



## OAKLAND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

### JUNE 16, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING 'ROOSEVELT PARK'

**Chair:**  
Alison Fleeson  
**Vice Chair:**  
Alex Myers  
**Commissioners:**  
Lee Haymon  
Nancy Krause  
Erich Kamm  
Dylan Warner  
Jeff Smyrychynski  
Carol Peterson  
Elisabeth Ochoa  
**Council Liaison:**  
Pasquale Pignatelli  
**Secretary**  
Michael E. Carelli

1. **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:** Carol Peterson, Erich Kamm, Nancy Krause, Elisabeth Ochoa, Alison Fleeson, and Secretary Michael Carelli present. Members Alex Myers, Lee Haymon, Dylan Warner, and Jeff Smyrychynski absent upon roll call. All members excused. Councilman Pasquale Pignatelli excused.
4. **Open to the Public:**
  - Jerri Angermueller asked about the green amendment movement.
    - Erich Kamm questioned what the green amendment is.
    - Jerri Angermueller added that it is from ANJEC.
    - Chair Alison Fleeson added that she searched about it and nothing came up.
    - Carol Peterson added that it is adding legislation on green infrastructure and there is a petition from Clean Water Action website from a year ago.
    - Nancy Krause added further clarification.
    - Carol Peterson motion to close to the public. Seconded by Erich Kamm.
5. **Roosevelt Park Updates:**
  - Chair Alison Fleeson stated that the Green Team and Environmental Commission have been working with the Borough Administrator, Borough Engineer, and Floodplain Manager on a grant application to the Bergen County Open Space Park Improvement Program for proposed project Roosevelt Riverfront Park on Roosevelt Boulevard.
  - **Embankment:**
    - Chair Alison Fleeson added that Councilman Levy and the Borough have pending projects along the Ramapo River which is in the same area as the proposed park. Councilman Levy's project is postponed until spring of 2021.
    - Chair Alison Fleeson presented maps created by the Borough Engineer.
    - Chair Alison Fleeson added that permits are already pulled for previous restoration work along the Ramapo River.
    - Chair Alison Fleeson added that the Borough can bring in equipment for the project and added that the Borough is submitting the grant application/conceptual design at the end of June 2020 to the County of Bergen. Chair Alison Fleeson added that the project would be after the existing pending embankment work along the river.
  - **Parking Lot:**
    - Chair Alison Fleeson stated that the Borough would not change the footprint of the existing Truman Field Parking Lot. The proposed additional parking lot is grass pavers. The Environmental Commission would need approval from the Recreation Commission and is excluding from the County of Bergen grant. Commissioner Kamm stated that the Environmental Commission should reach out to the Recreation Commission Chair and Vice Chair Mike Guadagnino and Steve Saliani about the parking, especially during soccer games on Truman Field when the traffic is heavy in the parking lot.
    - There is existing road work on Roosevelt Boulevard scheduled for end of 2020 as part of the Borough's road resurfacing program.

