



# OPEN SPACES

CAPE MAY COUNTY

MINUTES – TUESDAY, JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 – 10:00 AM

COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM

OPEN SESSION

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am

Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Lomax led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Statement Pertaining to the Open Public Meetings Act: Mr. Lomax read the statement.

Attendance Board Members:

Cindy Chemerys

Neil Byrne

Joan Berkey

Peter Lomax

David Craig

Commissioner Will Morey

Leslie Gimeno

Attendance Others:

Barbara Ernst, Scott Mullen

Welcome: Mr. Lomax welcomed new Board Members Cindy Chemerys and Joan Berkey. He indicated that this was the first meeting with a full Board and that he was thankful at the collective expertise of the Board members.

#### Correspondence:

- Email Correspondence between Ms. Gimeno, Mr. Lomax, and Mr. Mullen from 1/11 – 1/20 regarding properties that could potentially be subject of future land acquisition applications to the Open Spaces Board. Properties are located in West Wildwood (former dredge materials site to the South of the developed area of the Borough) and Middle Township (undeveloped lots adjacent to Eldredge Avenue). Discussion was held regarding Open Space Board priorities and whether the properties would fit within Program Goals and Objectives. Issues such as environmental regulations, property development potential, future potential uses (if any), and potential habitat value were discussed. The Board reached consensus to ask Staff to do additional research regarding the West Wildwood property including past use and potential for use as a dredge materials site.
- Correspondence from Bobbi Hornbeck of the Cape May County Museum to Ms. Gimeno and Mr. Mullen indicating an interest in using the Open Space-purchased lot on the corner of Route 9 and Easy Street as the site for a colonial garden. Discussion was had regarding items that would need to be put in place to facilitate use by the Museum including an indemnification/hold harmless agreement (and any other documents required by County Counsel), public access policy, design/layout, and maintenance plan. Ms. Gimeno was asked to develop correspondence to Ms. Hornbeck outlining these general parameters and asking for additional information.

Financial Report: Mr. Mullen said that an updated financial report would be provided at the February meeting.

Policy Recommendations – Deadline for Board Member Comments: Ms. Gimeno thanked those Board members who had provided feedback on the Program Guide and asked others to respond with any edits by close of business on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Creative Placemaking Plan Update: Mr. Mullen provided an overview of the status of the Creative Placemaking Plan update. He indicated that 3 years had passed since the adoption of the original plan and that standards for additional types of site furnishings/amenities and templates for signage were being included based on items that were seen in multiple applications. Further, the update will include alternative products for a number of amenities in support of the overall aesthetic, but provide applicants options based on site conditions and other factors. Board members provided feedback on a number of items to include the following:

- P 98-99 - Develop a wood pole option for the street lighting pole; metal is not desirable

- P 90-91 – Consider color options for café sets and have the color palate options for products shown in the plan (similar to format of playground benches)
- P 88-89 – Adirondak Chairs – have Designing Local identify options that have more cured aspects so that they relate more closely to other seating options in the Plan
- P 78-79 Fencing – Select a suitable alternative to chain link fencing that is available in both the low (approx.. 4') and high (approx. 6-7') options
- P 117 – Interpretive Signage Template– Mr. Mullen explained that this was added to provide templates for interpretive signage suitable for use at historic sites
- The section on Public Art is meant as a placeholder for general information until such time as the Open Spaces Board is able to develop a comprehensive Public Art Program.

Closed Session: The Board entered into Closed Session at 11:15 upon a motion by Mr. Craig seconded by Ms. Berkey.

Open Session: The Board returned to Open Session at 12:11 upon a motion by Ms. Berkey, seconded by Ms. Chemerys.

Resolution #1-2023: Discussion on this item was postponed.

PP 22-01 – Wildwood Crest Arts Pavilion: Mr. Craig made a motion to provide the Borough with a letter detailing the consensus of the Board regarding the project. Mr. Byrne seconded the motion. Mr. Lomax abstained from the discussion and vote. The consensus of the Board is as follows:

- Since the project has elements of both Program Priority and Park/Recreation Development projects, it will be treated as a “hybrid” application.
- The Board will send correspondence to the Borough inviting a Full Application and providing an estimated dollar figure of future grant recommendation based on the hybrid approach of funding 90% of eligible Program Priority Creative Placemaking items and 75% of eligible Park/Recreation amenities. Further, a recommendation of funding for 25% of Engineering & Design costs is made as this is considered a hybrid application. *(Note: subsequent to the meeting, Ms. Gimeno applied the Board’s direction to the cost estimate provided and the dollar amount was determined to be approximately \$975,000.)*
- Additional modifications to design and cost estimates will need to be made as part of the Full Application to reflect Creative Placemaking Review.
- The proposed signage package is not consistent with Open Spaces standards. A full signage package for the site is required as part of the Full Application package.

Public Comment: None

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Berkey made a motion to adjourn at 12:22. Ms. Chemerys seconded the motion. All in favor.