

**SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING  
OF THE  
ELMWOOD PARK MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
August 22, 2013  
8:00 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Special Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Elmwood Park was called to order on Thursday, August 22, 2013 at 8:02 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 182 Market Street, Elmwood Park, New Jersey.

On Roll Call Council Members: Caramagna, Castiglia, Conboy, Pettigano, Vuoncino and Council President Colletti were present. Also present was Deputy Clerk Barbara Dispoto. Mayor Mola and Keith Kazmark were absent due to vacation and the Borough Attorney Brian Giblin was also absent.

**2. PRAYER & FLAG SALUTE:**

**3. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE:**

Whereas, Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of the State of New Jersey requires at the commencement of every meeting a Statement of Compliance be read by the presiding officer.

Now, Therefore Be Advised, that the meeting requirements for this meeting have been met by publishing an annual meeting notice in The Record of Hackensack and Herald News of Woodland Park and by posting such notice in the office of the Borough Clerk as well as in a public place within the Municipal Building, and by notifying interested citizens. Said notice was been posted on August 2, 2013.

**4. RESOLUTIONS:**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

R-291-13 Resolution endorsing the Open Space Trust Fund Application – English Avenue Park

**5. ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Councilman Vuoncino and seconded by Councilman Conboy to open the floor to the public. Motion carried unanimously.

Joseph Dombrowski, Lincoln Avenue, presented photos to the Council and discussed his concerns about Cherry Hill Park referencing the photos. Mr. Dombrowski stated that English Avenue is a fully functional park which was improved over the past few years. Mr. Dombrowski feels Cherry Hill Park should be addressed first with the \$80,000 that is proposed to be used for English Avenue Park.

Richard DeLorenzo, Hillman Drive, stated he is also a member of the Recreation Commission. Mr. DeLorenzo stated at the upcoming meeting the Recreation Commission will be asking Boswell Engineering to do a master plan of all the parks in Elmwood Park. He stated that it is the intent of the Recreation Commission to complete the improvements to English Avenue Park. He further stated the need for a street hockey rink because the Street Hockey program has outgrown the Recreation building. Mr. DeLorenzo stated there are safety issues at English Avenue Park and these issues will be addressed in the plan. He further stated Cherry Hill Park will be addressed next year. Mr. DeLorenzo stated that the Trust Fund is there for these purposes and is not taxpayer money. The Trust Fund consists of funds brought into the Recreation Department through registration and fees. Those funds collect interest and are put back into the parks. Mr. DeLorenzo stated the Recreation Commission is receiving good information from Boswell Engineering, Ms. Puglisi and residents of Elmwood Park and use that in their decision making.

A motion was made by Councilman Conboy and seconded by Councilman Vuoncino to close the public portion of the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Council President Colletti asked if the Council would like to speak on this resolution.

Councilman Pettigano stated that he walked around Cherry Hill Park, and feels that English Avenue Park is completed. He discussed his concerns regarding Cherry Hill Park, and stated the condition of the park has worsened over the years. He further stated that putting funds for two consecutive years into the same park is a disservice to the residents of Cherry Hill.

Councilman Conboy addressed comments made by Councilman Pettigano. He further acknowledged that problems exist at Cherry Hill Park and discussed how the Council, Police and the Recreation Commission have dealt with the issues over previous years. He further discussed vandalism is not confined to the Cherry Hill Park. He further discussed Police Chief Johnson is in the process of getting information from other municipalities on how security in the parks is conducted. Council President Colletti asked what can be done to rectify the issues. Councilman Conboy stated cameras in the parks might be one of the options. Councilman Conboy stated that the Recreation Commission has strategically addressed all the parks and feel the best option is to complete English Avenue Park then move on to the next park.

Councilman Pettigano asked why the roller rink could not be constructed at Cherry Hill Park and use remaining funds to clean up the park. He further asked when was the last time grant money was used for Cherry Hill Park. Councilman Conboy stated it is a disservice by making the some of your comments. He further stated that if the problem was as big as claimed, residents would be coming to a meeting to address it or place calls to the Mayor's office. Councilman Conboy stated the plan in place is a good plan. Councilman Pettigano stated that if he did not address this tonight he would have done a disservice to the residents of Cherry Hill.

Councilman Vuoncino stated that Mr. DeLorenzo laid out the plan for English Avenue Park very well. He further discussed the condition of English Avenue Park when his children were young. He commended the Recreation Commission for creating a plan and following through with it. Councilman Vuoncino discussed the benefits of having a roller hockey rink in town. He further discussed the importance of addressing the parking situation at English Avenue Park. Councilman Vuoncino discussed the policing of the parks and stated that it is not the responsibility of the Recreation Commission. He stated that combined effort of the Recreation, Police and the residents is what is needed to correct the problems at Cherry Hill Park. Installing a roller rink or investing \$80,000 at the park will not rectify the situation. Councilman Vuoncino contacted the Police Department to inquire about the number of incidents reported at Cherry Hill Park. He stated that from the beginning of July to August 20, 2013; there were a total of seven complaints made to the Police Department. He further discussed the reasons and the conclusions of those seven complaints. Councilman Vuoncino discussed the steps the Police Department are taking at this time to police the parks. He also discussed the reluctance of residents to call the Police when issues are happening at the parks. Councilman Vuoncino stated the community needs to come together to correct the issues.

Councilman Caramagna stated that the Council is not working together. He feels the Council should concentrate on fixing Cherry Hill Park. Councilman Caramagna feels the Council should vote down this resolution and apply for another grant in the future for the improvement of Cherry Hill Park.

