

FRIENDS OF PASSAIC COUNTY PARKS, INC.
February 8, 2021 Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

1. Chairwoman Alice Szepietowski
2. Vice-Chairman George Silva
3. Freeholder John W. Bartlett
4. County Administrator Designee: Marc E. Seemon
5. Director of Parks & Recreation Designee: Greg Moore
6. Director of Cultural & Historic Affairs Designee: Kelly C. Ruffel
7. Andrew Smith
8. Jamie Dykes
9. Daryl Walton
10. Kelly Pascrell

Members Absent:

1. Robert Spiotti

A roll call brought the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Ruffel made the announcement of the Open Public Meetings Act.

A motion was made by Silva and seconded by Bartlett to open the public portion.

No one from the public was present.

A motion was made by Bartlett and seconded by Silva to close the public portion.

Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Smith and seconded by Bartlett to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020 meeting.

Motion passed. Seemon abstained.

Under Old Business, Ruffel provided a report on the Highlands Preserve Athletic Field. Photographs were attached to showcase the project status. The project is at 95% completion. Playground equipment is currently being installed and fence installation was completed. Some delays are expected due to recent inclement weather. Ruffel also reported that several kiosks were also planned for the park and will be installed soon.

Ruffel provided an update of the County-wide interpretive plan. The full report was distributed prior to the meeting. In 2018, the Board received a grant from the NJ Historic Trust to complete the interpretive plan and the plan was completed in December. The project completion was delayed due to the long review period by the State. Ruffel inquired if the Board would attend the Tourism Workshop on February 16th or if the Board wants to invite the consultants to present final findings of the plan at the next meeting of the Board. The Board requested a presentation at the next meeting.

Under Committee Reports, Ruffel noted that decisions regarding the County Fair will be made by the end of the month. Restrictions on public gatherings will prevent the Board and County from planning and putting together the fair. Ruffel reported under Memorial Tree & Bench program that no formal applications have come thru, however the Board received donations in memory of Frank Addice. These donations are dedicated for us at the County's Veterans Memorial project. Ruffel referred to the listing of correspondence in the agenda packet. Further information was requested on Frank Addice's service and what the donations will be for.

Under Treasurer's Report, Ruffel gave an update on the state of the bank accounts.

Under New Business, the Board discussed officers for the 2021 calendar year. Nominations were made as a slate with Szepietowski serving as Chair, Silva serving as Vice-Chair, Ruffel serving as Secretary, and Seemon serving as Treasurer.

A motion was made by Bartlett and seconded by Silva to nominate 2021 officers of the Board.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ruffel shared several items of correspondence. Most of the letters reference donations received in memory of Frank Addice. Additionally, Ruffel sent a letter to NJDEP Green Acres Program to request a reallocation of grant funds from the John W. Rea Historic Landscaping Restoration Project. The reallocation requests would move the funding to the Rea Avenue Athletic Field Improvements project.

A motion was made by Silva and seconded by Bartlett to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

/ s / Kelly C. Ruffel
 Secretary, Friends of Passaic County Parks, Inc.