the Cornell Design Connect Team

Minutes from the October 3, 2011 CAG meeting – N. Bohn wants to reiterate that Emerson is only responsible for cleaning the site to an **industrial** standard.

Agenda Additions and/or Deletions

- David Gower would like to share ideas for development of the Emerson site.

PROJECT SITE UPDATES:

**See the Department of Conservation (DEC) update from Karen Cahill and Stephanie Harrington, Syracuse Office – after these Minutes*

GENERAL DISCUSSION ABOUT SITES:

Therm:

Utilities have been marked and wells installed on two properties below Therm. Therm agreed to pay for this groundwater study.

K. Woodcock shared her May 2011 home vapor test results.

DESIGN CONNECT TEAM: Student representatives, Inna and Lucy

The objective of the Design Connect Team, a four student project, is to use geographic information systems (GIS) to create maps around the Emerson, Axiohm and Therm sites to provide a visual representation of where chemicals have been documented.

A visual of the sewer system that connects these three factories will give information about mitigation. The graphic map can be interactive with pie charts to enhance understanding. It will be the first time all sites will be seen combined.

M. Palmer expressed concern about property identification because this type of public information could affect property resale values.

Students will present the finished project with visuals at our next CAG meeting with an invitation extended to members of the South Hill Neighborhood Association.

The \$400 payment for this student project was discussed. J. Dotson will inquire about city funding.

RE-DEVELOPMENT VISION FOR EMERSON SITE: David Gower from Intertek

D. Gower works at Intertek in Cortland, a business that provides laboratories for product testing. He believes Emerson should remain an industrial site but attract businesses that have the expertise in toxic cleanup and/or the interest in developing clean sources of energy. Clean Tech

commercialization with an emphasis on testing, i.e., solar, smart grid, and converters, to capture environmentally sound remediation and renewable energy sources.

Another business attraction would be utilities generated on-site using a method called Combined Heat and Power. The hot water used for heating and cooling is virtually a free by-product of making electricity that provides double efficiency.

This industrial complex could be contained within 20 acres, thereby reserving the other 74 areas for residential development. He encourages the city to promote this clean tech vision and to encourage Emerson to become partners in a progressive development which could become a real asset to Ithaca. He advised this opportunity should not be passed up.

A recommendation to ask Barbara Lifton about funding and inquiry about how this vision might fit into the Economical Development Initiative might be helpful. D. Gower wants to be involved and suggested a venue for discussion between the City of Ithaca, Emerson, DOE, and EPA with available investors and/or listeners for discussion about Emerson's cleanup.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

- Consideration of ways to utilize the EPA Human Health Assessment, released on September 28.
- CAG status as an "ad hoc" committee – need for defined terms of service.

Assignments:

Ken and Regina Deschere, Michele Palmer – Work with Design Connect Project Team
Invite SHCA to next meeting?

Nels – Inquire about potential funding for Emerson cleanup?

Leia – Submit Letter to the Editor concerning EPA's TCE Toxicological Review and NYS's TCE standard.

Next Meeting Schedule:

Monday, December 5 at City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

DEC Updates:

Karen Cahill, 11/4/2011:

only update here is that **Therm** started their investigation this week.

Stephanie Harrington, 11/7/2011:

315 N. Meadow Street

DEC plans to start injection well installation 11/2011

Clinton West Plaza

Groundwater injections are ongoing and will be completed early next week. Routine groundwater monitoring will commence in November to evaluate efficiency of treatment.

Ithaca 1st St. MGP:

Pre-design investigation fieldwork is currently taking place.

Ithaca Court St. MGP:

50% Remedial Design has been submitted to DEC and is under review.