

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting May 4th, 2022 online via Webex**

In attendance:

Officers Present - Bill Reinert-Chairman, Mike Hogan, Vice Chairman,

Members Present - Dan Crum, Stephen Fielder, Dick Colby, Heather Warburton, Ken Sooy

Members Absent - Lisa March, Belinda Chester

Commissioner Representative - Andrew Parker - present

County Staff - Greg Brookins, D.H.P.W. - present

Secretary - Eric Husta, D.D.P.R. – present

Guests - Rick Dovey- President, ACUA

Guest Speaker:

Rick Dovey spoke at length on the history of the proposed Pleasantville Trash Rail Transfer Station. He talked first about the process the ACUA followed in obtaining input and approvals for their comprehensive waste management plan. He outlined the various public hearings held and the eventual commissioner vote to approve the plan.

Discussion then focused on the ACUA's perspective on the Pleasantville plan, the different locations that had been considered, and why the developer settled on a property in Pleasantville instead of Galloway. He focused primarily on the public hearing/input process and the lack of transparency during the site selection and public input phases. Rick outlined various perceived problems with the plan, the building, and the location itself. For comparison, he noted the proposed site in Pleasantville is roughly 2 acres with an 8,000 SF building. The ACUA property is roughly 350 acres and has an existing 66,000 SF building already on site that could handle this task. He also noted perceived flaws in the Pleasantville proposal's traffic plan and the lack of a viable contingency plan as well.

Rick concluded with some figures to lend perspective to what the ACUA currently accommodates and what the fiscal impacts of this proposed plan would be. The ACUA is currently handling 300 truck movements per day which make up approximately \$9 million of potential revenue loss. This lost revenue would result in a 62% increase in tip fees.

Roundtable Discussion topics:

Group discussion was had regarding the process involved in creating resolutions of support as well as letters of support for consideration.

Dick Colby suggested the September meeting be held in person at the Canale Training Center to accommodate guest speaker, Emma Witt, who will discuss groundwater pollution plumes in Atlantic County. This would allow other groups and members of the public to attend.

Commissioner Parker updated the group on his discussions with the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance. This group approached him with interest in having the board take a comprehensive look at county parks to see if there are

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areas in need of improvement with regards to access for fishing and boating. The NJOA offered their assistance in this process.

Steve Fiedler briefly updated the group on the Hansen pit property and noted the Forsythe Wildlife Refuge has resumed doing public outreach and education.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:04 PM.

Our next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, June 1st, 2022 at 7 PM at the Canale Training Center.

cc: Dennis Levinson, County Executive
Jerry DelRosso, County Administrator
Diana Rutala, Deputy County Administrator
Maureen Kern, Chairperson - Board of County Commissioners
Andrew Parker, Board of County Commissioners – PEAB Representative
Greg Brookins, Department Head Public Works
All Advisory Board Members