

Montvale Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
12 Mercedes Drive, Montvale, New Jersey
Council Chambers at 7:45 pm
June 19, 2017

Acting Chairwoman L. Skoglund called the meeting of the Environmental Commission to order at 7:45 pm. adequate notice of this meeting was provided to The Record and/or the Ridgewood News, informing the Public of the time and place, according to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law (Chapter 231, P.L.1975).

Roll call: D. Eichhorn (A), Chairman R. Hanrahan (P), M. Jensen (A), R. Johnson (P), M. Kelly (P), R. Preston (P), L. Skoglund (P), & PB Council Liaison D. Teagno (P)

Non-Members: Secretary J. Russo (P) & Councilman Koelling (A)

Contractual Employee: Gus De Blasio, Maser Consulting P.A. Landscape Architect (A)

Guest: Dr. Beth Ravit, Assistant Research Professor at Rutgers & Co-Director-Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability

Pledge of Allegiance – R. Hanrahan

Approval of the Minutes from the May 15, 2017 Meeting

- A motion to approve the minutes was made by R. Preston and seconded by L.Skoglund.
- The minutes were approved & will be posted on the borough website.

Communication/Correspondence

- Value of Tree brochure is available thru the building department & on the website.

Meeting Opened/Closed to the Public

- A motion to open the meeting to the Public was made by D. Teagno & seconded by R. Preston. There was no one from the public wishing to be heard. A motion to close the meeting to the Public was made by R. Preston and seconded by D. Teagno.

Old Business

- Tree ordinance discussion. Chairman Hanrahan will contact Mr. De Blasio regarding final comments.
- A list of vacant land in the borough will be emailed to Chairman Hanrahan. Chairman Hanrahan is interested in borough acquiring some lots. At the June M&C meeting it will be determined if the borough will be purchasing a particular piece of land in the borough.
- BC Master Plan park survey which was accessible from Montvale website is closed. Result from the survey is available at www.cues.rutgers.edu/bergen-park-system
- Inter-connect walkway from Wegmans to Environmental Learning Center, Chairman Hanrahan discussed this possibility with Borough Engineer and PB Chairman. There are many factors to consider including safety. The plans for the walkway will be consistent with what is currently on the site plan.
- There has been no updates on Suez potential Inter-Municipal Trail Route. Secretary will contact Mayor Ghassali regarding the status and email members an update.

- Building & Grounds Coordinator, Mr. Fette has requested drawings from local landscapers for Center of town on Kinderkamack Road. No final decision has been made. Project has been budgeted for 2017.

Presentation by Guess Speaker

- Beth Ravit, PhD, assistant Research Professor and Co_Director-Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CUES) presented a power point presentation regarding Bergen County park system. There is a master plan of the park system which has been a two year project. Data has been collected from an online survey regarding what is future needs of parks. One of the objective is to develop an easier form of transportation between the parks. For update to date information please visit <http://cues.rutgers.edu>.
- A thank you letter will be sent to Dr. Ravit.

Planning Board Liaison Report

- D. Teagno provided brief report.

New Business

- Landscaping suggestions for Pee-Wee Field (located next to United Way project).
- No budget has been set. Parking for use of the field & access for pedestrians was discussed.
- Creating a focal point of interest; sculpture, water feature, or peaceful area were suggested. Not favorable location for dog park.
- Due to close proximity to residential homes, EC believes there should be limited hours and access to park area. Replacement of the fence around the perimeter was also recommended.
- Multi uses for the land, which was formerly the swim club. Suggestions were open recreational field, walking path and other ideas. Dog park was dismissed due to extra traffic and close proximity to ball fields, residential neighborhood, and the playground.
- New "Welcome to Montvale" signs for center of town was discussed. Possible Boys Scouts project.
- Install additional pavers and bench at Veterans Memorial Park, in center of town. Possible Boys Scouts project.
- Promoting local corporations sustainability products on website. Secretary will check with web site Council Liaison Curry and report back.
- Welcomed new member Melinda Kelly to the EC. M. Kelly provided the EC with her background information.

Adjournment

- R.Hanrahan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by R. Preston and seconded by D. Teagno. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Members will be emailed in the event the meeting is cancelled. The agenda will be posted on the Borough's website. Members are reminded to notify Janet Russo or Chairman Hanrahan if they are unable to attend a meeting. Next meeting is July 17.