Councilman Castiglia stated that he spoke with residents around Cherry Hill Park. He further stated the Department of Public Works has been at the park to do a clean-up recently. Councilman Castiglia stated that the Department of Public Works does not have the man power or the facilities to do a complete sweep of the park in one session. Councilman Castiglia stated that in his discussion with residents, they do not want the park to become a political issue. He further stated that he believes as does some of the residents that the town needs to come together to better Cherry Hill Park. Councilman Castiglia stated this resolution for English Avenue Park has nothing to do with Cherry Hill Park, and the discussions to English Avenue have been ongoing for some time and is not something that has just been brought up in the past couple of weeks. Councilman Castiglia stated the reason for tonight's meeting is to approve application for a grant for English Avenue and this grant cannot be changed to be used for Cherry Hill Park. He agrees that Cherry Hill needs to be addressed, but at this time the Council is here to vote for the grant for English Avenue Park Improvements.

Councilman Caramagna verified the grant was for matching funds, than asked to save the matching funds at this time and use them later for Cherry Hill Park. Councilman Vuoncino stated it doesn't make sense to not take advantage of free money from the County in the form of a Open Space grant.

Councilman Pettigano questioned the lack of lighting in the plans for English Avenue Park. Councilman Conboy stated that the Recreation will pursue other grant opportunities that address lighting.

Councilman Conboy stated that the Recreation Department is always looking into ways to improve all parks. English Avenue Park can be completed with this grant then the Recreation can move onto the improvements of the next park. Councilman Conboy stated just like other Boards in Elmwood Park, the Recreation Commission has the authority of how the Trust Fund is used. He further stated that if the Council decided to vote down this resolution tonight, the Recreation Commission has the authority to take \$160,000 out of their Trust account to complete the work at English Avenue Park. Councilman Conboy reiterated Councilman Castiglia's comment that Public Work's cannot address Cherry Hill Park as it needs to be presently. Therefore the Recreation Department has been seeking quotes to clear out all the brush in Cherry Hill Park utilizing funds from the Trust account and not taxpayer money.

Councilman Colletti stated that additional clean-up and policing of the park is needed. He further stated that lighting in the park could further resolve issues that occur after dark. Councilman Colletti also stated that work at English Avenue should be concluded then move to the next project. He further stated that taking funds away from this project would not be productive.

**BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK  
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
RESOLUTION R-291-13**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION BY: COUNCILMAN CASTIGLIA  
SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN CONBOY**

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND APPLICATION  
ENGLISH AVENUE PARK**

**WHEREAS**, the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund ("County Trust Fund"), provides matching grants to municipal Governments and to non-profit organizations for assistance in the development or redevelopment of municipal recreation facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Elmwood Park desires to further the public interest by obtaining a matching grant of \$80,000 from the County Trust Fund to fund the following project: English Avenue Park Improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing body has reviewed the County Trust Fund Program Statement, and the Trust Fund Municipal Program Park Improvement application and instructions and desires to make an application for such a matching grant and provide the application information and furnish such documents as may be required; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of the application process, the governing body received public comments on the proposed park improvements in the application on Thursday, August 22, 2013; and

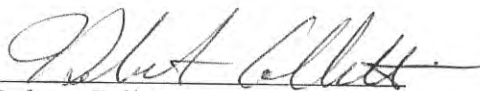
**WHEREAS**, the County of Bergen shall determine whether the application is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the County Trust Fund; and

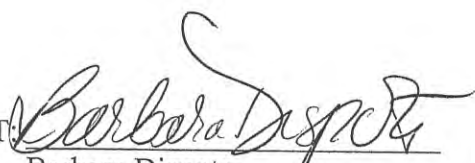
WHEREAS, the applicant is willing to use the County Trust in accordance with such rules, regulations and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the County of Bergen for the above names project and ensure its completion on or about the project contract expiration date.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council:

1. That it is hereby authorized to submit the above completed project application to the County by the deadline of August 29, 2013, as established by the County; and
2. That, in the event of a County Trust Fund award that may be less than the grant amount requested above; the Mayor and Council has, or will secure the balance of funding necessary to complete the project, or modify the project as necessary; and
3. That the Mayor and Council is committed to providing a dollar for dollar cash match for the project; and
4. That only park improvements identified and approved in the project application, its Trust Fund contract, or other documentation will be considered eligible for reimbursement.
5. That the Mayor and Council agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and
6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED: August 22, 2013

  
 Robert Colletti  
 Council President

ATTEST:   
 Barbara Dispoto  
 Deputy Borough Clerk

Record of Council Vote on Passage

	AYE	NAY	Abstain	Absent		AYE	NAY	Abstain	Absent
Caramagna		X			Pettigano		X		
Castiglia	X				Vuoncino	X			
Conboy	X				Colletti	X			

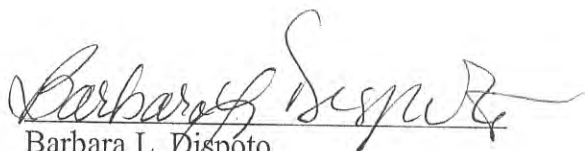
This resolution was approved by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Elmwood Park at a regular scheduled meeting held on the day 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2013. Signed and sealed before me.

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 Keith Kazmark RMC/CMC/MMC  
 Borough Clerk

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 Dated

A motion was made by Councilman Conboy and seconded by Councilman Vuoncino to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Barbara L. Dispoto  
Deputy Borough Clerk

*Minutes approved at the September 19, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council.*