

PRINCETON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
Minutes of Regular Meeting, February 24, 2021– 7:30 pm
Virtual Zoom Meeting,
Princeton, NJ 08540

I. Opening Statement

Adequate notice of this meeting as required by Sections 3d and 4a of the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided and filed with the municipal Clerk.

II. Sands opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Present were: Sands, Walker, Niedergang, Zemble, Tech-Czarny Marcus-Levine, Fichtenbaum, Symington, Jones, Shah (BOH Rep)

Absent: Soos, Healey, Watson

Also in attendance: James Purcell, Edgar Madsen, Kim Peterson, V Bea Snowdon, Alice Artzt, Philip Chao, Khiare Berkowitz-Sklar, Vanessa Hradsky, Junglien Chen, MJ Gaynor, Mel Adenosine, Randy L Rutberg, Virginia Kerr, Anouska's Jain, Wendy Mager, Jon Bartels, Eileen Bird, Keith, Krystal Knapp

III. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the amendment that the Princeton University

Development Application will be removed from this agenda and will be placed on the March agenda. (It was later decided that the application will be heard at a special meeting as the March agenda is quite full)

IV. Minutes:

a) January 27, 2021 – Special Meeting

A motion was made and seconded and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes as amended at the meeting.

V. Public Comment:

The following people spoke out against the proposal to have artificial turf installed at HillTop Park and asked the Princeton Environmental Commission to object to it as well. Edgar Madsen, Kim Peterson, Randy L Rutberg, Virginia Kerr, Alice Artzt, Vanessa Hradsky, Eileen Bird and Junglien Chen sent an email to the Commission as well.

Niedergang read an email into the record from Recreation Director Ben Stentz stating that there are no artificial turf fields in any of the municipal parks or schools. Sands encouraged everyone to attend the Recreation Commission meeting on March 25, 2021. It was also determined that Sands would invite Mr. Stentz to attend the

PEC meeting on March 24, 2021 to discuss the proposal as other PEC members voiced concerns and would like to have more information about the proposal.

VI. Discussion/Decisions:

- a) **Council Update:** Niedergang reported that Council passed the Bike Parking Ordinance for Institutions of Higher Learning; the ANJEC grant that the PEC would like to partner with FOPOS on was supported by Council; A consensus from the PEC was obtained to approve the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Transportation Resolution and ask Council to endorse it as well; Council reaffirmed its goals for 2021 and they included various PEC issues; Council moved forward with signing a contract with Enterprise Fleet Management; Sustainable Princeton will be kicking off the EV infrastructure discussions with the municipality; and lastly Council is forming two new Task Forces, one for Cannabis and one for Vision Zero; the Cannabis volunteer application is located on the website and the Vision Zero application will be uploaded to the web in the near future.
- b) **Sustainable Landscaping:** Symington reported that the Sustainable Landscaping Project will last approximately a year, having spent about 8 weeks on it so far. She discussed the negative health issues on landscape workers, negative impacts on the environment, noise pollution and quality of life, etc.; this project will provide Princeton with the opportunity to address these issues. Also discussed were collaborative goals, project partners, equity tools, resiliency actions, community engagement, time line of activities and stakeholder powers. Project Partners involved with this initiative will be the Chair of the PEC Tammy Sands, Chair of the Civil Rights Commission Tommy Parker, Council Liaison Eve Niedergang, Director of Human Services Melissa Urias, and a representative from the Board of Health, Unidad Latina en Accion, Rutgers School of Public Health, Phyllis Teitelbaum from Quiet Princeton, Sustainable Princeton staff, Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund LLC and Maria Juega, a Princeton resident and advocate. A brief discussion took place about the timing and work involved in getting an ordinance drafted and sent to Council according to a just social and environmental process to ensure all voices are represented.
- c) **Franklin Avenue Development RFP Recommendations:** Fichtenbaum discussed the informal recommendations she developed for the Packet Building. She noted that the development application did not come before the PEC for review and she wanted to take the opportunity to give some informal recommendations to the owner. A motion was made and seconded and the PEC voted unanimously to approve the letter that Fichtenbaum drafted. Secondly, Fichtenbaum discussed the Franklin Avenue Task Force and the sustainability landscape goals that the Task Force is working on. Some of the sustainability goals discussed were glazing, solar access, energy efficiency, stormwater management, roof configurations, outdoor space configurations and outdoor uses, cemetery access, the building envelope, water conservations, avoiding toxic materials, recycling construction waste and a recycling and composting plan, green roofs, lighting and an urban streetscape. Lastly, she noted that the Task Force developed a Sustainability and Landscape Prioritization Document.

- d) **EV Ordinance:** Sands reported that the ordinance is still in the works and being reviewed; there is going to be a subcommittee created at ZARC to review this and infrastructure is really needed for EV's.
- e) **Climate Change Bill:** Sands reported that Bill 2607 was signed by Governor Murphy on February 4, 2021. Tech-Czarny noted that the Planning Board has not had the opportunity to discuss this yet however it will probably come up when the Master Plan update discussions begin. He also noted that Princeton should discuss how Land Use will effect Impervious Coverage in the future and how to mitigate flooding issues. Zemble noted that the Flood & Stormwater Committee discussed this in the context of the redevelopment stormwater ordinance.
- f) **Stream Clean Up:** Sands reported that the Stream Clean Up date has been confirmed for April 17, 2021 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am at Grover Park and she encouraged the PEC members to attend.
- g) **Educational Session:** Sands reported that the educational session will be a one 3-hour session with members(s) of the Planning and Zoning Boards. It was suggested that this session start at 7:00 pm.
- h) **SPRAB Liaison:** Sands reported that Soos has agreed to be a backup for Marcus-Levine at the SPRAB meetings.
- i) **Board of Health:** Sands reported that there are health and sanitation issues that need to be considered when planning the educational piece of the Plastic Bag Ban and Rob English from the Health Department should be included in the discussions. The Health Department has a new Vulnerable Community Outreach Coordinator specifically for Covid response at this point.
- j) **Sustainable Princeton Update:** Symington reported the next Great Idea's Event titled Climate Action Plan to Promote Equity will be held on March 10, 2021 and then another Great Idea's Event on May 5, 2021 titled Climate Action – Action to Provide Other Environmental Benefits.
- k) **Flood & Stormwater Committee:** Zemble reported that the next meeting will be held on March 5, 2021 and the Watershed Institute will be making two presentations; one will be about an impervious coverage assessment and managing flooding in Princeton. Purcell gave the Committee a summary of his conversations with Princeton University about its stormwater projects and to look at the projects on an individual basis.
- l) **Planning Board:** Tech-Czarny reported that the Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart withdrew its application for an astro turf field. The Planning Board also continued its review of the Tiger Facility at Princeton University. The neighbors were not happy about the noise impacts so Princeton University came back with a noise mitigation plan. This application will continue to be reviewed by the Planning Board in March.
- m) **Miscellaneous:** Fichtenbaum noted that she received an email from ANJEC asking if the PEC has been including Carbon Capture Concrete in its development application memos. She responded to that email that (thanks to Walker) this has been included in the memos. She also noted that she has been working with Assemblyman Zwicker to get enabling legislation so that municipalities in New Jersey could adopt a stretch energy code. She will be

pursuing this with other Environmental Organizations and Environmental Justice Organizations.

- n) Adjournment:** A motion was made and seconded and the PEC voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Mercantini, Secretary

Date Approved: March 24, 2021