

Community Advisory Group (CAG) Minutes for Sept. 20, 2010 (First meeting)

Present: *Nels Bohn, Maria Coles, Shawn Creighton, Ken Deschere, Regina Deschere, Jennifer Dotson, Peter Fortunato, Valerie Pavan, Leia Raphaelidis, Eric Rosario, Kathy Woodcock*

Purpose of the CAG Committee:

Common Council passed a resolution to encourage the mayor to work with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and establish a generic Community Advisory Group (CAG) with additional membership to be specific to each environmental remediation.

This group will serve as a link between the City, its neighborhoods, and the DEC. The committee will have representation at regular meetings between the DEC and City of Ithaca.

CAG is designed to help citizens and involved government agencies make better-informed decisions:

- Promote broad, balanced representation of the community
- Encourage more routine and consistent communications and coordination between involved government agencies and the community
- Solicit ongoing recommendation about ways to enhance community involvement
- Provide an avenue for the community to voice its needs and concerns
- Provide a consistent source of feedback for the government to gauge interests and needs

CAG Goals:

Remediation and cleanup of various contaminated sites, particularly South Hill (at Emerson and other locations) and at Clinton West Plaza. Designate contacts at DEC and contacts at our end to enhance communication between all parties involved. Develop a "Plan of Action". Do follow-up reporting about the timing of procedures and determine how well the process is going.

CAG Structure:

Nels Bohn - Facilitator
Ken Deschere and Regina Deschere - Co-Chairs
Leia Raphaelidis – Vice Chair
Kathy Woodcock – Secretary

CAG Governance:

Chair recognizes the person to speak and if a strong difference of opinions occurs, take a vote. (Please note: This committee is not considered a voting committee, but an advisory committee only.)

Public CAG Meeting Notification:

- Post and advertise CAG meeting one week ahead
- Set Regular Meetings – 1st Monday of every Month at City Hall, Rm. 206, 6-7:30 p.m. (more often if necessary)
- Post Minutes for public perusal
- Invite guest speakers to share knowledge
- Establish an Agenda so people will know the focus
- DEC Participation at meetings with a conference call or computer communication option

Definition Clarification:

Remediation means to Remove Chemicals
Mitigation means to Remove Home Vapors

Assignments:

Nels Bohn – Determine next topic speaker availability; Investigate EPA Brownfields Program as a grant source

Kathy Woodcock – Type Minutes/ Invite CAG members to join Concerned South Hill, a website about Therm industrial pollution that she manages

Jennifer Dotson – Create Google Website for CAG Committee and add Membership List

Future Meeting Topics/Questions:

- Why should the City of Ithaca's Sewer System be polluted? (Investigate possible litigation against DEC and/or industrial pollutant companies)
- Discuss hiring a consultant for the CAG committee and the City of Ithaca to advise in layman terms
- Ask DEC to explain how the DEC determines which sites to add to the *Master List of Remediation Sites*; and what does the classification mean so the committee can better understand DEC language and process
- Invite guests to discussion geology, health and other related factors to be considered

Future Meetings with Potential Topics:

Monday, Oct. 4, 2010 at City Hall, 3rd floor, Chamber Office, 6-7:30 p.m. (Topic: Meet DEC Representative)

Monday, Nov. 1, 2010 at City Hall, 3rd floor, Chamber Office, 6-7:30 p.m. (Topic: Clinton West/Therm)