

Cape May Court House, New Jersey**TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE****TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE****WORK SESSION AGENDA****December 16, 2019 4:00 PM (prevailing time)****CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor's Announcement: I hereby declare that notice has been given to the Herald Times, the Atlantic City Press and posted on the bulletin board of the Middle Township Municipal Building, stating the time and place of the following meeting, as required in P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 of the State of New Jersey. (Sunshine Law).

Notice of this meeting was properly given in Resolution No. 25-19 entitled "Establishing Work Session Meeting Nights" which was adopted by Township Committee of the Township of Middle on January 2, 2019.

Members present are Mayor Donohue, Deputy Mayor Gandy, and Committeemember Clark

Business Administrator/Township Clerk Kimberly Krauss, Deputy Township Clerk Andrea Singley, Township Engineer Vincent Orlando & Municipal Solicitor Marcus Karavan

FLAG SALUTE:**ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:**

Pocket Park Concept –
Intersection of Route 9 & Route
47 – Vince Orlando

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS AND PROJECT UPDATES:

Administration:

Finance:

Public Works:

Engineering:

Legal:

Tax Collection:

Tax Assessment:

Construction/Planning/Zoning:

Recreation:

Police / Animal Control/ Code Enforcement:

Buildings and Grounds:

Sewer:

Economic Development:

Personnel:

Zoning:

Township Clerk:

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:

Pocket Park Concept – Intersection of Route 9 & Route 47 – Vince Orlando

Vince Orlando

- Gave background on Cassandra Higgins from his firm who constructed the concept for the proposed pocket park in Rio Grande located on the corner of Rt 47 & Rt 9. She is a landscape architect out of Rutgers, and this is her first ever presentation.

Cassandra Higgins

- Presented Power Point of plans for the Rio Grande Pocket Park; showed proposed mock up for the pocket park. Location in close proximity to the new County Commons, Rio Station, Rio Grande Diner and the Rio Grande Fire Station. Also located around several NJ Transit bus stops. Property has been vacant since 2005; since County is redoing the old K-Mart complex, would make sense to revitalize this area due to close proximity. Would be a nice

focal point at such a large intersection, which now consists mostly of vehicle traffic. Also, with County Commons being in close proximity, this would be a good area for employees to spend their lunch time.

Mayor Donohue

- Asked what the round feature on the proposal was.

Cassandra Higgins

- Explained it is a proposed water feature; Stated she would like to see a fountain area, but could be any kind of water feature.

Kim Krauss

- Asked how a water feature was possible

Vince Orlando

- Further explained the process; discussed options for the focal point...would be simple...just a water line would need to be run. Would not have to be a water feature. Trying to create 3 separate distinct areas; stated the first is some type of shade structure with a seating area where there could be just benches or some type of tables and chairs; Explained the next would be a planted area and lastly could possibly be some type of sculpture; further explained she is trying to buffer and have a sense of privacy while in the park.

Cassandra Higgins

- Discussed foliage in the park to help assist with privacy in the parking lot area of the park which faces the County Commons and some type of see through fence in the other areas.

Vince Orlando

- Further discussed various features of the park
- Spoke of area being a possible staging area for the State; Explained how the area would not work and really has no value for the State; further explained there is no site access off of Rt 9 and Rt 47

Mayor Donohue

- Asked about larger circular planter
- Questioned if the feature was a bench.

Cassandra Higgins

- Explained the bench on the outside

Mayor Donohue

- Questioned type of fencing to be used
- Asked if it would be wrought iron?

Cassandra Higgins

- Discussed fencing materials and details; Explained keeping the fence short defines the property line without the fence making the area too sheltered and also provides safety rather than having a fence that blocks visibility of the park.

Vince Orlando

- Spoke of other products out there
- Explained they are going for the look of an urban type park

Kim Krauss

- Spoke of meeting with Jeff Lindsay; further explained discussions with NJDOT regarding the pocket park; explained request for staging area. Stated that NJDOT is not opposed to us to making changes to this area. Explained she would have to talk to them about a staging area.

Vince Orlando

- Stated he does not believe staging area is possible

Mayor Donohue

- Questioned possibility of the Township taking ownership of that piece of property and giving them another area nearby to use for staging?

Vince Orlando

- Stated he feels this is something we could do. Further stated he would rather see somewhere on Satt Blvd where it is not in a predominate location.

Mayor Donohue

- Explained they have the DOT yard not far down Rt 9

Kim Krauss

- Asked about entrance of the park in regards to safety
- Spoke of thoughts on traffic and safety

Vince Orlando

- Discussed possible options for the entrance such as bollards; questioned the distance of the entrance from the sidewalk

Cassandra Higgins

- Stated the entrance is approximately 3 feet possibly 5 feet.

Kim Krauss

- Suggested benches instead of tables

Vince Orlando

- Discussed features and explained thought of giving people option for an area to eat lunch. Explained everything will be mounted and would be stationary. Suggested maybe 5 or 6 tables to give a secondary option.

Cassandra Higgins

- Trying to give a bit of a private feel in the back part of the park as opposed to it being very public in the front part of the park.

Mayor Donohue

- Discussed shade structure; discussed various features possible for that area of the park; asked if they could possibly put some kind of monument in park in back corner.

Vince Orlando

- Further discussed options for the back area of the park; stated he can present print out of the proposal and start circulating to begin discussion for the park

Mayor Donohue

- No excuse for corner to be in state it has been for so many years; believes the community will be excited. Thinks the State should welcome the opportunity.

Vince Orlando

- Trying to make it so that there are not a whole lot of elements that can be vandalized; spoke of park being a plain and simple facility. Park benefits the County as well as the Township.

Kim Krauss

- There is a small park across the street and there is really not a lot of trouble at that park

Stan Doniger

- Asked about possible EPA issues regarding the building of this park and the fact that there had been a gas station there previously with inground gas tanks.

Vince Orlando

- Discussed that he received "No Further Action" letter from the State; explained that the letter means there was no ground problems when they pulled the tanks; further explained State would not have taken ownership of the property if not cleaned up

Stan Doniger

- Asked about any grants that may be available to do this

Mayor Donohue

- County very interested in the project and could fall under Open Space

Stan Doniger

- Asked if sidewalks are required when building a house and if so, where should they end

Vince Orlando

- All major highways require sidewalks

Mayor Donohue

- Township is in pursuant of a grant to bring sidewalks to that area in Rio Grande

Vince Orlando

- Thanked Cassandra for her hard work on the project

Mark Saioni

- Asked if bank building is going to be vacant

Mayor Donohue

- Yes, Ocean First has approached the County regarding the building

Mark Saioni

- Asked if the County may use that building and make a connect to the park?

Vince Orlando

- *Cannot make that assumption*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

NONE

Motion to Adjourn Meeting – 4:20 PM

1st: Committeeman Clark 2nd: Deputy Mayor Gandy

Roll Call Vote: Aye

Kimberly D. Krauss, Township Clerk

Prepared by: D. Stimmel