

*Minutes of:
Hudson County Open Space Advisory Board
April 27, 2005
Lincoln Park Administration Building*

Attendees:

Sarah Crew	John Fussa	Renee Hanenberg
Stephen Marks	Mark Albiez	Carmine Tabone
Tom McCann	Maryann Bucci-Carter	Betty Kearns
Bobbie Morgan	Mariano Vega, Jr.	Richard Burroughs
Henry Sanchez	David Spatz	Barbara Baer
Joseph D'Arco	Greg Corrado	Bobbie Morgan
Robert Pittefield	Ben Delisle	Cynthia M. Blue
Maureen Crowley	Sandy Sobanski	Paul Gleitz
David Donnelly	Jim Wetteroth	Steve Latham
L. Kelly	Robert Drasheff	Fred M. Bado
Linda Ellis	Neil J. Carroll	Laura Skolan
Stephanie Hottendorf	Susan A. McCurrie	Jessie Ann Ransom
Laurie Cotter	Claire Sommer	Massiel Ferrara
Patricia Giordan	Ron Hine	
Russel Maffie	Jim Monkowski	

The meeting began at approximately 11:07 AM with a welcome by committee chair Sarah Crew. Stephen Marks read the Open Public Meetings statement and called the roll of members. A quorum was present. The members then conducted the flag salute.

Henry Sanchez motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Bobbie Morgan seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Paul Gleitz, Heyer Gruel and Associates began with describing the Hudson County Open Space application form in full detail. He went over the application section by section and solicited questions.

Ron Hine from the Fund for a Better Waterfront asked if applicants were limited by the amount of space they could provide information and the number of support letters. Paul Gleitz answered there is no limit on space and support letters.

Jim Witteroth, Downtown Boathouse, asked how much money is available and Brian Buckley stated how much is in the Open Space Trust Fund.

Robert Pittfield of North Bergen asked if municipalities could apply for funding for projects are already underway. Laurie Cotter, Assistant County Administrator, said that according to accounting standards funds must be encumbered.

Lisa Kelly, Hackensack Riverkeeper, asked if their was a maximum amount an applicant can request. Laurie Cotter, said that there was no minimum or maximum amount, but there was a finite amount of money. Lisa Kelly also asked if a non-profit applies for an acquisition do they

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have to become the official property owners. Paul Gleitz stated that there may be more than one applicant for a particular project.

Glen Rigley of Jersey City asked if the Open Space Trust Fund can be used to cover design costs. Mariano Vega Jr, Hudson County Department of Public Resource Director, stated that the trust fund may cover soft costs including design, but encouraged applicants to use design as a matching in-kind cost item.

Ben Delise, Jersey City HEDC, asked if applicants could apply for historic preservation funds for projects which aren't on the national register. Stephen Marks stated projects which are not on the national or state register should be certified by the State Historic Office.

Ron Hine asked about how much should applicants request for open space acquisition projects. Stephen Marks said that applicants should have appraisals performed by a certified land appraiser.

Mariano Vega said that a national study reports that open space adds 2% to the value of residential property. Perhaps in Hudson County, the presence of open space may add 7% to 10% to the value of adjacent land.

Fred Bado of Hoboken said that the application was tough to put together for applicants. Especially getting resolutions of support from the municipal councils which can take up to eight weeks. Many officials are not knowledgeable with county or state planning documents. Sarah Crew, Chairwoman, responded that applications would still be considered even if they were incomplete if the applicants stated when the missing documents would be furnished.

Stephanie Hottendorf of Hoboken asked when will the applicants be notified regarding an award. Stephen Marks responded by Labor Day of this year.

The meeting concluded at 1:10 pm..