



**Passaic County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation  
Trust Fund Advisory Committee Meeting  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
WebEx Meeting**

Chairperson Maria-Elena Grant opened the meeting at 6:30 PM and read the notice that the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act had been met.

Planning Director Lysicatos proceeded to the roll call.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Nordan Murphy, Commissioner (on behalf of Jonathan Pera)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Michael Lysicatos, Planning Director; John Pogorelec, County Counsel; Salvatore Presti, Assistant Planner; Jessie Summers, Landscape Architect / Open Space Coordinator

**REORGANIZATION:** Commissioners Kahwaty, Frank, Grant, Harding, Lawson, Szepietowski, and Vroom took the oath of office led by County Counsel Pogorelec.

#### Nominations

- Chair: Commissioner Kahwaty was nominated by Commissioner Grant and Commissioner Canetti seconded. With no other nominees, Commissioner Kahwaty accepted and the committee unanimously approved.
- Vice Chair: Commissioner Grant was nominated by Commissioner Kahwaty and Commissioner Lawson seconded. With no other nominees, Commissioner Grant accepted and the committee unanimously approved.
- Secretary: Planning Director Lysicatos was nominated by Commissioner Frank and Commissioner Lawson seconded. With no other nominees, Planning Director Lysicatos accepted and the committee unanimously approved.

#### 2021 Meeting Dates

- Planning Director Lysicatos reviewed the proposed 2021 meeting date schedule which is

for the third Thursday of every other month. Commissioner Canetti noted that the proposed September 16<sup>th</sup> date falls on the Yom Kippur holiday. Commissioner Lawson motioned to amend the date to the fourth Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> and the committee unanimously approved.

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

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

**MINUTES:** Commissioner Kahwaty made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Grant.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Planning Director Lysicatos reviewed the recommendations and noted that the only recommendations that had changed since the previous meeting were for the High Mountain School Playground (North Haledon) and Waks Memorial Park – Field Lighting Upgrade (Wayne) to be reduced from \$100,000 to \$99,999 so that these grants can be awarded as soon as possible.

Commissioner Gadhavi noted that the recommendation for the Friends of Paterson Parks Roberto Clemente Playground Improvements is lower than the grant request in comparison to the other applications. Planning Director Lysicatos explained that the application did not have a local match which is preferred. This will also be the first time the County will be working with the Friends of Paterson Parks and the amount recommended is similar in scope to other first round groups the County has worked with in the past. Planning Director Lysicatos also noted that no applicants this year received their full requests.

Commissioner Vroom asked if the Clifton U.S. Animal Quarantine project will be funded by any NJDEP Green Acres money. Deputy Administrator Ruffel responded that the project received funding from the New Jersey Historic Trust as well as matching funds from Clifton, and believes that their project will now be fully funded with the addition of the \$75,000 award recommended from the County.

Commissioner Gadhavi inquired about the \$2.9 million in unexpended grants. Planning Director Lysicatos stated that a large portion of that figure has been constructed and is in the process of being submitted for reimbursement. The projects that comprise the unexpended grant total are still within the two year window. Commissioner Gadhavi suggested a break down of unexpended grants that are within the two year window, and those that are outside to better understand the current status.

Chair Kahwaty left the meeting at 7:00 PM and Vice Chair Grant took over as acting chair.

Commissioner Szepietowski motioned to adopt the recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners and Commissioner Gadhavi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS – None.**

**CORRESPONDENCE – None.**

**RESOLUTIONS – None.**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessie Summers

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessie Summers".

for  
MICHAEL LYSICATOS