

**WORKSHOP MINUTES
DECEMBER 15, 2021
7:00 P.M. AT BOROUGH HALL**

The workshop meeting of the Borough of Interlaken was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Mayor Nohilly. Sunshine Statement was read by Municipal Clerk/Administrator Reibrich. "The notice of the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act has been satisfied by forwarding notice to the Coaster and Asbury Park Press. A copy of the notice is posted on the Borough bulletin board and is on file in the Borough Clerk's office."

Present: Mayor Nohilly, Council President Butler, Horowitz, Watson, Maloney, and Franks

Also Present: Municipal Clerk/Administrator Lori Reibrich, Borough Attorney Richard Shaklee, Esq., Matt Mariano of Peter Avakian's Office

Absent: Councilman Delia

1. **OPEN SPACE GRANT PARK IMPROVEMENT DISCUSSION: Matt Mariano, Leon S. Avakian Inc present**

Mayor Nohilly explained where the last meeting discussion left off and how Matt Mariano suggested the Council visit some of the many park locations that he completed with Avakian Inc through Grant projects. The features such as park equipment, path choices and kayak ramps could all be viewed at surrounding area parks.

Mayor Nohilly presented the park survey spreadsheet the Councilwoman Maloney created back at the beginning of the process. This spreadsheet showed the results of the survey in percentages as to what were features the residents felt they wanted to see in a park project.

Mayor Nohilly explained the Grant process and presented the current playground. Explained that the current playground is not for young children and the inclusion of a 2-5-year-old tot lot was important.

Mayor Nohilly stated that each Councilmember would have a vote on each feature and the group would try to come to a decision with the most straw poll voting.

Discussions began about each feature. The Metamorphosis received the most votes for the tot lot feature.

The next feature was the playground surface. BA Reibrich shared comments from DPW and their foreman Norm Cottrell. If the Council decides not to put down the rubber play surface which is a great cost, he wanted to let the Governing Body know that the department would favor wood mulch over rubber mulch. He expressed that the wood mulch is easier to maintain will cleaning the surface of the playground especially during the months when the sweet gums drop their fruit, and the leaves drop from the surrounding trees. The wood mulch biodegrades over time and rubber mulch may be harder to maintain in a closed area for cleanup. Councilman Franks stated that he visited the park at Allenhurst who has the poured rubber and saw that there are cracks and dips throughout due to the weather and water. He prefers the wood mulch and rubber edging. Councilman Watson chose rubber mulch and railroad ties for edging.

The Council had a brief discussion regarding the cost, safety and maintenance difference regarding railroad ties and rubber edging for the park. Matt Mariano indicated the pricing should be comparable but with the current supply chains he is unsure of cost changes until he researches it. He said that either would be acceptable. The railroad ties are placed outside of the safety zone. Councilman Watson indicated he would like to have the existing and new playgrounds edged.

Council discussed the use of wood mulch and railroad ties as being the best choice.

Council discussed the pavilion. Councilman Watson expressed a desire for a 2x40 foot rectangular pavilion. Mayor Nohilly stated that he would like to keep the streetscape by the park the same. He explained that he assured the residents who lived by the park and were concerned about this project that the visuals wouldn't change. His opinion would be to keep the gazebos smaller but put in two 20-foot ones one by the tennis courts and one back by the playgrounds.

Council President Butler agreed with the suggestion for two gazebos. There was a brief discussion about the material used for the gazebos such as wood, metal or vinyl wrapped. Councilwoman Maloney stated that she thinks that 2 gazebos is the ideal choice as long as there is enough budget to do so. Otherwise one 20 foot gazebo should be the choice. Councilman Franks and Councilwoman Horowitz agreed.

A brief discussion was had regarding the walkway path at the park. Some members liked asphalt and others concrete. Councilman Watson reminded the Council that Matt Mariano said stamped concrete is an option and can be created in multiple colors. This would help to keep the aesthetic of the park without a glaring pathway being seen.

The Council discussed Fitness Stations with some members liking the Kid Course which is like a ninja warrior course and others preferring the adult fitness unit. Kid Course got the most votes in the straw poll though some members felt that including this wasn't necessary.

The Council discussed water fountains and how many should be installed. Most members said two while Councilwoman Horowitz wasn't in favor of water fountains unless they are the water bottle filling kind. Most people utilizing the park for fitness while they have their own personal water bottle.

Council discussed the kayak racks and places around the Borough for access to the lake. The Council agreed that two floating docks for kayaks would be ideal if a safe place on Bridlemere is created to get to the lake. Mayor Nohilly said he would like to have 2 kayak racks for storage of 16 kayaks. He told the Council that he spoke with Mayor McLauchlin of Allenhurst regarding the kayak stands and storage Mayor McLauchlin said that the kayak stands are on an honor system and that they haven't had any issues regarding the usage.

Councilwoman Maloney stated she would like one kayak rack in each location with Council President Butler concurring.

Councilman Watson said he is not in favor of having kayak racks. He feels like our locations do not compare to the Allenhurst location because there is a bridge in Allenhurst that hides the kayaks from view. He does not want to have a mess of kayaks by the cove with people leaving them there. He said there would need to be a fair way to make sure that people wouldn't leave the equipment. Mayor Nohilly said that the process of storing on the kayak racks hasn't been discussed yet. A first come, first serve honor system could be tried first and then if that was troublesome a different method could be considered. Councilwoman Maloney said that a controlling the process of the storage of the kayaks is not a good enough reason not to have them.

Councilman Watson discussed the leveling and grading of the park. The cost of that portion of the grant is in the miscellaneous section and will be managed by the Engineer’s Office.

Mayor Nohilly kept a running tally of the votes and the costs. From a quick excel sheet, the choices made at the meeting brought the cost to \$330,250 which is within the grant with room for added expenses found during construction.

The Council agreed to discuss this topic again at the first Workshop in the New Year on January 19th.

2. **NEW BUSINESS:** No new business at this time.
3. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** Mayor Nohilly opened the floor for public comment.

Jodi Heinz, 512 Bridlemere Avenue, was unsure about the water fountains if they are not going to be cooled but any available water is better than none. She said she didn’t think the fitness stations would get use by adults, but she is for equipment that keeps kids active.

Robert Cancelleri, 714 Bridlemere Avenue, questioned the gazebo locations. Mayor Nohilly explained. Mr.Cancelleri agreed that two smaller gazebos would be easier to deal with than one large one being he lives across from the park. He asked about dim lighting at night for safety and Police being able to see.

Michael Desarno, 729 Raymere Avenue, questioned if there would be benches in the gazebos.

Robert Cancelleri, 714 Bridlemere Avenue, suggested the Borough purchasing some kayaks for all to use. Council discussed liability and maintenance with such an undertaking and that would be complicated.

4. **ADJOURNMENT:** With no further comments, Councilwoman Maloney made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm, seconded by Councilwoman Horowitz and unanimously carried.

	Mayor Nohilly	Council President Butler	Councilwoman Horowitz	Councilman Watson	Councilwoman Maloney	Councilman Delia	Councilman Franks
Motion to Approve					X		
Motion to Second			X				
Approved		X	X	X	X		X
Opposed							
Abstain/ Recuse							
Absent/ Excused						X	

Lori Reibrich, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk

