

February 7, 2017

A Public meeting of the Township Council was held in the Municipal Building at 6:30 p.m. and was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present

Councilwoman Marianna Pontoriero
Councilman Paul Mummolo
Councilwoman Heather deJong
Councilwoman Lisa Crate
Councilman Jim Fozman
Council Vice President Andrea Zapcic
Council President Arthur Halloran

Also Present

Mayor John G. Ducey
Kevin Starkey, Township Attorney
Lynnette A. Iannarone, Township Clerk
Joanne Bergin, Business Administrator

Clerk Iannarone announced adequate notice of this meeting was provided and published in Asbury Park Press on January 13, 2017. Copies of the agenda were provided to the newspapers, posted on public bulletin boards and the township website (www.bricktownship.net). Please note that each person addressing the Council during any section of the meeting during which public comment is permitted shall limit his/her remarks to five minutes pursuant to Brick Township Administrative Code Section 2 -33B.

President Halloran advised the purpose of the hearing is to provide an overview and to solicit comment and feedback on the Township's application to the NJDEP Green Acres Program for a multi-park improvement project. These hearings are being held in accordance with the public notice advertised on January 13, 2017 as outlined by the NJDEP Green Acres Program. He advised Council Vice President Andrea Zapcic who chairs the Recreation Department will discuss the projects. The projects will include: Bayside Park, Hank Waltonowski Memorial Park and Bernie Cook Memorial Park.

Vice President Zapcic explained this year's funding request is part of the Township's overall goal to maintain and enhance whenever possible the playgrounds, parks and other recreation areas in town. The Township has completed several playground & park reconstruction/construction projects over the past 5 years, including Traders Cove, Drum Point Sports Complex & Playground, Emma Havens, Midstreams, Arrowhead, Windward Beach, Herbertsville Park, Lake Riviera Park, Angela Hibbard Park and the reconstruction of the municipal Tennis Courts. In all of those projects, the Township leveraged funds as much as possible to lessen the financial impact. She said they have included all of the proposed park projects for this grant to be partially funded through current No Net Loss Forestry Grants to fund acquisition and installation of shade and street trees. She advised this allows us to match grant funds with grant funds to lower our capital expenditures. Green Acres and No Net Loss Forestry Grants can both be used as a match as they come from different state allocations of funding. She said the Township's multipark project includes improvements at several locations: Hank Waltonowski Memorial Park (also known as Birchwood Park); Bayside Park and Bernie Cook Memorial Park. This project seeks to improve three neighborhood parks to increase their functionality and sustainability for future Brick residents to use. These parks experience a great deal of wear and tear in the community and are in need of redevelopment.

She explained Hank Waltonowski Memorial Park in the Birchwood Park neighborhood includes the complete renovation and rehabilitation of this 4.23 acre park. Currently, a t-ball field and substandard playground and parking exist at the site. She said the proposed improvements and enhancements will serve to augment the safety, usability, and accessibility of this park to the benefit of the community it serves and include playgrounds for 2- to 5-year olds and 6- to 12-year olds, a gazebo, two basketball courts, walking track, multipurpose fields, fencing, pavers, lighting, landscaping, security cameras and improved parking. She said the improvement to this park will also provide additional access to the adjacent Warren Wolf Elementary School.

She explained Bernie Cook Memorial Park has been impacted by the NJ Department of Transportation Garden State Parkway Interchange 91 Reconstruction. This 6.65 acre park redevelopment will include a walking track, gazebo, benches, picnic tables, bike racks, basketball courts, softball & multipurpose fields, fencing, pavers, playgrounds for 2- to 5-year olds and 6- to 12-year-olds, safety surface, bike course, skate park amenities, drainage, parking lot, landscaping, lighting, irrigation, security cameras, water service and other amenities.

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She explained Bayside Park includes the complete renovation of the 2.25 acre park located on the Barnegat Bay. She advised this park was damaged during the severe flooding experienced from Super Storm Sandy and subsequently from debris removal activities on the barrier island and the Rt. 35 reconstruction project. She explained the park development will include new walkways, boardwalk, gazebo, shade structures, seating, retaining walls, pavers, benches, tables, bike racks, fish cleaning stations, guard rails, landscaping, lighting, irrigation, security cameras, water service playgrounds for 2- to 5-year olds and 6- to 12-year olds, parking improvements and other amenities. She noted improvements to the dock/fishing pier will also be completed with funds already earmarked for Sandy recovery.

She stated this application will provide the Township with sufficient funding to pursue the implementation of the referenced improvements, which are necessary to ensure the sustainability of these facilities. This project is critical due to the fact that the three parks serve both the passive and active recreational needs of the community. In addition, the fields support multiple recreational activities, and provide easy access to their surrounding neighborhoods. As a community which boasts some of the best recreational facilities in Ocean County, with over 15% of its land set aside for recreational or conservation purposes, the town's success depends upon its ability to maintain and improve its park system. She said the Township has successfully redeveloped seven neighborhood and regional parks over the past seven years with the assistance of the Green Acres program. She pointed out the Township has over 675 acres of active recreational lands to maintain, improve and upgrade. It is essential to continue to invest in our infrastructure. She said the goal of this project is to ensure the sustainability of three parks that are in need of redevelopment and modernization, and protect the public's ability to use them throughout the future.

She advised the cost estimates for the parks are as follows:

- Hank Waltonowski Park - \$1,430,020.00– Plans and specifications completed and will be bid for construction something this spring.
- Bernie Cook Park - \$1,710,000.00 - The project is in the design stages and work will begin following the completion of the Garden State Parkway expansion project.
- Bayside Park - \$714,000.00– The project is in the design stage and work will begin following the completion of the Army Corps of Engineers Beach Replenishment project.
- Total construction costs for all projects: \$3,854,020.00
- The Township's grant request includes 50% of all costs including construction, soft costs and the phase 1 preliminary site assessment and totals \$2,182,396.30.

President Halloran opened the public hearing on the Park Development Grant Project.

Steven Brill, 806 Jenny Court, asked how much is the No Net Loss Grant contributing toward Bernie Cook Park.

Joanne Bergin responded they are reimbursed \$300 per tree from the No Net Loss Grant.

There were no further comments from the audience.

President Halloran closed the public hearing on the Park Development Grant Project.

Motion by Councilwoman deJong and seconded by Councilwoman Pontoriero to Adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

All Council Members voted AYE.

Arthur Halloran
Council President

Lynnette A. Iannarone
Township Clerk