

FRIENDS OF PASSAIC COUNTY PARKS, INC.
August 8, 2017 Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Members present :

1. Freeholder Director Designee John W. Bartlett, Esq.
2. County Administrator Designee: Matthew P. Jordan, Esq.
3. Director of Parks and Recreation Darryl Sparta
4. Director of Cultural and Historic Affairs Kelly Ruffel
5. Robert Spiotti
6. Vice Chairman George Silva
7. Chairwoman Alice Szepietowski

Members Absent :

1. Kelly Pascrell
2. Jamie Dykes
3. Jeffrey Buonforte

A roll call brought the meeting to order at 5:41 PM.

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Silva to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2017 meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Included in the agenda packet was the final Dey Mansion logo design from the logo design contest. The logo was approved by the Freeholder Public Works and Building and Grounds Committee. The prize money will be mailed out this week, and the winner will be contacted to take part in a ceremony when the Visitor Center at the Dey Mansion is finished in the fall. The logo will be used for a variety of items in the new Visitor's Center, including tee-shirts, patches, and magnets.

Jordan informed the Board of two grant awards from Green Acres, \$88,500 for the installation of a deer fence at the Garret Mountain Reservation, and \$200,000 for the improvement of athletic fields at Goffle Brook Park. These are the first Green Acres grants the Friends of Passaic County Parks, Inc. were able to secure.

The Board was also informed of a grant award from the Investor's Foundation for \$2,500 for the installation of sensory playground equipment at Goffle Brook Park. Because \$50,000 had been requested in the grant application, and the total project cost is \$100,000, Jordan will reach out the Investor's Foundation to see if the grant can be applied to a different project. Otherwise, the grant funds will be returned.

The RFP for a 2018 Passaic County Race Series received one response from the Barwick Group located in Wayne, New Jersey. Although the budget was more than expected to run three races, a discussion ensued about scheduling just one race for 2018 as a trial run to see if there is interest in this type of event in the Park System. Jordan will reach out and see if an arrangement can be worked out and report back to the Board.

The final three submissions designed by Bill Opper were submitted for approval for the WPA Passaic County Park System poster project, including Weasel Brook Park, the Morris Canal Greenway, and the Preakness Valley Golf Course. The project included the design of seven posters in total.

A motion was made by Spiotti and seconded by Silva to accept the final designs and authorize the final payment of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) to Mr. Opper.

Motion passed unanimously.

The WPA poster project is now complete and the Friends were forwarded final files that can be printed for sale at various County and Friends events.

Ruffel gave an update on the Dey Mansion Wine & Cheese Fundraiser, including the inclusion of a final flyer to promote the event. A mailing will be sent out to a list maintained by the Freeholder office.

Jordan gave an update on sponsorship donations to the Passaic County Fair. To date, over one hundred and sixty thousand (\$160,000.00) has been raised from a variety of sources, making this the most successful fundraising effort to date at the annual Fair.

The Friends will have a booth at the Fair, and Trustees were asked to volunteer on one of the four days.

A short discussion on the Memorial Bench and Tree Program occurred by Board members, including developing a new brochure. Sparta also indicated that he will look into having a sample bench at the Fair to advertise the program.

Jordan gave an update on the Friends' financial situation. Fundraising remains strong, and he indicated that in 2018 a formal budget will be adopted at the beginning of the year.

Jordan presented a budget for the 2017 Paws in the Park event at the Goffle Brook Park in Hawthorne. A motion was made by Spiotti and seconded by Silva to approve the budget.

Motion passed unanimously.

There is an outstanding invoice from a 19th century baseball game hosted at the Goffle Brook Park to Mike's Dog House. A motion as made by Silva and seconded by Spiotti to authorize payment of the invoice.

Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Silva and seconded by Spiotti to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM.

Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Board is September 6, 2017 at 5:00 PM at the Dey Mansion.