



**PASSAIC COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
WebEx Meeting**

Chair Kahwaty opened the meeting at 6:32 PM and read the roll call. She then stated that the notice that the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act had been met and stated that members of the public can participate in the meeting during the public portion by giving their full name and address and will have a maximum of three minutes to make their statement.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Anne Kahwaty, Chair; Maria-Elena Grant, Vice Chair; Cindy Frank, Commissioner; Isabel Agudelo, Commissioner; Sandy Lawson, Commissioner; Bernard Vroom, Commissioner; Bhupendra Gadhavi, Commissioner; Robin Canetti, Commissioner; Nordan Murphy, Engineering Department; Greg Moore, Parks Department; Kelly Ruffel, Director of Cultural and Historic Affairs

**STAFF PRESENT:** Marc Seemon, Deputy County Administrator; Jessie Summers, Open Space Coordinator; John Pogorelec, County Counsel; Andras Holzmann, Acting Planning Director

**MINUTES:** A motion to adopt the amended minutes of the June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 meeting was made by Commissioner Vroom and seconded by Commissioner Lawson. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

Commissioner Lawson made a motion to open the meeting to the public which was seconded by Commissioner Vroom. The motion passed unanimously. Seeing no members of the public present, Commissioner Canetti made a motion to close the public portion, which was seconded by Commissioner Vroom. The motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2018 Application for Reallocation: Ringwood Stonetown Recreation Complex Accessible Parking and Walkway**

Open Space Coordinator Summers explained that the Township of Ringwood had been informed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) that their proposed turf field project would not be permitted. As such, the Township of Ringwood requested to reallocate the awarded funds to a different scope at the same Stonetown Recreation Complex location—to construct an access driveway to a newly proposed accessible parking and drop off area as well as an accessible walkway along the fence of the fields. Currently, the only accessible spaces are in the existing parking lot, which is lower and inaccessible from the fields, creating difficulty to get to the field.

Commissioner Vroom asked if this would require a lease agreement with the nearby school, and Commissioner Canetti followed up by asking if site was school property. Open Space

Coordinator Summers responded that the site was the town's recreation complex but located on land leased from the Board of Education. Commissioner Canetti expressed concern that the new proposed parking lot improvements were not near the originally awarded turf field project that was adjacent to Hewitt School. She also expressed concern over the cost of the proposed project. Open Space Coordinator Summers responded that the Township of Ringwood provided an itemized cost breakdown as justification for the project within the application.

Commissioner Vroom made an amended motion stating that the reallocation can be approved if an updated lease agreement between the Board of Education as the owner and the Township of Ringwood as the lessee is provided, as the one included within the application expired in 2020. Commissioner Lawson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioner Canetti and County Commissioner Lepore abstaining.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Final Recommendations**

The final hearing for Open Space Grants being awarded over \$100,000 will be held on August 9<sup>th</sup> at the regularly scheduled County Commissioners meeting at 5:30 PM at the Passaic County Administration Building located at 401 Grand Street, Paterson.

### **Grant Closeout**

Open Space Coordinator Summers listed all the outstanding projects that were being closed out by the next Open Space meeting in August:

- 2017 Wayne Captain Kilroy Spray Park (\$200,000)
- 2020 Friends of Paterson Parks Roberto Clemente Playground (\$75,000)
- 2018-2020 North Haledon High Mountain School Playground (\$199,999)

Chair Kahwaty asked if there were an open grants that dated earlier than 2017. Open Space Coordinator Summers stated that there were only two active 2017 grants ongoing: the Haledon Roe Athletic Field and Signage Project and the 2017 West Milford Apple Acres Design Grant that has been reallocated to their current 2022 project.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Grant wanted to commend Chair Kahwaty for her efforts during the June 1<sup>st</sup> Open Space meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 PM was made by Commissioner Agudelo and seconded by Commissioner Lawson. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Salvatore Presti for



JESSIE SUMMERS