

## **Great Oak Park Meeting 8/7/13 Draft Meeting Minutes**

The following Committee members were present: M. Guadagnino, C. Visconti, M. Ostapczuk, N. Larkin, L. Haymon

M. Guadagnino opened the meeting to the public at 8:00 pm on a motion.

Eric Kozak (24 Cayuga Ave) opened the session. He is a Boy Scout, and is looking for a project to earn his Eagle Scout. Mike Guadagnino explained that the environmental issues are currently being evaluated, and he will contact Eric when it is determined what projects are available.

The 7/8/13 minutes were approved on a motion.

The By-Laws were approved on a motion.

### **Threatened & Endangered Species Report**

L. Haymon explained the results of the report. The report stated that there were bobcats and several species of birds sighted on the park property. Due to the presence of these animals, the clearing of brush on previous unused land would be limited. Permits from the DEP may have to be obtained to clear dense brush and trees. Clearing of the original trails through the park area shouldn't be an issue.

M. Guadagnino asked how long will the DEP take to make decisions and L. Haymon responded not too long maybe a couple months.

There was a general discussion about bobcats, other animals, reptiles and plants that were found on the park property.

M. Guadagnino inquired if he should bring DEP down so we can get an idea of how many permits will be required. L. Haymon responded that it was best to get the DEP involved as early as possible.

### **Friends of Park 501(c)3**

Margaret Kourgelis will be head of the fundraising committee. To date \$650 dollars have been raised through the sale of Pleasureland t-shirts.

M. Guadagnino and Margaret Kourgelis will start in September getting the 501(c) forms completed.

### **Permit Matrix**

L. Haymon will start putting together a permit matrix. The permit matrix is a good organizational tool that will list projects to be included in the park, making it easier to determine what permits will be required.

## **Election of Name**

M. Guadagnino suggested that we pick the name similar to the way that the NJ Devil's name was selected. Supporters of each name for the park will write an article to be published in the Suburban and other news sources. This will most likely take place after the general election. He discussed with K. Heffernan that he would like him involved in the process. Election will take place online as well as paper mail in ballots.

## **Independent Blog site by Debbie Sarcone**

D. Sarcone created an objective web site to notify people about what is going on with the park, and how things are proceeding. For example, she will include DEP approvals and any fundraising that is going on.

## **Sub-Committees**

There will be several sub-committees, for example skate park, dog park, etc.. M. Guadagnino discussed the fact that we are not ready to set these committees up yet. We will get a better foundation when the permit matrix is completed and we know where we stand with the DEP. More planning is required before we proceed with the committees.

## **Meeting Schedule**

Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>

Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

## **New Business**

Trails – We can map out existing trails with a GPS. We should also look at the safety aspects. For example; How do we access park in case of an emergency? How close can emergency vehicles get and how can we get closer?

A base map can start to identify different areas and roads of the park, which will help answer these questions. The Boy Scouts are willing to help out with this.

Parking – The old parking lots are still there, also parking might be available where to old pools were.

## **Liaison Report**

C. Visconti will forward the Bylaws to the Boro Attorney.

## **Open to the Public**

G. Steele (39 River Rd) asked several questions about budgeting, fundraising, and research as to how other towns have financed their parks. M. Guadagnino informed her that the committee will look to receive grants, and donations through the 501c3 as well as there is current balance of \$650 from the sale of T-Shirts. Many people have also volunteered their time to help with many different aspects of the park. She can keep on top of what is being

done by going on to Debbie Sarcone's blog, which can be reached through the Oakland Rec web site, as well, as the Oakland Journal.

J. Graham (46 Hopper St) asked if the committee plans on doing a volunteer town clean up day? M. Ostapczuk said that the clean up started last year when we had people volunteer last year when they did a River clean up day. All agreed that another clean up day would be a good idea.

C. McCormick (161 Manito Ave) Inquired as to who will clean the brush and if we will try and relocate the bobcat that was sited in the DEP Report. M. Guadagnino told her that the boy scouts have already shown an interest in clearing the brush, and L. Haymon stated that the bobcats are free range animals and we can't relocate them.

M Treich (77 Cayuga Ave) Can we attach DEP report to the minutes? L. Haymon was going to look into this. Will wildlife biologist do a study and what would the cost and time frame be? L. Haymon stated that everything depends on how much land we wanted to clear. It can take a couple of weeks for a small area, an acre or more could take much longer. The parking lots are still there, so they are not much of a concern. The areas with higher concentrations of vegetation will be more of a concern because that is where wildlife tends to nest and live.

J. Graham (46 Hopper St) Will the walking path that is being proposed for the rec field connect with the walking paths in the park? M. Guadagnino said that hopefully that would happen at one point in the future.

B. Wyckoff (52 Loyola Pl) was concerned about old septic tanks. Are they filled in? Is there any chance of a collapse? C. Visconti stated that a Level 1 study has already been done, and the borough has already authorized a Level 2 study to be done. When the town purchased the land DPW went in and filled in the Pleasureland pools and removed the debris. Some parts of Pleasureland and Muller's Park will be saved and marked with plaques.

M Treich (77 Cayuga Ave) wanted to know what is the target date for the DEP visit? M. Guadagnino informed him that we were shooting for the fall. Once the permit matrix is complete we will have a better idea for fundraising and timing. We are shooting to have the existing trails open next spring.

C. McCormick (161 Manito Ave) inquired if it is legal to go into the parks now. M. Guadagnino stated it is considered public forest and you enter at your own risk.

M. Kozak (24 Cayuga Ave) asked if we should get the trails laid out first before clean-up? We will reach out to him and let him know.

Meeting was closed on a motion.