

# Minutes of the Open Space Committee

October 27, 2008

Councilmember Trawinski called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

**Present:** Councilmember Ed Trawinski, Manager Tom Metzler, Superintendent of Recreation Jim Graff, Crystal, Robbins, Heather Blecher, Michael Hakim, Ted King, Benny Salerno, Ira Frankel, Sharon Rendfrey, Maureen Moriarty, Jack Susser and Peter Weissberg.

**Absent:** Mayor Steven Weinstein, Joan Goldstein, Peter Kortright and Wendy Dabney.

## **Minutes and Attendance:**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

## **Updates:**

George Street Firehouse – Manager Metzler stated that the Borough has a tentative agreement with Fire Company 1. There are one or two minor issues that the attorneys are still working on. A letter was sent to Lisa Stern by the Mayor advising her that the Borough is moving forward with the purchase. The Borough is holding the Fire Company responsible for the removal of the macadam. Councilmember Trawinski stated that the Council unanimously approved it.

Michael Hakim stated that the municipalities, not for profit or volunteer organizations could have their filing fees waived, which include Planning or Zoning Board fees. The fees were approximately \$2,500, which includes escrow and filing fees.

Manager Metzler stated that 50% of those fees can be submitted to the State for reimbursement. The other 50% will come out of Fair Lawn's Open Space account. All of the survey, appraisal and filing fees can be added to the purchase price and submitted.

Michael Hakim stated that after all the costs are added up only 50% of that will come out of the Borough's Green Acres grant monies totaling \$450,000. The Borough still has a significant amount of money remaining in the grant and in addition to Open Space tax and monies collected.

Naugle House – At the request of Ira Levine, the attorney for the applicant, it has been postponed until December or January. The Property Maintenance Officer had contacted the building owner because some of the fencing around the property is down.

Turf Field – Manager Metzler stated that purchase orders have been cut for the environmental study and the soil borings. The soil borings are being done at the request of the turf manufacturer. They are doing an environmental study on the surface soil to make sure that there are no contaminants. The specifications have been drawn and approved by legal and engineering. The soil borings will be scheduled to take place after the last football game, which is scheduled for November 16. The Borough did receive a Community Development grant to replace all of the fencing around that area. They will take bids on the turf field in February. The Borough is looking to have this completed by June 1. Manager Metzler stated

that the specifications can be made to be product specific, but the Borough will go out for bid on the contractor that does the site work and will put the product down.

Councilmember Trawinski stated that the Borough will have to go out for bid on the fencing. It is important that if anyone says that the environmental homework is not being done to members on this committee, they need to understand that the Borough has more than done its environmental homework. Manager Metzler stated that the Council is committed to conduct site testing annually.

Trust for Public Land – Michael Hakim stated that the Borough has a new representative. Maureen Moriarty stated that she did make a call and our case is going back to Rich Haymayer.

Michael Hakim stated that he has spoken with others in the environmental field about TPL. TPL's funding is a portion of the difference between the purchase and the selling price, so when it is a higher amount, more funding goes to TPL.

The only property that TPL got involved with in Fair Lawn was the Haywood Tract. They spoke with the developers. TPL did look at Fair Lawn's Open Space Inventory, but were only interested in that one.

**Old Business:** Manager Metzler stated that there were a couple of memos handed out. Memos are not normally sent out via mail, but he does not know when his last day will be and he doesn't want anything to fall through the cracks. As a follow up to last month's meeting, Wendy Dabney had reported about the hill behind Commerce Bank washing out and she believed that it was part of the site plan. The Planning Board reviewed the site plan and there is nothing in there that indicated that they were to reinforce that hill.

Engineering has put on next year's project list to extend the sidewalk from Maple Avenue down Elm Street as far as Memorial Park.

The railroad ties that were reported to be at the Dobrow Complex could not be located; however numerous telephone poles were located there. Those poles will be auctioned at the next Borough Auction.

**New Business:** Councilmember Trawinski asked Michael Hakim if the Borough has had a response on their amendments. Michael Hakim stated that there has been no response, but he made sure that the letter that went to Green Acres announced the Borough's success on Fire Company 1's property. He requested that Green Acres pass a copy of that letter along to those who are reviewing the Borough's application for additional funding.

Councilmember Trawinski stated that the President of Lackland Storage stated in an e-mail that he was still willing to donate that property to the Borough for a pocket park. It is now in the Borough Attorney's hands. Councilmember Trawinski asked the Manager for a status report from Bruce Rosenberg for the next meeting.

A question was raised since the committee is Open Space and Recreation, does the committee have any overlap with the Rec Center. Teenagers were asked why they didn't go to the Rec Center and they stated that the hours of operation were not suitable for them. Councilmember Trawinski stated that concerns about the hours of operation should be

discussed with the 501(c)3 and Recreation Superintendent Graff. It is not perceived as a “cool place” to hang out for the high school kids, but for the middle school kids it is.

Ira Frankel stated that near Sampson Road, there is a strip of land that is empty space that could possibly be used for a swing set or benches. Recreation Superintendent Graff stated that he believed that playground equipment was not put there because Berdan Grove is right around the corner. It is possible to look for people to donate benches so they will be in some of these pocket parks for people to sit on. The Adopt a Bench program has been advertised. They could be put in any park.

Councilmember Trawinski stated that this would probably be the last meeting for Manager Metzler. Maureen Moriarty thanked Manager Metzler for coming to every meeting and helping the committee.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 24, 2008 but had been rescheduled for Monday, December 1, 2008.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 1, 2008.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.