

MORRIS COUNTY TRAIL CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

OPEN SESSION 10/12/17 (4-9PM)

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ROLL CALL

Betty Cass-Schmitt (Chairperson)

Julie Baron

Nita Galate

Tom Malinousky

Barbara Shepard

Isobel Olcott

Dick Seabury

Duncan Douglas

NOT PRESENT

Marty Epstein

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Executive Director Dave Helmer MCPC

Morris County Counsel John Napolitano, Esq.

Jim Hutzelmann, MCPC Engineering Manager

Christine Marion, Director, MC Division of Planning & Preservation

Barbara Murray, Coordinator, MC Open Space Program

Denise Chaplick, MCPC, Coordinator, Trails Construction Grant Program

Janice Karmon, MCPC GIS Coordinator

AT 4:02 PM CHAIR CASS-SCHMITT CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER AND STAFF CONDUCTED ROLE CALL AND READ THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT. STAFF THEN NOTED THAT NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE PRESENT.

Chair Cass-Schmitt welcomed the return of the Committee and thanked them for their participation. She is looking forward to another success year of working with the committee to issue grants.

She also mentioned that Marty Epstein was unable to make the meeting due to vacation plans, but we did have an opportunity to review the applications with him independently last Thursday. We will share his input later during deliberations.

The meeting was turned over to Denise to being the agenda of the meeting. Denise presented an overview of the agenda noting highlights to be presented including Administrative items, program overview, presentation of applications and Q & A Session. She also noted that we can break for dinner whenever people are ready.

Denise reminded the Committee that they 3 handouts tonight, one is the agenda, two is a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, and third is an updated Summary of Applications. The updated Summary includes corrections to the Wharton costs and total funds being requested.

Denise continued with administrative items to note some Committee members terms are expiring at the end of this year. These individuals will be contacted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders office with more details. She went on to note that staff will be sending out copies of meeting minutes from last year early next week. We anticipate that these minutes will be approved at the October 30th Committee Meeting.

County Counsel Napolitano reviewed the Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest policies with the Committee stating that deliberations done in close session, discussions stay in the room, freeholders can make a recommendation. If a Committee Member has an interest in a property or if you feel conflicted, you probably are and should recuse yourself from discussions. The Committee's findings become public, but all other discussions remain private.

Denise continued on to outline the short and long term schedule of this years program. Indicating, the goal again to make award notifications before the end of the year. Next, she presented an overview of the program touching on purpose, requirements, and

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changes. One of the most notably changes was the evolution of Rehabilitation to Trail Enhancement project category. Another included a requirement for first time applicants to attend Pre-Application meetings.

Committee Member Olcott asked if it was helpful. Staff agreed, yes, most helpful for both parties.

Staff moved on to summarizing the applications, noted there were 8 submissions, 6 of which were new trails, 1 trail enhancement, and 1 bridge structure. The total funds requested were \$1,163,189.20, which exceeds the funds available (\$869,624.91).

Staff mentioned that the overall structure of the application remained the same with 10 sections. Staff's review of the applications vetted them for eligibility, completeness, clarity, deficiencies, and inconsistencies. Design was not considered in the review unless, there was a concern. Beyond that, each application stands on its own merits.

Today's presentation of applicants to the Committee will be completed in alphabetical order. Because there are more funds being requested than available, all projects will not be able to receive funding. Also, keep in mind that we agreed that again for this year partial funding is not an option.

Staff went on to begin presentation of individual applications using PowerPoint and mapping.

Counsel stated that the current conversations are more deliberative and recommends moving to a closed session so Committee members can freely discuss the applications.

Chair Cass-Schmitt requests a motion to move into closed session. The motion was moved by Barbara Shepard and seconded by Isobel Olcott. The meeting was closed at 4:37 PM. The Committee moved to Open Session at 6:58 PM.

The schedule was re-capped by staff. Closing comments by Betty noted that the overall quality has improved with this round of applicants. She thanked Denise and Barbara who spend their time doing pre-application meetings, which contributed to the improved submissions.

Betty motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was moved by Barbara Shepard and seconded by Tom Malinousky. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.