

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WILDWOOD COMMISSIONERS
IN THE COUNTY OF CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY**

Wednesday, November 25, 2020
Commissioner's Meeting Room
Time: 10:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED

Meeting called to order by the Mayor.

NOTE: This meeting was conducted under the restrictions of the COVID-19 virus, as dictated by the Governor's Office. The meeting room was open to 14 members of the public, as well as being invited to participate by utilizing the internet application ZOOM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Mikulski leads in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk called the roll and the following Commissioners answered to their names:

Fitzsimons – here, Mikulski – here, Byron - here

OTHERS ATTENDING

Carl Groon, Administrator

Louis DeLollis, Solicitor

Steve O'Connor, Administrative Assistant

Christopher D'Amico, Superintendent of Public Works

Christopher Wood, City Clerk

Lisa Brown, Aide to the City Clerk

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

As per N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, the Mayor read the Open Public Meetings Act Announcement.

PURPOSE OF MEETING: Public Hearing on Maxwell Field Open Space Application

Mayor Byron invited Mike Zumpino, of Triad Associates, to present the application to the public. Mr. Zumpino made the public aware of the intentions of the City of Wildwood to submit an application to the Cape May County Open Space Board requesting grant funding for the Byrne Community Complex for two activities. The first activity is build a new playground; the second activity is related to the track around the football field for community use. Mr. Zumpino said the current track has exceeded its life expectancy. Due to the track being pre-existing, the intent is to enhance it to make it a community fitness area, incorporating fitness equipment along the track, which will encourage fitness. In addition to this public hearing, a petition endorsing the project is also circulating on social media. At this time, Mr. Zumpino welcomed members of the public to comment on the Maxwell Field Open Space Application.

Rich Hans, City of Wildwood Recreation Director: Mr. Hans reported he will have close to 1,000 signatures by the end of today, expressing support for the application. The more signatures, the better chance of obtaining the grant, Mr. Zumpino said. Mr. Hans said the proposed projects will be a great addition on the west side of town and that it's a great opportunity, especially when the funding is not coming from our own pocket. Mr. Zumpino announced the deadline to submit the application is December 15. He said that this project will also include bike parking. Mr. Zumpino said he had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Open Space Board, and received some good feedback. The point of the meeting is to make the County aware that the City of Wildwood would be presenting this application, and will also be awarded another opportunity to make a presentation to the Open Space Board after December 15th. Mr. Zumpino encouraged the public to show support of this application, as it provides a better opportunity to receive the grant.

Ken Loomis, WHS History Teacher/Head Coach of Football Team: Mr. Loomis loves this idea, however, he does not believe it's the best use these funds. He said the fields are in dire need of repair, and are not safe. He recommended the Board of Commissioners look into a(n artificial) turf field, and provided a few benefits for having a turf field. He also added that a regulation track would enhance the area. Lastly, Mr. Loomis mentioned legality. He said if someone gets hurt on the field in its current condition, it's an open lawsuit. He said the park is an amazing idea but if we're allocating money, it should be used where it is needed and where we can get a return on the investment. Mr. Zumpino informed Mr. Loomis that while using turf is a great idea, it is an ineligible activity for this application process. The County will not do any maintenance or major repairs to existing facilities, but he is sure the City will look into it in the future

Chris Hines, Assistant Football Coach: Mr. Hines said Mr. Loomis had some great comments and that Rich Hans is doing a great job at the Recreation Center. As a life-long resident of the City of Wildwood, Mr. Hines is extremely excited about this project as it's being constructed on the west side of town because often, he said, the west side of town is neglected. He feels the new track would attract a lot more people and the fitness areas will also be beneficial. Mr. Hines offered to help in any way he can.

Jody DiEduardo, 22 Taylor Ave, North Wildwood: Ms. DiEduardo feels this is a fantastic project for the west side of the community. She just found out that she is permitted to sign the petition even though she is not a resident of the City of Wildwood, and encouraged everyone to sign regardless of where they live. Mr. Zumpino said this project would be a great way to bring people together in this community.

Mary Merola, 3209 Susquehanna Avenue: Ms. Merola uses the track every day, along with many young people. This facility is always being used and it's great this for this community to move forward with the proposed enhancements. Mr. Zumpino said that this is something that's already used 24/7 and the proposed application would be a great opportunity to enhance what already exists.

Kyle, 117 E. Morning Glory Rd., Wildwood Crest: This is the only track on the island. Many changes and upgrades have been done to improve the complex over the past couple of decades. The track is not an official size but for training, the enhancements would be great. The fitness addition would complete the entire complex. Kyle asked how to sign the petition and Mr. Hans gave him the instructions to do so. Mr. Zumpino said the appreciates the feedback, and hopes it will receive to priority and the highest funding.

Lisa Fagan, City of Wildwood Public Relations: Ms. Fagan will post and reshare the link for the petition on all social media outlets today.

Mr. Zumpino encouraged everyone to pass the word around, and sign the petition, as this application is in competition to get these funds. The more support shown for the project, the better chance of receiving the funds.

Mayor Byron thanked Mr. Zumpino and Triad for all their help in facilitating this project for the community. He referenced Chris Hines comments and said the west side is where the majority of year round residents live, and will only enhance the usage of the complex.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business to discuss, this meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am. Remarks as typed highlighted not verbatim as to subject matter.

MOTION: Fitzsimons SECOND: Mikulski
ROLL CALL: Fitzsimons – Yes, Mikulski – Yes, Byron – Yes

Krista Fitzsimons, COMMISSIONER

Steve Mikulski, COMMISSIONER

Peter Byron, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
Christopher H. Wood, City Clerk

DATE MINUTES APPROVED: December 9, 2020