



**Passaic County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation
Trust Fund Advisory Committee Meeting
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, November 19th, 2020
WebEx Meeting**

Committee Chairwoman Grant opened the meeting at 6:30 PM and read the notice that the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act had been met. He then proceeded to the roll call.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Assad Akhter, Freeholder; Maria-Elena Grant, Chair; Ann Kahwaty, Vice Chair; Kelly Ruffel, County Administrator; Greg Moore, Commissioner (on behalf of Darryl Sparta) ; Nordan Murphy, Commissioner (on behalf of Jonathan Pera); Cindy Frank, Commissioner; Bernard Vroom, Commissioner; Sandra Lawson, Commissioner; Bhupendra V. Gadhavi, Commissioner; Robin Canetti, Commissioner; Laura Lee Harding, Commissioner; Alice Szepietowski, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT: Michael Lysicatos, Planning Director; John Pogorelec, County Counsel; Andras Holzmann, Supervising Planner; Salvatore Presti, Assistant Planner

PUBLIC PORTION: Commissioner Szepietowski made a motion to open the meeting to the public which was seconded by Commissioner Vroom. The motion passed unanimously.

Seeing no one present, Commissioner Vroom made a motion to close the public portion that was seconded by Commissioner Canetti. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Deputy County Administrator Kelly Ruffel presented the following applications for the Historic Preservation Grant. Follow-up questions and information requests from the Committee are noted under each application:

- American Labor Museum - Botto House
 - No comments were made by committee members or staff.
- Clifton – US Animal Quarantine Station Barn-2 Restoration Project
 - Commissioner Canetti asked if the building has any current use. County Administrator Ruffel responded that the building is currently inhabitable. Commissioner Frank asked if the building would be open to the public. County Administrator Ruffel responded that the building would be for some of Clifton’s offices, but that there would be a display in the entrance way that the public could see. Commissioner Szepietowski commented that this site is not what is known locally as “the flag barn”.
- Paterson – Eastside Park Historic Steps Restoration Project
 - Commissioner Grant commented that the applicant did not seem to have much of a local funding match. Freeholder Akhter asked about how much of the steps

would be restored, to which County Administrator Ruffel clarified that the project was for the upper tier.

- Paterson – Eastside Park Tennis Courts Restoration Project
 - Freeholder Akhter pointed out that these are functionally the only public tennis courts in Paterson, and that the courts are actively used by both the public and local high schools.
- New Jersey Community Development Corp. – Rogers Locomotive Works Façade Repair Project
 - No comments were made by staff or committee members.

Deputy County Administrator Ruffel made closing remarks stating how Paterson had made progress on previous projects, and had projects nearing close out. One of those projects being Eastside Park Phase I, which is out to bid. Planning Director Lysicatos also spoke to the nature of the projects taking multiple years to complete, citing how there are often issues with construction and permitting that prevent applicants from completing projects within their first year of grant awards.

Assistant Planner Presti presented the following applications as a virtual site visit to the Committee. Follow-up questions and information requests from the Committee are noted under each application:

- Totowa – PAL Fields Lighting
 - No comments were made by staff or committee members.
- Wanaque – Ace Pedestrian Bridge
 - Commissioner Lawson inquired if the applicant is intending to replace the existing stone bridge. Staff replied that the old bridge would be removed. Commissioner Lawson also expressed concern over the permits needed for the project as the applicant would need to get permits from the NJDEP.
- Wayne – Captain Kilroy Park
 - Commissioner Szepietowski asked about the ADA pathways mentioned in the narrative, which was clarified by staff.
- Wayne – Waks Memorial Park
 - Commissioner Frank inquired about the replacement of the bulbs, which was clarified by staff.
- Wayne Little League – Dotterweich Field/Wayne Little League Complex
 - No comments were made by staff or committee members.
- West Milford – Nosenzo Park
 - No comments were made by staff or committee members.
- Woodland Park – Diane Grimes Memorial Park
 - Commissioner Szepietowski asked about the amount of grants extending back to 2015. Staff responded that they would inquire with Woodland Park, and check to see if any of the grants listed had been closed out.

General Comments

- Commissioner Frank asked that all applicants who had proposed pathways in their site plans, but had not specified that they were ADA compliant pathways, but asked to confirm that their proposed pathways will be ADA compliant.
- Commissioner Vroom inquired about requiring applicants to provide more information on NJDEP permitting.
- Commissioner Harding asked if there was a record of organizations who did not expend their funding in a timely manner, and if there was any weighting given to applicants who normally do not get as much funding as other applicants. Planning Director Lysicatos responded that staff could pull records of previous grant awards.
- Commissioner Cannetti asked for the amount of funds available to distribute to applicants. Staff responded that \$3.5 million was available to distribute, but the total amount asked for by all applicants was \$5.2 million. Commissioner Vroom suggested to the staff that any large projects be phased if they can not be fully funded.
- Planning Director Lysicatos stated that the following members were approaching the end of their terms, and would have to submit a resume and letter of intention to be reappointed to the committee:
 - Alice Szepietowski
 - Sandra Lawson
 - Bernard Vroom
 - Isabel Agudelo
 - Cindy Frank
 - Maria-Elena Grant

OLD BUSINESS – None.

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

RESOLUTIONS – None.

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Szepietowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm that was seconded by Commissioner Vroom. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Salvatore Presti for



MICHAEL LYSICATOS