

**Minutes of the Borough of Bogota Planning & Zoning Board Meeting
November 28, 2023**

The Bogota Borough Planning and Zoning Board had a regular meeting on November 28, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. Members present were Chairman Mancini, Vice Chair Daniele Fede, Robert Foster, Daniel Schnipp, William Hordern, Yesenia Frias and Rebecca Youla. Also in attendance were Board attorney Kevin Kelly and Board secretary Patricia Morrone. Those absent were Eddie Rieper , Councilwoman Mary Ellen Murphy and D/Sgt. Hector Liriano. Excused member was Tom Napolitano.

A motion to open for public comments not related to items on the agenda was made by Yesenia Frias with a second by Dan Schnipp. There being no public comments a motion was made to close by William Hordern with a second by Rebecca Youla. Both motions passed.

Board attorney, Kevin Kelly advised Mr. Franklin Soto, attorney for Hoyt Enterprises , 151 Elm Avenue withdrew this application on behalf of his client. They will refile in the future.

Alexis Goldman from Solutions Architects and Paul Anderson from Anderson Consulting Services were sworn in and began their presentation of the Fiegel Field renovations. The renovations will include both the borough property and the BOE property. It was stated that the idea of this project is to made the fields accessible to the entire community for their use. The plans include multi purpose fields, a new building housing the concession stand, storage and trainer's rooms as well as a storage area. There will be fencing around the track .

Mr. Anderson stated there is a 6 lane track with elevation of 5 to 8 feet. The field will be sodded with an irrigation system in the new building. Improvements will be made to Feller Place. Three EV parking spaces will be installed for district school buses. Sports lights will be standard.

Plans call for 70 new trees and 1053 new shrubs. Mrs. Fede asked if the 70 trees and shrubs will be placed along both fields. Mr. Anderson pointed out where the trees and shrubs would be placed. However, a question was posed as to the number of trees that will be removed. It was stated 20 trees would be removed with 12 trees staying in tact. These include the beautiful Weeping Willows along the walking path.

It was recommended that the borough tree arborist examine the condition of the trees to be taken down. Healthy trees can possibly be salvaged.

Mrs. Frias asked about the drainage pipe in the ditch. It was stated that the water goes out to the river with check valves in certain locations. It was also stated that storm water controls on the borough side are not required by the DEP.

Mr. Hordern expressed concern about water drainage with the expansion of Feller Place.

It was explained that 2 ½ feet of gravel goes underground to control storm water which must meet DEP's rigorous requirements.

Mrs. Frias asked if the EV spaces will be for public use. We were told they would be for school bus use only.

The baseball field would be sodded as it is safer for players on the field. It would be maintained by the sod irrigation system housed in the new building.

Mrs. Fede asked how long the fields would be non-operational. It was stated that once the sod catches, the field would be useable. It was stated that sod can take up to 3 months to catch. It was agreed there would be a delay. It was also stated that construction would hopefully start in April with both sides of the field to be completed by September.

Ms. Youla asked if there could be one field of play in an effort to conserve the ambiance of the park. Superintendent Kennedy advised that is not possible since a soft ball field is smaller

in dimension than a baseball field. She also stated the public was not made aware of the number of trees to be destroyed and had they been aware the outcome would have been totally different.

Mrs. Fede asked if the police department had any input regarding the layout of the parking on Feller Place. It was advised they were contacted but have not replied.

Borough Engineer, Robert Costa, stated all drainage must be up to DEP code. The arborist should be consulted regarding the possibility of moving or shifting trees in order to save them. He also stated the fields would most likely be out of commission for 6 months.

Mr. Hordern advised an expansion of the borough storm water ordinance will mimic DEP regulations.

A motion to open to public comments was made by Rebecca Youla with a second by Yesenia Frias. Ms. Susan Harper who resides on the outskirts of the park addressed the inconsistent information given to the public regarding this project. She is concerned that the ambiance of the park will be destroyed. She is also concerned about the lights in the back of the park shining in her house. Also, what effect will the construction during the summer months have on the air quality for those Swim Club members.

A motion to close to public comments was made by William Hordern with a second by Rebecca Youla.

Mr. Kelly advised this is a courtesy review and we would need a roll call to frame a resolution.

Mr Schnipp questioned the choice of grass/turf for the fields. Mrs. Frias feels that we should work together to save the trees in our park. Signage for EV parking for school buses only. Storm water concerns.

Mrs. Fede requests that the landscaper and borough tree arborist inspect our trees and save them, with emphasis on the Weeping Willows. Mr. Foster is concerned about the flooding as the water will have no place to go. Mr. Hordern mentioned the emergency shut off valves, tree conservation. Ms. Youla feels this is taking away our park and inconsistent information was presented to the public.

Chairman Mancini stated the project is very appealing and will be a good thing for the town. He is generally in favor of it with the following requirements: saving the trees, work with fire department on flood matters. Mr. Kelly will frame a resolution for a vote at the December 12th meeting. A motion was made by Rebecca Youla with a second by Yesenia Frias to have this resolution presented to the Board. The roll was called. Motion passed.

Mr. Kelly advised the Wenesco Land Developer's Agreement has been approved by the applicant. A motion to approve was made by William Hordern with a second by Rebecca Youla. Motion passed. The 285 Orchard Terrace Land Developer's Agreement is still pending.

A motion was made to adopt the minutes of the October 24th meeting by Rebecca Youla with a second by Robert Foster. Ms. Frias abstained. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Rebecca Youla with a second by Yesenia Frias to approve payment of invoices, with the exception of Costa's Cross Street invoices, which are paid under escrow per the Land Developer's Agreement. Motion passed.

The meeting dates of our 2024 meetings, with the deletion of December 24th, was made by William Hordern with a second by Yesenia Frias. Motion passed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by William Hordern with a second by Rebecca Youla. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Morrone