Mayor Kates called the Workshop Meeting of the Teaneck Township Council to order at 8:13 PM, and asked all those present to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL.


Absent: None.

Also Present: S. Turitz, Township Attorney; H. V. Fall, Municipal Manager; R. J. LaMorte, Municipal Clerk.

MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by adoption of Resolution 393-02 setting the 2003 meeting dates, mailing a copy to THE RECORD, THE SUBURBANITE, THE BERGEN NEWS/SUN BULLETIN, THE CONNECTION AND THE JEWISH STANDARD filing a copy in the Township Clerk’s Office and posting it on the Municipal Building bulletin board and the Mayor hereby directs that this statement be included in the minutes.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Marvin Mausner - 531 Cumberland Ave. - spoke about the canoe launch which was proposed in the 2002 Trail Grant Application.

Wallace Cowan - 499 Emerson Ave. - Chairperson of the Parks, Playground and Recreation Advisory Board, spoke about several items on the agenda that deal with the PPRAB including landmark trees, canoe launch, local open space tax, geese, arboretum and the handball court fence. He also asked Council to consider inviting Advisory Board Chairpersons to participate at workshops.

Art Vatsky - 950 Garrison Ave. - happy to see Council discussion on police hybrid vehicles and offered his assistance if Council determines to pursue.

Ed Holland - 1084 Queen Anne Road - asked Council for their assistance to help resolve his problem with parking of commercial vehicles on his property.

Mrs. Holland - 1084 Queen Anne Road - followed up on her husband’s statement regarding their business and her desire to resolve this problem.

Mr. Turitz spoke on Mr. and Mrs. Holland’s request. He explained that Council is not an executive body but rather a governing body and cannot influence other departments. The question is whether the use is a legal nonconforming use or requires a variance. The Board of Adjustment has legal jurisdiction to make the ruling of whether a property is zoned for nonconforming use and how the property is used under the zoning code. It was also explained to Mr. Holland that he may file an appeal with the Board of Adjustment for a variance.

C. Warnke made a motion to close the Good and Welfare portion of the meeting to the public. Seconded by C. Stern and carried by the following vote:


Opposed: None.

Absent: None.
MEETING

Paul Eiseman - Eiseman-Todd, Inc., - Public Information Consultant.

Mr. Eiseman gave a presentation to Council. He served as Teaneck's Public Information Officer from the mid-1960's - 1991. Mr. Eiseman explained his strategy of deciding which items are newsworthy, what to make the public aware of and how to get the message out.

DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCES

1. Library Board - Membership.

Mr. Turitz explained this ordinance would increase the membership of the Library Board from seven to nine members. This ordinance will be introduced on March 18, 2003.

2. Landmark Trees.

This ordinance is being amended and introduced on March 18, 2003, clarifying that the criteria for landmark trees is according to the list compiled by Cook College in the publication entitled "Exotic Trees in New Jersey".

OLD BUSINESS


When the 2002 Trail Grant Application was submitted, it included a canoe launch. Mrs. Fall explained that at that time staff expressed its concerns about liability, and the obligation and responsibilities of maintaining it. It was suggested that Fairleigh Dickinson University be part of this project due to the close proximity to the river and parking availability. Mrs. Fall will contact FDU regarding this matter.

2. Local Open Space Tax.

Council had previously discussed this matter and what formal steps must be taken. There are several organizations which offer grants and funding for open space preservation. Council felt this is not a good time to impose a new tax which would have to go on a referendum for voter approval. Council agreed not to pursue a referendum at the present time and no action will be taken.

3. Non Smoke Free Dining Establishments.

Council received a list of dining establishments not on the list of "smoke-free" restaurants in the Township and have opted not to go "smoke-free". It was suggested to pursue these restaurants to become "smoke-free" or require a nonsmoking area. Mr. Fisher, Health Officer is moving towards restaurants going "smoke-free". C. Warnke suggested having the Teaneck Municipal Alliance Against Substance Abuse make their recommendations on this issue. Council took no action at this time, pending that report.


Council suggested moving forward with the regulation of cell phone use within the Township. Consensus of Council in favor except for C. Warnke. Mr. Turitz will prepare an ordinance to regulate cell phone use.

5. Geese.

The Environmental Commission is reviewing this issue and it was suggested that Council wait for their recommendations. An employee from the Department of Public Works will be attending a seminar on goose management. The Parks, Playground and Recreation Advisory Board is anticipating the passage of a resolution urging changes to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act submitted by the Township of South Brunswick. Mrs. Fall reported Hackensack and Bogota are evaluating ways to remove geese from parks. Council was interested in pursuing similar methods. Mrs. Fall will contact Hackensack and Bogota.
6. Arboretum.

