



Borough of Oakland, New Jersey

OAKLAND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MARCH 2, 2021 REGULAR MEETING on ZOOM

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1. **Reorganization Meeting called to order** at 7:33 p.m.
2. **Meeting Announcement:** This meeting is being held in accordance with the open public meetings law, duly announced, advertised, and posted in the municipal building.
3. **Roll Call:**
 - Chairman Lee Haymon, Vice Chairman Michael Miner, Jerri Angermueller, Tony Bertuna, Erich Kamm, Austin Wall, Karen Lanza, Borough Secretary Michael Carelli, Councilman Pat Pignatelli present. Commissioner Alex Myers absent. Motion by Lee Haymon to excuse Alex Myers absence. Seconded by Jerri Angermueller. All in favor. Chairman Lee Haymon stated that three unexcused absences could result in a removal from the Environmental Commission.
4. **Open to the Public:**
 - Motion to open to the public made by Tony Bertuna and seconded by Erich Kamm.
 - Alison Fleeson of 59 Seton Hall Drive spoke about the FLOW Green Film Festival. The educational program will be on the State plastic bag ban. Ms. Fleeson asked Commissioners to join as a volunteer. Jerri Angermueller volunteered. Ms. Fleeson asked Environmental Commissioners to join the Sustainable Oakland Green Team as a representative from the Commission. Erich Kamm volunteered to be the Commission representative. Ms. Fleeson added that the Roots for Rivers Grants for Great Oak Park and Roosevelt Riverfront Property are moving forward and dates for invasive species removals and planting are forthcoming. Volunteers are needed for both events.
 - Matthew Shook of 130 Lakeside Boulevard spoke about his interest in joining the Environmental Commission and is sitting in on this meeting. Mr. Shook introduced himself to the Commission.
 - Motion to close to the public made by Michael Miner and seconded by Tony Bertuna. All in favor.
5. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - February 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes tabled to next meeting. All in favor.
 - November 24, 2020, October 6, 2020, September 8, 2020, and July 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes tabled for April's Meeting. Chairman Lee Haymon asked Alex Myers and Erich Kamm to review the aforementioned minutes and provides comments if necessary.
6. **Committee Updates:**
 - **Borough Council Environmental Concerns – Councilman Pignatelli:**
 - Councilman Pignatelli stated that he reached out to the Borough Administrator about contracting with the Land Conservancy of New Jersey to assist with land acquisitions in the Borough, and that it is being looked further into.
 - Councilman Pignatelli asked the Borough Administrator how to move forward with debris and litter on the railroad tracks in the downtown area. It was suggested that the Commission submit their findings to the Borough, and a formal communication would be sent out to the railroad company. Chairman Lee

Haymon suggested the communication come from the Borough after the Commission submits their findings.

- **Open Space Update – Erich Kamm:**
 - Chairman Lee Haymon and Erich Kamm spoke about the Sandy Beach property and the Borough's approach to acquisitions.
- **Pinnacle/Bi-County – Lee Haymon:**
 - No update from Councilman Pignatelli. There was a further discussion on the Borough's approach to the acquisition of the property.
- **Dog Park/Great Oak Park Update:**
 - Chairman Lee Haymon added that the Dog Park is moving forward and is set to open later in the spring. Chairman Lee Haymon added that the Environmental Commission will have a larger role in the management of Great Oak Park once the Great Oak Park Committee dissolves.
 - Chairman Lee Haymon also added that he would like to see a GIS base map created for Great Oak Park. Karen Lanza asked if any local colleges in the area would be able to assist with this project. Karen Lanza offered to reach out to surrounding colleges to seek interest in such project. Chairman Lee Haymon also expressed interest in vegetative species mapping as a layer on the GIS. Erich Kamm also expressed interest in flora and fauna signage and mapping on the GIS. Michael Miner will check on the feasibility and implementation of this project and get back to the Commission soon.
 - Borough Secretary Michael Carelli added that 'Battling Bites Organics LLC' of Oakland would like to donate organic tick spray services to the new dog park for 2021. Chairman Lee Haymon asked Michael to obtain the product labeling for the Commissions review at the April 2021 Commission meeting.
- **Planning Board/Board of Adjustment – Lee Haymon:**
 - Chairman Lee Haymon spoke about the McCoy Farms project, which is moving ahead and the Commission should see plans in the near future on it.

7. **Old Business:**

- No reports.

8. **New Business:**

- **Projects for current year 2021:**
 - Chairman Lee Haymon asked all Commissioners for their project ideas for 2021.
 - Vice Chairman Michael Miner added that he would be interested in trails and land use projects that compliment riverfront and water access. Chairman Lee Haymon suggested a Borough-wide trails map and may help the Commission identify other open space opportunities.
 - Erich Kamm spoke about ADA accessible trails and identifying different types of trails such as 'senior friendly' trails, along with exercise stations.
 - Chairman Lee Haymon suggested asphalt clearing in Great Oak Park and the removal of old fencing to increase the accessibility in the park. There was also a discussion on expanding the butterfly garden.
- **Annual Accomplishment Report 2021:**
 - Borough Secretary Michael Carelli added that the Annual Accomplishments report has been complete and sent to the Commission for review and comments before submission to the Governing Body.
- **Team Up to Clean Up 2021:**
 - Austin Wall spoke on the Borough-wide clean up event for late April. It was suggested that the Team Up to Clean Up be on April 24, 2021. The cleanup is normally targeted towards the Borough's open space and parks. Austin Wall

suggested Ramapo Valley Road and asked the feasibility of the site due to safety concerns. Other candidates include Stewarts Woods, Truman Field, and Oakland Recreation Complex. Chairman Lee Haymon asked Austin Wall to put together a brief synopsis of the event, as well as communications materials. Erich Kamm asked if any organizations need service hours, which could help with volunteers for the event. There was a discussion on who provides the materials for the event. Chairman Lee Haymon added that Public Events Committee usually provides refreshments too. Michael Carelli suggested applying for the Bergen County Mini Clean Communities Grant to help fund the equipment and refreshments. Michael Carelli added that he would put together the grant application for approval to the Governing Body to submit to the County. Erich Kamm made a motion to apply for the grant, which was seconded by Lee Haymon. All in favor. Erich Kamm suggested to setup a meeting location outside at either Valley Middle School or the Oakland Recreation Complex.

- **Commission Contact Sheet:**

- Secretary Michael Carelli is going to be putting together a Commission Contact Sheet for all Commissioners. The sheet will be for Commission use only, and not publicized to the public under any circumstances.

9. Budget Status:

- Borough Secretary Michael Carelli added that the Governing Body is introducing the Municipal Budget in March 2021, and adopting in April 2021.
- The ANJEC dues have been paid to-date.

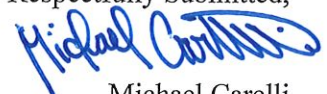
10. Close Meeting:

- Motion to close made by Michael Miner and seconded by Tony Bertuna. All in favor.

11. Meeting Adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Next Meeting Tuesday April 6, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom Video Conferencing

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael Carelli
Secretary