

Rahway Environmental Commission

MINUTES

Thursday, June 9, 2022

7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m.

ROLL CALL

On a call of the roll, the following Commissioners and Officials were present:

Mr. Jeffrey Robinson, Chairman
Mr. Joseph Paszek, Commissioner
Ms. Clea Carchia, Commissioner
Ms. Denise Rolong, Commissioner
Ms. Gina Holmes, Clerk

Absent:

Mr. James Keane, Commissioner
Mr. Alexander Parker, Commissioner
Ms. Michelle Gil, Commissioner
Mr. Eric Hausker, First Alternate Commissioner
Mr. Jordan Parham, Second Alternate Commissioner
Ms. Joanna Miles, Council Liaison

FLAG SALUTE

MINUTES

Approval of minutes of the Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 12, 2022

Motion: Commissioner Rolong

Seconded: Commissioner Paszek

SPEAKER

None

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Pranita Bijlani – 103 Princeton Ave., Rahway, NJ – pranita.bijlani@gmail.com

Councilman Dave Brown

COMMUNICATIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UC Air Traffic Noise Advisory Board - (Chairman Robinson is the EC rep to this Board)
No Meeting

Bayway CAP – (Commissioner Paszek is the EC rep to this Board)
Meeting on 6/8/22 with scholarship presentations to students from Linden, Elizabeth and Staten Island.

Letter to UC Chairman of Open Trust Fund Al Mirabella – Bazega Park

Letter to UC Parks Director Ron Zuber – Bramhall Road County Park site

Rain Garden – no update – still waiting to hear from City Engineer, Dan Lee about the curb cuts.

Sustainability Jersey Application – City Engineer, Daniel Lee is working with the City of Rahway's grant writer, Millennium Group to complete the application.

LEED Requirements for redevelopers – no update, will be reaching out to Robert Landolfi.

Opportunity to tour Waste Management food waste recycling facility in Elizabeth – Due to a fire the facility is closed.

Protecting municipal stormwater rights – a copy of our Resolution has been given to Councilwoman Miles to submit to the City Council.

Smoke Detectors will be accepted at Union County Hazardous Waste Collection Dates

NEW BUSINESS

Shade Tree Committee – Update/Report from Commissioner Parham – not in attendance

Federick Law Olmstead, Sr. – 200th Anniversary of Birth – designed Union County Park system.
Father of Landscape architecture – www.olmstead200.org

Montclair's Native Plant Ordinance – not sure if this has passed yet

Sustainable Jersey Sustainability Summit – 6/24/22 – 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Chairman Robinson and Commissioner Rolong will be attending.

NJ Electric Vehicle Ordinance – parking spaces charging for electric cars

Rahway Review – Chairman Robinson gave Lauren our Mission Statement for a possible article on the Environmental Commission in the next issue.

Chairman Robinson plans on taking a tour of the Tiny Forest in Summit on 6/18/22 at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Bijlana spoke about bird loss in the Arthur Kill Complex which is 1 of 120 important bird areas in N.J. Also spoke about how important it will be to have shrubs planted at the Wolf Farm for birds and thinks that the Audubon Society will help, they are already working at a park near Covanta. Councilman Brown is in charge of the Wolf Farm design, he works at the Union County Parks & Recreation Department. The Wolf Farm is 2.3 acres. He is willing to hear everyone's ideas and will review them all.

Friends of Rahway River Parkway are trying to get historical status for Rahway Park.

6/11/22 – 11:00 – 2:00 p.m. at Nomahegan Park – clean up

Chairman Robinson and Commissioner Rolong will be attending the NJ Sustainability Summit

Riverfest:

Help is need at the following times:

6/24/22 – 2:30 – 8:30 p.m.

6/25 & 6/26 – 11-5:00 p.m.

****Environmental Commission members should volunteer 6 hours for this event****

Planned vendors:

Seed Swap

Community Arts Project

Painting fish

Mini canoe trips

Live Birds of Prey Show

SITE PLAN REVIEW/PLANNING & ZONING BOARD ITEMS

Corey & Ragan Building on Elm and Bryant – making 4 apartments

Stone & Farrell Terr. – owner subdividing to build another house

Elizabeth Ave. Brownstones – Part 1 is done, starting Part 2. There is 1 car per brownstone at \$100 per month. The builder is putting a parking garage up to help with parking.

1442 Witherspoon – House of Worship has been approved to have a pervious parking lot installed behind house with trees and shrubs around parking lot.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

ADJOURN

The next Regular meeting of the Environmental Commission will be held Thursday, September 9, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at 337 E. Milton Ave., Rahway, NJ. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Motion: Commissioner Paszek
Seconded: Commissioner Rolong
Unanimously approved

At: 9:30 p.m.