Council asked that this project be reviewed by the appropriate staff. Mrs. Fall recommended that the Parks, Playground and Recreation Advisory Board be permitted to continue its review of this proposal for future report to Council. Council concurred. It was suggested that the Parks, Playground and Recreation Advisory Board and the Shade Tree Advisory Board coordinate the labeling of trees.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Kates received a request for contributions to the United Way's Emergency Shelter initiative taking place during the month of March.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 1/28/03 Meeting with Board Chairpersons.

On January 28, 2003 a meeting was held with a Council subcommittee, Municipal Manager, Municipal Clerk, and the chairpersons of the Advisory Boards, Statutory Boards, Task Force and Commissions. Several concerns were raised such as Chairpersons being invited to take part in Workshop meetings relating to their specific boards, appointment of a Vice Chairperson, and procedures for distribution of agendas, minutes and mailings. It was suggested to have the subcommittee review the previous resolution regarding policy and procedures and make a recommendation to Council. The subcommittee will do so.

2. Police Hybrid Vehicles.

A recommendation was made to the Manager to purchase energy efficient vehicles, wherever possible and if appropriate, within the bid specifications. Mrs. Fall explained this matter needs review by the Police and Fire Departments. There are some reservations since the present vehicles come with special police packages which may not be available in hybrid cars, and these cars may not be capable of being used for police services. Mrs. Fall will evaluate and report.

3. TEA-21 Grant - Restoration of Old New Bridge Road.

New Milford is preparing an application to the Department of Transportation for Phase II of the TEA-21 Grant requesting additional supplemental construction costs which will be used to complete the proposed 1800's style restoration of Old New Bridge Road. They are asking for endorsement from the Township. Mrs. Fall will prepare a resolution of endorsement for New Milford on the March 18, 2003 Consent Agenda.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Similarly Named Streets.

Staff has reviewed streets in Teaneck which are similarly named. There are almost forty streets in Teaneck as well as circular streets which intersect with the same street twice. Confusion has been experienced at duplicate intersections by both Police and Fire Departments. It would be difficult to correct all of these intersections. Mrs. Fall recommended contacting the residents Wilmerding Avenue and Berwick Avenue whose properties would be impacted by the recommendations made by the Police and Fire Departments if Council wishes to pursue. Council concurred.

2. 911 - 2003 Commemoration.

Mrs. Fall asked Council if there were any suggestions for a September 11, 2003 commemoration. Council referred the matter to the Patriotic Observance Advisory Board.

3. Votee Park - Handball Court Fence.

A proposal was submitted to install a 10 foot high black chain link fence system enclosing the two handball courts at Votee Park, with one gate for the entry of both players and equipment. Fences 10 feet high are not included on the State Contract so a bid specification would need to be prepared. Mrs. Fall recommended to wait until September to see what funding would be available and review it. Council concurred.
4. TEA-21 Application - Ward Plaza.

The Township is considering the installation of a traffic island on Ward Plaza which would provide for a 30 foot wide island and two 25 foot traveling lanes. The installation should not require approval from the New Jersey Department of Transportation, unless channelization or angled parking is to be provided. It may be possible to consider a commuter parking area in the design of this island which may be eligible for funding through the Transportation Enhancement Program. If Council is interested, Mr. Statile will prepare the grant application. Council agreed to move forward with the submission of the application.


Matrix Design Group has completed their initial review of various municipal properties for consideration of cellular tower development. They believe there are at least two properties that would generate interest from various carriers; the park site adjacent to the PSE&G substation, and an additional property at the east side of town, in close proximity to Route 95 by the greenhouse. The ordinance would need to be amended. Consensus of Council in favor except C. Veach to have Matrix move forward with making initial contact with at least one carrier to test their interest in the properties.


Mrs. Fall has met with three firms who provide grant consulting services and is recommending two firms. Council accepted the Manager’s recommendation and Mrs. Fall will set up an interview with the two firms.

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY’S REPORT

1. Damage to Municipal Roads/Curbs.

Mr. Turitz responded to an inquiry from Mrs. Fall on whether it was possible to enact an ordinance which would require property owners who are building to post a bond or other type of security to ensure that any damage to Township roads, curbs, etc. which occurs as a result of construction on their private property, is corrected and/or repaired. Mr. Turitz explained there is no legal objection and would be in the interest of the Township to enact such an ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting went into Closed Session at 10:50 PM to discuss legal matters concerning personnel, litigation and property.

On a motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was reopened to the public at 11:12 PM. During the Closed Session, Council considered legal matters concerning personnel, litigation and property which matters are not concluded and will be disclosed when concluded.

On a motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 11:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Purcell,
Clerk’s Office
MAYOR JACQUELINE B. KATES

MAYOR JACQUELINE B. KATES

MICHAEL A. GALLOCCI

EMIL "YITZ" STERN

MARIE WARNKE

DM. ELIE Y. KATZ

PAUL S. OSTROW

DEBORAH VEACH

MARIE WARNKE

ATTEST:

ROBYN J. LAMORTE, RMC, MUNICIPAL CLERK