

Air Quality

March 9, 2022

11:00am-12:00pm

Zoom



Notes

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. 18 attendees; 9 Camden residents/businesses

II. Hot Topics

- a. Yaffa & Sons Property – Soil Pile
 - City is requesting that the federal government act which requires a high threshold
 - Currently, the situation does not meet state regulations to do so
- b. Block 1 lot 1
 - Owner has not been responsive to enforcement action, legal action is coming
 - Camden County Historic Society is working on getting an easement for the historic building rehab and trail
- c. Camden Iron & Metal: Air Pollution Control Permit Construction of New Source Application, Front & Pine Streets, New Facility (Umbrella facility is EMR)
 - Under review still
- d. GP Gypsum permit
 - Renewal submitted a while back
 - New permit application to make modifications
 - Both under review; undertaking health monitoring takes a while
 - Once there is a draft permit, NJDEP can talk about where they are
- e. EMR Fire 2/28/22
 - Updates from EMR: sent out a statement outlining the logistics on the fire including the presumed cause
 - EMR met with the city
 - Format/ timeline for a community meeting is still uncertain
 - a. There may be a community meeting in conjunction with the city
 - The community presented about 20 questions for EMR, some additional ones from Heart of Camden specifically
 - Stacey moved the questions up the chain that Stacey/ Will could not answer
 - From the community's perspective, it feels like EMR doesn't want to try to answer these questions and that they are stalling out
 - a. EMR: they do want to try; planning and development takes time
 - b. EMR worked tirelessly with the city to take down the nuisance warehouse that previously existed on their property
 - Of those that can be answered, the community **wants them in writing**

- Harder questions will take some time; Stacey weekly pushes these questions, no responses yet
- Q: Is there usually a delay in responses?
 - There is no process for communications at this time; they do their best to get questions answered in a timely manner
- Q: What would it take to achieve the simple goal of having a community meeting?
 - If EMR folks up the chain thought it would be a productive conversation, they might be more willing (looking for mutual reciprocity)
- Q: Considering the difficulty of having these conversations, what does it take to move the needle with the company to address air quality issues be it periodic fires or ongoing emissions?
 - EMR thinks that they have moved the needle already (wetting down area, cleaning and maintaining their areas, etc.)
 - EMR is looking at permanent enclosures
- What residents can do: use the 848 # and/ or email Stacey.Pierce@emrgroup.com
 - Give them license plates of major trucks on non-truck routes and other concerns
- What Will has learned: EMR is a leading company in the recycling field
 - Great track record of not having accidents (relative to other similar companies) and forwarding sustainable initiatives
- Information sharing: any safety information shared to the public?
 - EMR sent information to Phaedra; it did not make the paper
 - EMR wants to work with heart of Camden to spread the word more
 - There should be concise communication to the public on safety
 - a. Need system in place to share out information
 - b. EMR looking at creating social media platforms
- Lots of engagement but not in the way that the community is requesting (a community meeting)
- The heart of the problem: EMR's continued cognitive dissonance, negligence of not responding to people's request
 - As a stakeholder in the community, EMR has an obligation to care for public health (reduce emissions)
- CCI partners should build the community data, to support community questions

III. Air Quality

a. NJDEP Air/Odor Complaint Report

- There were no citizen complaints received from Camden City residents from 2/8/22 – 3/88/22.
- EMR facility in Camden on 2/28/22. No citizen complaints were received as a result of this incident. The facility did notify the Department in a timely matter. The Air Program does not regulate emissions from fires.

- Per National Weather Service the winds during the time the fire occurred were out of the north blowing south/south east of the city between 5 to 15 mph with higher gusts noted.

b. Current Issues

c. Key next steps

- Combining [Community Corner application](#) with NJDEP [data miner](#)
- [Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring Funding under the ARP](#)
- [EV Grant opportunity](#)

IV. Traffic Management

a. Current Issues

b. Key Next Steps

V. Additional Information/Resources

DISCLAIMER: This is a summary of the meeting and is based upon the written notes and memory of individuals from Cooper's Ferry Partnership and members of the CCI Core Team. The notes are intended to capture only the main points made in the meeting, and they reflect comments on work-in-progress. The notes do not imply a specific opinion or commitment on the part of any individual or organization represented at the meeting. Report any corrections to camdencollaborative@camdenpinc.com

Next Meeting: CCI Air Quality Working Group Meeting, April 13th at 11 am