- Chair Alison Fleeson stated parking is Phase 2 of the project.
- Chair Alison Fleeson stated that there will be a pathway from the parking lot to the riverfront and there will be an ADA accessible enclosed platform on the river for fishing.
- **Swales:**
  - Chair Alison Fleeson stated there is an existing drainage ditch by the last couple of lots on Roosevelt Boulevard that the Borough is turning into a bioswale with native riparian plantings. There is a lot of debris and trees currently on the location. There will be a foot bridge over the swale. There will be planting along the properties and signage for the plantings.
  - Commissioner Carol Peterson stated there will be a native prairie for birding.
  - Chair Alison Fleeson stated that Lot 11 is the site of the Roots for Rivers Grant that the Sustainable Oakland Green Team was awarded. Lot 11 must be kept clear for access to the river for Councilman Levy's pending river restoration project.
- **Trails:**
  - Carol Peterson stated there will be benches, trails, and low maintenance.
  - Chair Alison Fleeson and Carol Peterson suggested flora and fauna signage for trees and shrubbery, as well as identifiers for wildlife and fish.
  - Carol Peterson added that the ordinances that govern the park are the same as Great Oak Park, but the only difference would be that wading is permitted for the anglers.
  - Chair Alison Fleeson added that the embankment is large boulders for stabilization and access points will be incorporated into the design.
  - Michael Carelli asked if the trail surface was spoken about.
- **Current Progress in Design:**
  - Erich Kamm asked about lighting and garbage cans.
  - Carol Peterson added there is no lighting involved in the conceptual design and garbage cans are included in the grant budget.
  - Erich Kamm asked who the Commission is wanting to attract to the site.
  - Chair Alison Fleeson added that the Borough was looking into additional parking along the street – but there is concerns about cars parking in front of residential homes.
  - Erich Kamm asked what parking lot the park is going to use because the soccer field gets crowded during games and there is never any parking. Erich Kamm added that the existing parking is adequate for only recreation, not the proposed park.
  - Chair Alison Fleeson added that the Borough does not have the ability to open the footprint of the parking lot.
  - Erich Kamm expressed the field is used excessively. Nancy Krause added that if the Borough adds parking to the side of Roosevelt Boulevard, it will most likely be attracted during soccer games. Erich Kamm suggested nose-in parking for the park. Chair Alison Fleeson added that no pavement can be added and that the Borough may be able to use the two (2) lots across the street from the proposed park and that the footprint may be able to be used for parking.
  - Erich Kamm asked if there is enough room for nose-in parking all the way down Roosevelt Boulevard.
  - Carol Peterson added that there is not room for nose-in parking due to ditches along the road.
  - Erich Kamm disagreed and added that nose-in parking may provide spaces for specifically the park.

- Carol Peterson added that the northern spots on the map have deep depressions on the front edge of the properties, so the southern lots are the only lots feasible for parking at this time.
- Secretary Michael Carelli added that Block 1605 Lot 4 and 5 are good locations for parking and lot 5 may be good for diagonal parking. Chair Alison Fleeson added that the existing parking can connect to Lot 5 for parking and that the Commission must ask the Borough's Floodplain Manager if that is allowed.
- Erich Kamm asked if Lot 12 is wide enough for parking. Chair Alison Fleeson added that there is a swale in the middle of the property which has deep depressions, so it is not feasible for parking on Lot 12. Chair Alison Fleeson added that there will be no paving at this time involved in the grant application/project, and paving will be included as part of a Phase 2 project.
- Erich Kamm asked what the Environmental Commissions' role is for this project.
- Chair Alison Fleeson added that the public hearing is June 24, 2020 at the Borough Council Meeting. Erich Kamm asked if the Environmental Commission would like to adopt a resolution in support of the grant for the next meeting on July 7, 2020. Chair Alison Fleeson added that a letter will be drafted, and it has been done for other grants for the Green Team.
- On motion of Commissioner Erich Kamm, seconded by Commissioner Nancy Krause, the Environmental Commission Chair is to write a letter of support to the Borough of Oakland Governing Body in support of the 2020 County of Bergen Open Space Park Improvement Program 'Roosevelt Riverfront Park' Application.
  1. **ROLL CALL:**
    - a. **YEAS:** Chair Alison Fleeson, Commissioner Nancy Krause, Commissioner Erich Kamm, Commissioner Carol Peterson, Commissioner Elisabeth Ochoa.
    - b. **NAYS:** None.
    - c. **ABSENT UPON ROLL CALL:** Commissioner Dylan Warner, Commissioner Alex Myers, Commissioner Jeff Smyrychynski, and Commissioner Lee Haymon.

**6. Close Meeting:**

- On motion made by Chair Alison Fleeson, seconded by Nancy Krause, the meeting be adjourned at 8:11 p.m.
- **ROLL CALL:**
  1. **YEAS,** Commissioner Carol Peterson, Commissioner Erich Kamm, Commissioner Alison Fleeson, Commissioner Elisabeth Ochoa, Commissioner Nancy Krause.
  2. **NAYS:** None
  3. **ABSTAIN:** None

Meeting Adjourned