



**PASSAIC COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, May 20th, 2021
WebEx Meeting**

Chair Anne Kahwaty opened the meeting at 6:37 PM and read the notice that the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act had been met. She then proceeded to the roll call.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Maria-Elena Grant, Commissioner; Anne Kahwaty, Commissioner; Bhupendra Gadhavi, Commissioner; Sandy Lawson, Commissioner; Robin Canetti, Commissioner; Bernard Vroom, Commissioner; Laura Lee Harding, Commissioner; Alice Szepletowski, Commissioner; Cindy Frank, Commissioner; Greg Moore (on behalf of Darryl Sparta, Parks Director); Nordan Murphy (on behalf of County Engineer Jonathan Pera)

OTHERS PRESENT: Marc Seemon, Deputy County Administrator; Michael Lysicatos, Planning Director; John Pogorelec, County Counsel; Jessie Summers, Open Space Coordinator; Salvatore Presti, Assistant Planner

MINUTES: A motion to adopt the minutes of the January 14th, 2021 meeting was made by Commissioner Grant and seconded by Commissioner Lawson. The motion passed unanimously with a minor adjustment to Commissioner Szepletowski's name.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

Project Closeout Updates

Open Space Coordinator Jessie Summers informed the board that all 2020-2021 Combined Award Letters have sent and many of their agreements have been executed. Any remaining agreements are currently being worked through with County Counsel and should be dispatched within a few weeks. She also stated that the following projects are currently being closed out:

- Woodland Park - Zaccaria Park Turf Field (Multiyear Project)
- Prospect Park – Hofstra Park Concession Stand (2017 Award)
- Wayne – Shai Shacknai Inclusive Playground (2019 Award)

The 2017 Award to Wayne for the Captain Kilroy Park Spray Park close out has been extended to the end of June due to the impact of COVID-19 on administration and construction activities.

The County Commissioners have passed a resolution that authorizes an extension to all 2018 awards due to the impact of COVID-19 on administration and construction activities. The extension has been granted until December 31st, 2021.

The Planning Department has received a resolution from Bloomingdale asking to use the excess of their grant funds for the 2018 Bogue Pong Basketball Court Rehabilitation project, approximately \$33,000, towards installing extra benches and picnic tables around the park. The original scope of the project has already been completed. The resolution will go to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

OLD BUSINESS

Planning Director Lysicatos informed the board that Kathleen Caren's family was setting up an event at a farm she enjoyed visiting in July. Details on the event will be coming at a later date. He also informed the Board that Kathleen's family and the Planning Department has been working with the Board of County Commissioners to rename the reservoir at Apshawa Preserve in Kathleen's honor.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Commissioner Grant inquired about the timeline for new applications to the Open Space Program. Planning Director Lysicatos responded that the timeline for new applications will resume normally without the exceptions made for COVID. This means that in autumn workshops will be held to walk perspective applicants through the process, and applications will be received in early 2022. During the summer, a committee will be reviewing the application process and reporting process to change or add rules to both processes. The changes will be shared with the board.

Commissioner Szepietowski stated that she had received an inquiry from members of Passaic County Parks who were interested in finding out where facilities to play Pickleball were located. She asked if she could be provided with a listing of any available facilities. Planning Director Lysicatos responded that the department will look into such facilities. County Counsel John Pogorelec responded that he knew Clifton was still looking for a site to have Pickleball facilities.

Commissioner Frank asked that the committee consider modifying the rules to include a provision for tree replacement for projects that apply for Open Space grants. Deputy County Administrator Marc Seemon stated that he knew Bergen County had similar provisions in their Open Space program and encouraged the board to make any suggestions they may have to staff. Open Space Coordinator Jessie Summers stated that she was familiar with a tree restitution method used by New York City Parks that factors in the size, condition, and species of the tree removed and that a simplified version of that system may be applicable. Commission Vroom asked staff to investigate requiring applicants to have identification placards installed with new plantings.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM was made by Commissioner Canetti and seconded by Commissioner Szepietowski. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Salvatore Presti for



JESSIE SUMMERS