

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL CONFERENCE MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019

MINUTES

1. Mayor Brill Mittler called the meeting to order at 9:19 p.m.
2. PRESENT: Mayor; Council (except Councilpersons Fine and Foster-Dublin); Borough Attorney; Borough Administrator; Deputy Borough Clerk.

NOTE: Upcoming Meeting schedule:

May 28, 2019	Standing Committee Meetings; Special Meeting if needed.
June 11, 2019	Agenda Meeting 6:30 PM; Regular Meeting 7:00 PM; Conference Meeting to follow.

3. Public Discussion (15 minutes) – none.
4. Memorial or Commendatory Resolutions or Presentations scheduled as indicated: None
5. Ordinances on 1st Reading – no ordinances scheduled for introduction for 6/11/19:
 - a.
 - b.
6. Ordinances on 2nd Reading – no public hearings scheduled for 6/11/19:
 - a. Capital Ordinance – ADA Ramp.
7. Resolutions for Next Meeting - scheduled for 6/11/19:
 - a. Bills List (6/11/2019).
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
8. Appointments – none.
9. Borough Attorney’s Report – none.
10. Borough Administrator’s Report – none.
11. Standing Committee Status Reports – none.
12. Discussion Items.
 - a. Handicapped Parking Space - tabled from discussion.
 - b. Main Street Highland Park Budget – tabled from discussion until June 11, 2019.
 - c. Task Force on Understanding & Addressing Implicit/Unconscious Bias
Mayor Brill Mittler indicated that an e-mail went out to the twenty or so persons who were invited to be on this task force and we have received confirmation from ten people and two people are requesting more information. She indicated that Harry Glazer was going to follow-up with the people who have not responded. Councilman Hale requested a copy of the list of people who were invited.
 - d. Water Leak Payment Forgiveness Policy – tabled from discussion until June 11, 2019.
 - e. Resiliency Committee
Borough Administrator Jover said that the Borough is going for Sustainable Jersey certification and that is an important action and she will need to set up an ad hoc committee and essentially

they will be looking at flood projections, looking at vulnerable areas and there is a questionnaire that we need to be completed. She would like a representative from OEM, Plan/Zoning Boards, Public Works, County member because one of the parks is in a flood plane, someone from Sustainable Highland Park and someone from the Environmental Commission. It is really looking at the landuse and environmental impacts of flooding on the Borough. We will report to the Council on what we find.

f. Quarterly Standing Committee Meetings.

Mayor Brill Mittler indicated that we are not having regular Committee meetings and one of things that had been discussed was having you schedule your quarterly meetings in advance. Borough Administrator Jover indicated that it would help her out a lot if she knows there is a meeting coming and she can prepare everything. She said that they had hoped to schedule at least two meetings per committee for the remainder of the year. Mayor Brill Mittler reminded everyone to hand in minutes or notes from their meetings. Borough Administrator Jover indicated that she would work with Jennifer and coordinate.

g. MSHP Placemaking Project at Farmers Market

Councilwoman Welkovits indicated that a Letter of Understanding was just executed and have received a grant opportunity from the Department of Consumer Affairs and we have to respond within the next week or so. MSHP has the graduate students from Bloustein do those tests on the corners and they have a wonderful slideshow that would be sent to everyone when they are done. It was a placemaking project, to help better define space, what other uses can we have for space etc. and right on the heels of that is this grant opportunity that Main Street Highland Park is going to apply for, there is an in-kind match that we might be able to fulfill because we are re-paving the Farmers Market lot and the idea is to improve the physical aspects of that Farmers Market area. She indicated that they would like to put up some pavilions at the end of the Farmers Market lot right where the sidewalk is right now on Raritan Avenue and would take away about four parking spaces. Jim Nicholas and Javier put together some drawings to better explain. She said right now it is just the lot with some planters in front, if we put the pavilions there it would identify it better and will draw people to come and visit. Councilman George said that he liked the idea and asked how it would affect the vendors. Javier indicated that he would have to reconfigure and work around that. Councilwoman Welkovits said that they could have the musicians and such under these pavilions. Javier indicated that everything was coming in on real time and in the very beginning they were looking at losing six spaces and now; we are losing four parking spaces. Councilwoman Welkovits indicated that the paving of the lot goes towards the match, the bicycle racks can go towards the match. Javier indicated that the two ADA spots would be moved down.

Mayor Brill Mittler said that there were retailers in the area that get upset about parking and she asked that they go out and speak with the retailers to get their take on this project. Councilwoman Welkovits agreed and noted this all took place about 10 days ago.

Councilman Fine asked this worked with the long-term concept of Borough Square. Councilwoman Welkovits indicated that this was the entrée to that project. The pavilions can be removed without damaging anything. Javier indicated that they will be imbedded into the ground and can be removed without demining anything, but in the meantime the intentions is to claim the space, this is an amenity, the Market, the movies and when these gathered properties eventually come up for redevelopment this is leverage or value that we have placed into this and help to see the potential. The pavilions are 12x24, with pitched roofs; they are wood but are currently looking into a steel pavilion. Borough Administrator Jover said that one of things that was discussed not only reaching out to the adjacent properties and we will probably try to squeeze it into the proposal could we put better directional signage at the entrance of the parking lot, not only here is the Farmers Market but how to maneuver into the parking every other day as well. Councilman Hale asked if on Friday afternoons could you make it a one way

and everyone exits to the left and if you want to get in to right. Borough Administrator Jover indicated that they would need to speak with the neighbors especially on Magnolia.

Mayor Brill Mittler said that they have been discussing way-finding signs in general and asked if that could be added to this project. Javier indicated that they were going to go for as much as they can, and yes, they would ask for that as well. Administrator Jover said that it also shows that we are listening to the concerns of the merchants in the area, and they already feel like people do not know how to get to the parking lot and if we put pavilions in the front and you are not from Highland Park you may not realize there is parking in the back. Councilman George said it sounded like it was a consensus that we move forward subject to talking to some of the merchants in the area about the parking.

h. Bike Ped Plan

Councilwoman Welkovits said that the Commissioner of the NJDOT sent a letter regarding the availability of DOT funds and the Safe Walking and Cycling Committee would like to apply for one of the grants based of the things that are coming out with the bike/ped plan and use that as our frame work. She noted that there is a July deadline and the million-dollar program is intended to fund bicycle projects that create new bike path mileage with special consideration to bikeways that are physically separated by motorized vehicles, encourages counties and municipalities to construct safe and accessible pedestrian linkages to transit facilities.

Borough Administrator Jover said she thought that she was going to speak about going out to the public with the draft recommendations and it will also have to land on the desk of the Planning Board meeting as well. She said that the hope is to get it into the Master Plan.

Councilwoman Welkovits said that they are also looking at legislation, Linda Greenstein has put something out there, Nancy Pinkin is working on something and it is now up to the municipality to regulate low speed bikes, e-scooters and do we want them on Raritan Avenue or not. She said that they did speak about at the Public Safety meeting. She said that she spoke to someone from the Lime Bike and Metuchen has had the Lime Bike rentals for some time now and it has been very successful and Lime is now interested in electric and it is an add on to the contract that Metuchen already has. Highland Park has been in agreement with Rutgers on their bike share and they have changed and will be going out for another bike share and asked the Borough Administrator to check to see if they are including electric as well.

Mayor Brill Mittler asked Councilwoman Kim-Chohan when these subjects come up to please include the senior community.

13. Goals – Not discussed.

14. Executive Session – none.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Fine, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago
Deputy Clerk