

VILLAGE OF SOUTH BLOOMING GROVE
VILLAGE BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
FORMATION OF PARKS COMMISSION
LOCAL LAW 5 OF 2022
MONDAY
AUGUST 22, 2022
8:01PM

Call to order

Mayor Kalaj called to order the Village Board Public Hearing, regarding creating a Parks Commission, at 8:02pm on August 22, 2022, via Zoom Webinar ID: 81653699709 for the Village of South Blooming Grove located at 819 State Route 208, within the Village of South Blooming Grove, and having a mailing address of Monroe, New York.

➤ **Roll call**

The following persons were present:

- George Kalaj – Mayor
- Abraham Weiss- Deputy Mayor
- Yitzchok Feldman– Trustee
- Asher Guttman- Trustee
- Zalmon Rosner – Trustee
- Joel Stern – Confidential Assistant to the Mayor
- Isaac Ekstein – Legislative Aide to Mayor
- Al Fusco- Village Engineer
- Scott Ugell Esq.- Village Attorney
- Kerry Dougherty – Village Clerk

➤ **Presentation**

- **Mayor Kalaj** opened the public hearing regarding Local Law 5 of 2022 creating a Parks Commission and asked Engineer to introduce the matter. **Engineer Fusco** the village was tasked with creating a parks commission so we have a formation of a Parks Commission Local Law. This was the idea of the board and advisors to move together to help create parklands for all the people including the children of course, as you know we are doing a new park for them as well. Al Fusco read the proposed Local Law for the formation of park commission.

➤ **Public Comment**

- **Sue Anne Vogelsberg** – She is curious because you are creating a parks commission, but she doesn't know what parks you are talking about. The only one she can think of is the one by Rolling Hills that the little league uses over there, and Mr. Fusco mentioned about 5 appointees are we going to know who those appointees are, because she submitted and said she was interested but she never heard anything back. Also, these parks, it says it is open to everybody so there is no discrimination for age, sex, racial or anything like that, it is for all the citizens, right?
- **Joel Stern** replied saying very valid points brought up. To answer the first questions, yes right now we only have the Rolling Hills Park and the park at Lakeshore which both are in the need of major improvements in terms of landscaping, to equipment to really furnishing them properly so they can handle the visitors and the kids and really make it interesting to come. Additionally, the Mayor would like to have with the increase of school age juniors and children, additional parks in additional

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areas in the village where the kids can actually, instead of running on the streets, they can actually be in a safe environment with the proper furniture and equipment and playground equipment and whatnot for the kids to have. For that initiative you need a parks commission to have an oversight from the design and planning requesting funding and whatnot. Absolutely it will be for all the residents of the village, it is not limited to any religion, race, sex or any of these parameters that you mentioned. It is for all residents of the village. **Sue Anne** we keep building office buildings and retail space, she doesn't know where we are going to find land for a park. **Mr. Stern** advised that is actually the job of the park commission, they will be tasked with that and will take it from there. **Mayor Kalaj** that is why we are creating a parks commission, to find these things and make it work.

- **Simon Schwartz** lost connection.... Reconnected later and added that he was speaking on his personal behalf. He wanted to commend the village for taking this step and putting forth the formation of the parks commission. It is long overdue, maybe when there were little kids in the village 40 years ago, we did have such a commission, maybe the town had it but definitely now with so many school age kids, not having somewhere to play, he wants to commend and thank the village for taking that step and looking into building more parks within the village. If there is anything he can do to help from a Town perspective, he is here to help.

➤ **Adjournment**

- Motion to close the public hearing at 8:12pm. by Mayor Kalaj, seconded by Trustee Rosner. 5 Ayes, *Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Feldman, Trustee Guttman and Trustee Rosner.*

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Kerry Dougherty, Village Clerk