

Great Oak Park Committee
Meeting Minutes April 22, 2014
Senior Center 20 Lawlor Drive Oakland, NJ 07436

Flag Salute

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Guadagnino at 8:06 pm.

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

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 3/11/2014

Chairman Guadagnino reported the minutes from 10/16/2013, 11/12/2013 and 12/4/2013 will be available for approval next meeting. L. Haymon made a motion to approve the minutes from 3/11/2014, seconded by M. Ostapczuk, all yeas.

Work Session:

Status of Dead Trees, Branches and Limbs Removal: (Downes Tree Service)

Chairman Guadagnino reported that Downs Tree Service of Hawthorne will be removing all the dead trees, dangling dead branches and dead trees on the ground that are considered dangerous to pedestrians. Downes should be in the park within the next two weeks and the estimated time to complete the work is 5 days.

Status of Eric Kozak's Walking Trails Project:

On hold until the tree work is done.

Status of Will Ferns's Doty Road Project:

On hold until the tree work is done.

Status of Doty Road Sign Replacement:

Chairman Guadagnino reported that the sign poles have been painted by Wagoner and Son Contracting of Oakland. They donated the paint, dark green, and the labor. The sign will be purchased in the upcoming weeks and installed shortly afterwards.

Old Business:**Parking:**

Chairman Guadagnino reported that he meet with Chief of Police Kasper last month and parking located at the Park entrance off Doty Road and at the old Mueller's Park entrance behind Portobellos is not permitted as official parking. An agreement with the owner of Portobellos for temporary parking on his property is being pursued until parking in the Park is permitted.

Fundraising Efforts:

Chairman Guadagnino reported that he and borough resident Mike Costello are planning a 5K run slated for this fall. After much investigation it was determined that the only area to hold this event would be the McBride Corporate Park off Long Hill Road.

Master Plan-Boswell Engineering-DEP Site Visit

Chairman Guadagnino reported that no significant progress has been made on the master plan since the last meeting. The Chairman also reported that a site visit from the DEP has been scheduled for this Thursday April 24, 2014, between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. The main focus of this site visit is to look at parking lots and paved surfaces. Council President Visconti stated he will try to attend.

Bird Houses-SAO and Donor:

Chairman Guadagnino reported that the 55 birdhouses from the private donor will be delivered next week and will be stored in the Recreation Shed until the dead branches and limbs are removed before they will be installed. The donor is hiring a professional to install them. The birdhouses should attract song birds, owls, wood ducks, bats and butterflies. They range in size from 10" x 16" to 12" to 36". They will be installed 6' to 10' off the ground along the center path and some of the side roads. Barring any severe storms their life span is 10 + years. The SAO is also working on many colorful birdhouses they will donate.

New Business:**Prune trees around Mueller's Park Entrance and RVR:**

Chairman Guadagnino reported that Vanderbeck Tree Co. of the Borough would like to donate their time and equipment to prune the overgrown trees around the old Mueller's Park entrance, the new sign area and approximately 500' along the sidewalk. The only concern is that the work is located at the outskirts of the park, and by Ramapo Valley Road; he feels it may be best to limit any noise, safety hazards or disruption. Extra attention that may come from any pre-advertising of this project in the media may draw onlookers and traffic. We need to be concerned about our neighbors at Portobello's as well as those traveling along Ramapo Valley Road. Chairman Guadagnino is very appreciative for the help but for safety concerns no media or observers will be allowed in the Park while work is being done.

The rest of the committee was in agreement. Chairman Guadagnino will talk to Vanderbeck and ask him to keep advertising to a minimum and not to have media involved while the project is going on. Any post advertising about the project after it is complete is fine.

Wildlife Management Plan- Audubon Society Walk Through:

Chairman Guadagnino stated that he feels that there has been a disconnect between the Great Oak Park Committee and the Environmental Commission over the past couple months. One member of the Environmental Commission has said the Park Committee is not paying attention to some details, mainly the lack of a Wildlife Management Plan while he invited the Audubon Society to walk the property without informing the park committee about such a meeting. Also the Environmental Commission Liaison has voiced some concerns in the past of having no idea what the park committee is doing. Chairman Guadagnino stated that all are welcome to attend these meetings to voice their concerns or read the minutes on the Borough website to get the facts on what we're doing, as well as Councilman Visconti always gives an in-depth and thorough liaison report at every council meeting. There is also a website (www.NewOaklandPark.com) and Facebook page that gives out all the information. In addition, Chairman Guadagnino said that he attended an Environmental Commission Meeting in the beginning and met with Lee Haymon to make sure the correct steps concerning the environment would be followed when planning the park transformation. He also said it is very important that we have two Environmental Commission members on the Park Committee and that he always looks to their lead on any and all environmental issues. Lee Haymon responded that he sits on the Environmental Commission and feels there is no disconnect, that unfortunately he wasn't at the last Environmental Commission meeting and may have quelled some of these issues. Lee continued that the Park Committee is taking the appropriate steps, just that some individuals have voiced their own opinions, which are not representative of the entire Environmental Commission; the majority of the commission are very excited about this project. Mark Ostapczuk who is also on the Environmental Commission agreed. Lee said he would bring these issues up at their next meeting and try to work this all out.

Park Clean-Up (Saturday 4-26-14, 11: 00 am to 2:00 pm):

S. Saliani reported that he has 7 individuals and one girl scout group so far signed up for the clean up on Saturday. Stop and Shop of Franklin Lakes has offered to donate some items that may be needed, all agreed to accept the offer and Steve will communicate with them.

M. Ostapczuk reported that he has clear bags he purchased for recyclable materials and the borough gave him black bags for garbage. Also, the Environmental Commission is doing a clean-up of Stewart Woods in the morning and they will move to Great Oak Park when they finish. Chairman Guadagnino stated that he will continue advertising through the end of the week.

Liaison Report:

Council Liaison Visconti reported that Borough Administrator Kunze and Boswell continue to be in contact concerning the Master Plan. Councilman Visconti stated he will announce the information about the Park Clean Up this weekend at the next council meeting scheduled for tomorrow, 4/23/14. Also there is no update as of when the ground water testing will be done.

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 May Meeting:

Chairman Guadagnino suggested May 13, 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 8:34 pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by M. Ostapczuk and seconded by L. Haymon, all yeas.

Tim Contrini
Recording Secretary