

SPECIAL MEETING: 6:02PM - MEETING STATEMENT:

The Borough Clerk read the public meetings statement.

This Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highlands is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notice has been transmitted to the Asbury Park Press, Two River Times, and by posting at The Borough of Highlands Municipal Building and filing with the Borough Clerk all on November 30, 2021. This agenda is complete to the extent known; no formal action will be taken at this Meeting. Council may limit repetitive comments and may limit the time or number of questions or comments from any one citizen to ensure an orderly meeting and allow adequate time for members of the public to be heard.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Melnyk, Councilmember Olszewski, and Mayor Broullon were all Present.
Absent: Councilmember Martin, Councilmember Mazzola

Also in attendance were Administrator Michael Muscillo, Borough Attorney Brian Chabarek, Esq., Jason Baldasera, Spohn Ranch Skate Parks, and Municipal Clerk Michelle Hutchinson

DISCUSSION ITEM: SKATE PARK – DESIGN FEEDBACK SESSION

Mr. Baldasera, from Spohn Ranch Skate Park discussed plans for the new skate park. He explained that the initial concept design was a place holder to receive funding. Mr. Baldasera gave a broad overview of the skate park design process and how it works. Mr. Baldasera asked participants to give ideas of what they are looking to see. Goal is to design something that everyone can use. Mayor stated that anyone commenting would need to state name and address for the record.

Nathanael Burel, 44 Huddy Avenue – Feels that park should be user friendly.

Tom Steen, 5 Prospect Street – Recommended a long chin height round flat bar and asked that there be a deck area incorporated into the design if a quarter pike is not decked. Mr. Baldasera explained that due to JIF regulations space may be an issue, but he will do his best to accommodate the request.

Christian Richards, 52 Asbury Avenue, Atlantic Highlands – In support of the concept design. Would like to see something comparable to Long Branch skate park design with transition.

Mr. Baldasera stated water table is an issue in Highlands that would need to be taken into consideration in any design incorporating a bowl. There is a five-foot zone that borders the park that needs to be left empty of any equipment, etc. The site is currently 120 feet long and 55 feet wide. Mr. Baldasera proposed to Council that an extra 12 x 55 strip of land be utilized for the project. Mayor stated that it could be discussed with Council as possibility.

Michael Durica, 307 Park Avenue, Atlantic Highlands – In favor of a bowl for kids to learn how to transition.

Mr. Baldasera explained that there is a five-foot zone that borders the park that needs to be left empty of any equipment, etc.

Ashley Cruz, 124 Wesley Avenue, Atlantic Highlands – Questioned if the five-foot zone needs to be void and if basketball hoops will remain? Mr. Baldasera explained that there must be a non skateable feature. Mayor explained that the whole park is being redone and basketball will remain.

Tom Steen, 5 Prospect Street – Questioned if there are other designs to view and how will the town proceed. Mr. Baldasera explained that once he is finished with the design based on audience feedback that the design will be presented via webinar before being presented to the Council for approval.

Michael Durica, 307 Park Avenue, Atlantic Highlands – Suggested colored concrete for the H in the design.

Jack McMahon 35 Ocean Blvd, Atlantic Highlands – Suggestion of deck into the five-foot area. Mr.

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Baldasera stated nothing can go in the five-foot area around the skate park.

Mike Cannamela, 1 Scenic Court, Atlantic Highlands – Concerned with flow of park with respect to people gathering in certain areas.

Nathanael Burel, 44 Huddy Avenue – Asked Mr. Baldasera for timeline and anticipated completion date.

Mr. Baldasera stated design should be completed before winter. Due to weather construction should begin March/April with a 60-day window to build. Should be completed by summer 2022.

Jimmy Baron, 28 Fifth Street – Supports skate park design is also concerned about flow of park.

At this time, Jason asked for feedback on general concerns and any specific ledge heights and type of slappy grind “slappies” preferred from audience. A variety of sizes was the overall response.

Michael Durica, 307 Park Avenue, Atlantic Highlands – Feels that the space is small so it should be maximized for skateboarding.

Nikko DeMartino, 37 Pate Drive – Would like to know if bikes would be allowed. Mr. Baldasera explained that bikes are not allowed but scooters are. He will follow up.

Christian Richards, 52 Asbury Avenue, Atlantic Highlands – Gave suggestions on texture, possibly incorporating clam shell artwork into the design.

Ashley Cruz, 124 Wesley Avenue, Atlantic Highlands – Suggested that clam shells could be incorporated into the design and concrete could also be used as texture. Also, asked if park entrance could be clarified. Mr. Baldasera explained.

Katrina Majewski, 124 Wesley Avenue, Atlantic Highlands – Recommended that the five-foot area be used as a place for people to chill while not skating.

Jimmy Burns, 20 Fifth Street - Suggested that coping materials be consider due to salt air.

Austin Manning, 1 Lighthouse Road - Questioned if lighting would be an option? Mr. Baldasera deferred question to Council. Also, suggested stone around perimeter instead of grass. Mr. Baldasera stated he would consider his suggestion. Mayor explained that lighting would be done by way of an ordinance.

Mr. Baldasera asked audience if an elevated plaza would be an option. Audience all answered no.

Timothy Brooks, 276 Atlantic Highlands – Feels that space should be utilized to skate and not to just hang out.

Mayor opens public portion.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Samantha McCarthy, 57 Barbieri Avenue – Question regarding funding. Mayor explained that a trust fund was created to accept donations for skate park.

Councilmember Melnyk thanked everyone for coming out.

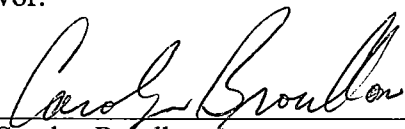
Council President Olszewski also thanked everyone for an enjoyable and productive meeting.


Mayor closed public portion.

ADJOURN:

Upon motion by Councilmember Melnyk, seconded by Mayor Broullon, motion carries to adjourn at 6:51PM.

All in Favor.

Approve: 
Carolyn Broullon

Attest: 
Michelle Hutchinson, Borough Clerk