

Great Oak Park Committee
Meeting Minutes March 11, 2014
Danny D'Elia Building 24 Lawlor Drive Oakland, NJ 07436

Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Guadagnino at 8:01 pm.

The following Committee members were present: Mike Guadagnino, Lee Haymon, Nancy Larkin, Mark Ostapczuk and Steve Saliani. Council Liaison Chris Visconti was absent. Also present: Tim Contrini, Recording Secretary, Councilman Pat Pignatelli and Councilman Eric Kulmala.

Meeting Announcement:

Chairman Guadagnino: This meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law duly announced and posted in the municipal building.

Open to the Public:

A motion to open the meeting to the public was made by S. Saliani and seconded by L. Haymon, all yeas.

No public wished to speak.

A motion to close the meeting to the public was made by L. Haymon and seconded by S. Saliani, all yeas.

Approval of Minutes: 10/16/2013, 11/12/2013, 12/4/2013 and 2/11/2014

Chairman Guadagnino reported the minutes from 10/16/2013, 11/12/2013 and 12/4/2013 are not yet available for approval. M. Ostapczuk made a motion to approve the minutes from 2/11/2014, seconded by L. Haymon, all yeas.

Work Session:

Status of Eric Kozak's Walking Trails Project:

Chairman Guadagnino reported that Eric is set and ready just waiting for snow to melt.

Removal of Dead Trees, Branches and Limbs:

Chairman Guadagnino reported that Downs Tree Service of Hawthorne will be donating their services for this project. Chairman Guadagnino also reported that he again went over the previously marked dead trees, branches and limbs to be removed with Shade Tree as to avoid any issues. This project will start as soon as the snow is gone and the ground is stable.

Status of Doty Road Sign Replacement:

Chairman Guadagnino reported that this project will start as soon as the large pile of snow in front of the sign melts. Also, any cost for this project will be paid by money already raised from the Pleasureland tee-shirt sales.

Will Fern's Scout Project Proposal:

Chairman Guadagnino reported that the Borough Council has given formal approval for this project. Will expects to start as soon as the snow melts and conditions in the park improve.

Old Business:

Status of 501c3 and fundraising efforts:

Chairman Guadagnino reported that the Borough Council has approved the agreement between the SAO, (Sports Association of Oakland) and the Great Oak Park. The SAO will act as the financial arm of the Park.

Master Plan-Boswell Engineering:

Chairman Guadagnino presented the first draft of the Great Oak Park Concept Plan that Boswell Engineering completed. Although there are a few changes to make overall it looks very good. Frank Rossi of Boswell has been in contact with Andy Clark of the DEP and Mr. Clark would like to do a site visit when the snow is gone. All committee members were pleased to hear that communication with the DEP has begun. Chairman Guadagnino stated that once fundraising has fully begun one of the first goals would be to pay back the Borough in full for any money it has spent on the Great Oak Park project.

Bird Houses-SAO and Donor:

Chairman Guadagnino reported that the students currently taking the SAO art classes will be donating many very colorfully painted bird houses to brighten up the park. In addition, a private donor who wishes to remain anonymous will be donating 40 bird houses. Also a walk-thru the park took place recently with this donor, Chairman Guadagnino and a nature expert the donor brought in to scout locations for these birdhouses. Councilman Kulmala asked if the schools still had shop classes and if so they may be interested in making some bird houses also. He will be meeting with superintendent Coffaro soon and will inquire. Councilman Pignatelli suggested a bird watching club be formed and all thought that was a good idea and further discussion will take place. Indian Hills High School already has a bird watchers club and they will be contacted.

New Business:

Parking Around the Park:

Chairman Guadagnino stated that an area must be established for parking before any work can commence. Looking at the Concept Plan a couple of areas would work but he needs to talk with Borough Administrator Richard Kunze to see what steps need to be taken to get this moving. A meeting with Mr. Kunze is already scheduled for this Friday.

Fundraising Efforts:

Chairman Guadagnino reported that he was approached by resident Mike Costello with an idea to hold a 5K run to raise money. The run would start and end at the park and would take place in the fall. All agreed this would be a great event and further planning will take place.

Earth Day Event:

Lee Haymon stated the Environmental Commission will be performing a cleanup of Stewarts Woods on Saturday April 26th in celebration of Earth Day and suggested we hold a cleanup at Great Oak Park the same day. All thought this was a great idea, not only will the park get some much needed TLC the public would have an opportunity to come out and see the park and get excited about it. The start time is 11:00 am and M. Ostapczuk will be handling the details and advertising it, S. Saliani will be the contact and handling the group signups.

Liaison Report:

No liaison report due to Councilman Visconti being absent.

Open to the Public:

A motion to open the meeting to the public was made by M. Ostapczuk and seconded by L. Haymon, all yeas.

No public wished to speak.

A motion to close the meeting to the public was made by M. Ostapczuk and seconded by L. Haymon, all yeas.

Schedule April Meeting:

Chairman Guadagnino suggested April 22, 2014 at 8:00 pm for the next meeting and all were in agreement. He also stated that he would inform Borough Clerk Lisa Duncan.

Adjournment:

At 8:35 pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chairman Guadagnino and seconded by L. Haymon, all yeas.

Tim Contrini

Recording Secretary

