

ROCHESTER ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

11-4-24

Roll Call

A quorum was present as made up by the following current REC members:

REC Commissioners

- Rosemary Jonientz, Chair
- Bob Schellinger
- Carlos Perez
- Ethan Burnell
- Rick Henahan
- Elizabeth Primus

Absent:

- Kate Powers, Vice Chair (recused)

Members of the Public

None in attendance

Chair Jonientz called the meeting to order at 5:58pm as all expected members and applicants were present.

Agenda Approval

The agenda was accepted without a vote.

Housekeeping

There were no housekeeping matters.

Review of Correspondence

There was no correspondence for review or to be issued.

Reports

Report out of the activities of the Monroe County Environmental Management Council by the City of Rochester's representative to the body, REC Chair Jonientz, will occur at the next meeting of the REC.

Old Business

- Approve June 3, 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - o Attendees of this meeting were:
 - Rosemary Jonientz, REC Chair
 - Kate Powers, REC Vice Chair
 - Bob Schellinger
 - Mia Morgillo
 - o Attendees of 11/4/24 REC Meeting that attended the 6/3/24 REC Meeting voted to approve these minutes.
 - o Kate Powers, REC Vice Chair, approved these minutes via absentia vote to REC staff
 - o Mia Morgillo is no longer on the REC so these minutes cannot be approved by a quorum of attendees.

- Approve Sept 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - o Attendees of this meeting were:
 - Kate Powers, REC Vice Chair
 - Bob Schellinger
 - Carlos Perez
 - Ethan Burnell
 - o Attendees of 11/4/24 REC Meeting that attended the 6/3/24 REC Meeting voted to approve these minutes.
 - o Kate Powers, REC Vice Chair, approved these minutes via absentia vote to REC staff
 - o Meeting Minutes APPROVED

New Business (SEQR/Chapter 48 referrals)

Verona Street Park EAF SP-036-23-24

Applicant representatives (Eric Hansen and Jacob Scott, both of Rochester City School District) introduced themselves to the REC and gave a brief presentation describing the long history of the project, the need for it in terms of contractual obligation to teachers to provide parking, and their history of working with the city to produce the plan currently in site plan review that provides:

- 28 parking spaces to be used by school #5 employees during the day M-F and open to all visitors to Verona Street Park otherwise,
- to provide new, safe playground equipment closer to the school for use by children attending the school as well as all children visiting the park,
- elimination of the current playground which is old and further from the school,
- a repositioning of the ballfield to improve safety and make room for the playground,
- the installation of landscaping and protective stone bollards around the entire perimeter of the park.

Commissioner Primus suggested use of planters instead of solid bollards. Chair Jonientz suggested they could be made part of an educational program and/or community engagement. Commissioner Burnell expressed concern about entry to the park by scooters etc. Eric Hansen acknowledged challenge to keeping parks secure. Commissioner Schellinger asked about snow storage. Eric Hansen indicated that snow is stored on-site until it accumulates to a level that it takes parking spaces, at which time it is trucked off-site. This will continue to be the way snow storage is handled after the project is completed.

The body decided their SEQR determination recommendation would include a recommendation that the applicant seriously consider the replacement of solid stone bollards with planters. Applicant indicated this recommendation would be taken into consideration.

There being no further question, concerns, or discussion, Vice Chair sought a motion to vote to recommend to the Manager of Zoning (referring lead agency) that a negative declaration be tendered for this project. Commissioner Perez made such a motion, Commissioner Primus seconded, and on a vote of 6-0-0, the recommendation was unanimously passed.

Camp Eastman EAF SP-019-24-25

Doug McClure of Labella attended in place of Dave McClellan of Labella. Doug introduced himself to the body and provided a brief presentation on the project. The project is the result of an amendment to the site plan approval which the REC had recommended a SEQR neg dec on, wherein the proposed renovations to five buildings (day cabins) was dropped by the new town supervisor in favor of the current proposal, that being the construction of a picnic pavilion and a new day cabin, and driveways from the parking lot to each.

Commissioner Primus asked why the renovations were dropped in favor of construction of two new structures given that typically renovations of existing structures is more sustainable than new construction. The applicant's representative indicated that the applicant had determined after they secured approval to renovate the structures that they were at the end of their useful life and that building two new structures was a better use of the funds available, and that the demolition of some or all of these five structures would be part of a future project where the construction of three new units is anticipated.

Commissioner Hanahan pointed out an error on the Part 1 EAF completed by the applicant's representative, specifically, section E: Site and Setting of Proposed Action; subsection E.1 Land Uses On and Surrounding the Project Site; subsection E.1.b. Land uses and cover types on the project site; sixth bullet point: Wetlands (freshwater or tidal), where Current acreage is 4.99 acres, and Acreage after the change is 4.99 acres, so the change between the two should be "0" not the 4.99 acres indicated. Applicant was requested to correct and submit an updated Part 1 EAF.

There being no further question, concerns, or discussion, Chair Jonientz sought a motion to vote to recommend to the Manager of Zoning (referring lead agency) that a negative declaration be tendered for this project. Commissioner Burnell made such a motion, Commissioner Schellinger seconded, and on a vote of 6-0-0, the recommendation was unanimously passed.

Adjournment

Chair Jonientz adjourned the meeting at 6:28pm.