

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
PALISADES INTERSTATE PARK
NEW JERSEY SECTION

March 7, 2024

A meeting of the Citizens Advisory Council, Palisades Interstate Park Commission, New Jersey Section, was held on March 7, 2024 at the Alpine Headquarters and via Zoom.

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Chair Daniel Chazin at 1:30 p.m. Participating were CAC members Daniel Chazin, Tony Martin, Alan Zimmerman, Deborah Davidson, and Peter Michalos, PIP NJ Office Manager Sandra Kimbro, Commissioner Kevin Tremble, and member of the public Andrew Mikesch. Commissioner Tremble had difficulty connecting via Zoom and was unable to effectively participate in the meeting.

2. Minutes. A few corrections were proposed and accepted for the February meeting minutes, and the minutes were accepted with those corrections.

3. Chairman's Report. Chair Daniel Chazin reported the following:

a. Hikes in the Park. On Sunday, February 18th, joined the Boy Scouts for a geocaching hike south of State Line Lookout - found two cached items even with snow on the ground. Had issues with parking: with 7 cars, 3 people paid properly, 2 did not pay, 1 was exempt (Chazin), and 1 said the machine would not permit them to pay for more than 1 hour; 3 received tickets and one person paid via the app and commented that was more expensive.

b. Feb 12 Commission Meeting. The meeting was on Zoom, and Supt. Shallop did discuss several items related to the NJ section.

c. NY-NJ Trail Conference Maps. PIP has placed an order for the new Hudson Palisades maps.

4. Members' Reports. - None

5. Staff Reports and Items for Discussion:

a. Sending CAC minutes to the PIPC Commissioners. Chair Chazin is sending our monthly minutes to Liz VanHouten to distribute to the Commissioners.

b. Repairs to Park Headquarters in Alpine. The project is in the final stages with inspections next week and move-in in April, after 4 years of work. We hope to use the conference room for the April CAC meeting.

c. Fort Lee Historic Park. At the Commission meeting the Conservancy reported they received two grants for \$13K to address Officer Huts and signage.

d. Damage to Park from Tropical Storm Ida. There are no recent updates. The contract for the initial A&E (architecture & engineering) project has been awarded and work is underway.

e. Maintenance of hiking trails in the New Jersey Section. The park Maintenance department has assigned three staff to its Trails Division. The discussion turned to the closing of State Line Lookout for a film crew on March 8th and March 11th - 20th. At SLL, Chair Chazin noted that one ski trail is very wet and there is gravel that could be used to fill some spots. Deb Davidson suggested that closing announcements should be on social media as well as the website.

f. Proposed Bike Path along 9W; Northern Valley Greenway; Bike Trails West of Parkway. A. Mikesh reported that he attended a meeting on Tuesday that was part of the NY-commissioned study of options for a multi-use path from the GWB to the Cuomo Bridge. Three “visioning” sessions are scheduled, and NVG is an official stakeholder in the project. The meeting was 90 minutes and packed (on Zoom). Up to five alternative routes are under consideration, and the process is geared towards the biking community.

g. New Jersey Camp Alpine (Northern New Jersey Council). Chair Chazin reported that at the Commission meeting Joshua Laird said they are selecting a consultant for a project to plan for NJ Camp Alpine and to form a Technical Advisory Committee.

h. Metered Parking. Sandra Kimbro confirmed that paying for parking via the app costs an extra \$0.35. At the Commission meeting S. Shallop reported that State Line Lookout parking revenue was \$60K, and that metered parking would next be introduced at Allison Park.

i. Parkway Police. At the Commission meeting Chief Shallop reported that the NJ Park Police were in the process of re-accreditation. Also, that the police are directed NOT to pursue traffic violators at high speeds (likely to reduce the risk of high-speed chases).

j. Electric Service to Ross Dock. The power line to Ross Dock needs to be replaced. There are two options: 1) bring power down the cliffs, or 2) tap into Port Authority power lines by the GWB.

k. Staffing of New Jersey Section. No report.

l. Palisades Park Conservancy. 2024 Gala scheduled for June 10.

m. 1993 Master Plan for New Jersey Section. No Report.

n. Other items for discussion. Chair Chazin will follow up on the matter of the replacement guard rails color (the replacement appears to be slightly different from the original).

6. Public Comment. None

Executive Session - the Committee discussed filling its remaining vacancy. Chair Chazin will speak with Commissioner Tremble about candidates from the historical re-enactor community as well as other possible candidates.

7. Date of Next Meeting. The next CAC meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on April 11, 2024 at the Alpine Headquarters and via Zoom.

8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Martin
Recording Secretary