

**Great Oak Park Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes June 10, 2014**  
**Danny D'Elia Building 24 Lawlor Drive Oakland, NJ 07436**

**Flag Salute**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Guadagnino at 8:02 pm.

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

**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 S. Saliani and seconded by L. Haymon, all yeas.

**Approval of Minutes: 10/16/2013, 11/12/2013, 12/4/2013, 4/22/2014 and 5/13/2014.**

Chairman Guadagnino reported the minutes from 2013 are still being completed.

A motion was made by L. Haymon to approve the minutes from 4/22/2014 and 5/13/2014 seconded by Nancy Larkin, all yeas.

**Work Session:**

**Vanderbeck Tree Pruning:**

Chairman Guadagnino reported that Vanderbeck Tree Service is approximately half way done with their portion of the tree trimming. The area around the new sign is complete and looks great.

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

Chairman Guadagnino reported that Downes Tree Service is complete with their portion of the tree work. There is still some tree work to be done so Chairman Guadagnino will be looking for another tree company to help finish.

**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 new sign has arrived and resident Peter Kikot is taking care of the mounting and installation.

**Bike Rack:**

Chairman Guadagnino reported the Recreation Commission has purchased several new bike racks and one has been installed at the Park, near the Doty Road entrance.

**Old Business:****DEP Meeting:**

Councilman Visconti reported that he meet with Boswell as a follow-up to the DEP meeting and site visit that was held on April 24<sup>th</sup> 2014. The DEP has requested that all of the paved surfaces be exposed to inspect their current condition. Our DPW will complete this task. The DEP may allow parking where the old swimming pools were. There would be some leveling to do and Boswell is to take some measurements and forward them to the DEP.

**Fundraising Efforts:**

Chairman Guadagnino reported the following; The SAO will have a booth at this year's carnival and will be selling the remaining Pleasureland Tee Shirts as well as new Great Oak Park Tee Shirts that are being made up. The SAO had to lend Great Oak Park the funds to purchase the new shirts since all the money raised so far for Great Oak Park has been spent on the new sign, the naming contest and maps. The SAO is now able to accept tax deductible donations online; donations can be made to the Walking Path, Great Oak Park or the SAO. A full reporting of the fundraising efforts has been given to Boro Administrator Rich Kunze.

**New Business:****Bike Trail:**

A presentation was given by borough resident Steve Wagoner, 16 Arrowhead Road, for a proposed bike trail at the park. Mr. Wagoner is a member of the IMBA, (International Mountain Bicycling Association), and an avid trail rider. The proposed trail would be designed by his close friend and fellow IMBA member Art White, who was also in attendance, with input from the committee. The construction would be done by volunteers including several IMBA members. In addition Mr. Wagoner stated that local bike shop Pedal Sports has committed to pay for and install trail signage and to maintain the trail once it is completed.

The following text is from a handout given to the committee from Mr. Wagoner.

"The objective in building the Oakland Bike Park is to provide a fun safe area for beginner to advanced riders to enjoy a safe bike riding experience. The goal is to build a sustainable natural trail system using the latest trail building technologies utilizing the natural surroundings including existing contours and features. First and foremost the trails will be designed to protect the existing natural environment which will be accomplished by expert trail design using the latest recognized trail building techniques used by IMBA with the main focus being on proper sheet flow, water runoff and erosion. The trails will be designed completely avoiding the "fall lines" and designed in such a way to incorporate frequent gradual transitions within the

natural contours within the given space. Every effort will be made to keep riders on the trails and water the ability to properly runoff. An inclinometer will be used throughout construction to insure the maximum grade will not exceed 15% with the exception of natural or built rock structures, over 90% of the trails being built with less than 10% grade using frequent grade reversals. Any long climbs or descents will be interrupted using grade reversals to aid in drainage. A proper crib wall shall be built to support a partial bench, and as in all trails the tread will maintain a 5 to 7% out slope. All brush (sticker bushes, vines etc.) are to be cut back only where necessary, the remainder shall stay to protect the area from erosion and define the actual trail. No living trees are to be removed and any dead or fallen trees may either be completely removed or utilized to create a natural feature.”

L. Haymon asked if there would be any formal plans drawn up before construction begins. Mr. White responded that there would not be a formal set of plans before. The common practice is the site would be walked, while using GPS and survey tape a rough trail would be marked out with pin flags. At this point committee members and borough officials could see the proposed trail and research would be done to make sure the trail does not interfere with wildlife or protected areas. Once the trail location is agreed upon a formal plan could be drawn up. L. Haymon stated that he will attend the initial walk thru of the site with Mr. White. Councilman Pignatelli asked if the trail would host events or just be used informally. Mr. Wagoner responded that it could host events or not it would be up to the town. Chairman Guadagnino suggested that a preliminary walkthrough be done to determine feasibility, L. Haymon, S. Salianni and himself would accompany Mr. White and Mr. Wagoner. Lastly, Chairman Guadagnino stated that borough council approval would be needed before any work could be done.

### **Portobello's**

Chairman Guadagnino reported that he met with representatives of Portobello's Restaurant to discuss the possibility of Great Oak Park visitors parking in their lot until permanent parking is established inside the park. Portobello's offered to allow the temporary parking if once the parking area in Great Oak Park is completed they could use it for overflow parking for the restaurant. L. Haymon responded that Great Oak Park is open space and this arrangement would never be allowed.

### **Stream Work:**

Councilman Visconti reported that the DEP has given the approval to clean up the C1 stream that runs through the park. L. Haymon stated that no machines can be used it has to be done by hand. It was decided that a volunteer stream clean up event will be held on Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am. Chairman Guadagnino said he will advertise it on social media.

### **Liaison Report:**

Councilman Visconti stated that his report items were already covered.

**Open to the Public:**

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

No Public wished to speak.

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

**Schedule July Meeting:**

Chairman Guadagnino suggested July 8, 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 8:52 pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by S. Salianni and seconded by L. Haymon, all yeas.

**Tim Contrini**  
**Recording Secretary**