

Planning & Development Committee
January 15, 2013
Minutes

Members Present: Committee Chair Barry Ormsby, Legislators Robert Thomas, Philip Reed, Allen Drake, John Peck, Robert Ferris, Chairwoman of the Board Carolyn Fitzpatrick

Others Present: Legislators Michael Docteur, Michael Montigelli, Michael Astafan, Scott Gray, Jennie Adsit, Anthony Doldo, County Administrator Robert Hagemann, Deputy Administrator Michael Kaskan, County Attorney David Paulsen, Planning Director Don Canfield, Fire and Emergency Management Services Director Joseph Plummer, Highway Superintendent James Lawrence, NYS Zoo Executive Director John Wright, Watertown Daily Times Reporter Daniel Flatley, Senior Typist Torri Richmire

Chairman Ormsby called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. The minutes of the November 2012 meeting were approved without objection or correction.

Bob Gorman, Thompson Park Conservancy President, addressed the committee and expressed his appreciation to the Board for the \$50,000+ yearly commitment that they give the zoo. He stated that the zoo receives a combined total of \$140,000 in funding from the County of Jefferson, City of Watertown, and New York State which is a small portion of the \$609,000 budget that they have. The remaining balance is raised through admissions, the gift shop and fundraisers that they have throughout the year. He stated that knowing they will receive the money from the County in the first quarter of the year (when ticket sales are down) allows them to feed the animals and pay staff. The Conservancy wants the Board to know that it helps in their yearly planning to know that they have the consistent support from the County.

He advised that there will be a number of expansions in the near future at the zoo, such as, a new pavilion, a backyard habitat consisting of gardens, an owl exhibit with a walkway to view the eight native species at the zoo, expansion of the caribou exhibit making it easier to see them and a moose exhibit in the future. They also have plans for walking trails to allow access to exhibits from multiple views to promote further use of the grounds without expanding the footprint of the zoo and major improvements to the children's zoo by partnering with agricultural groups to teach children about farming and animals native to this area.

He praised John Wright, NYS Zoo Executive Director, for bringing new ideas and his vision to improve on what is already at the zoo.

Chairman Ormsby introduced a resolution authorizing Grant Agreement, State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) Determination, and amending the 2013 County Budget in relation to a 2012 Community Development Block Grant Award from the NYS Office of Community Renewal and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Thomas and seconded by Legislator Peck. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the

resolution as presented.

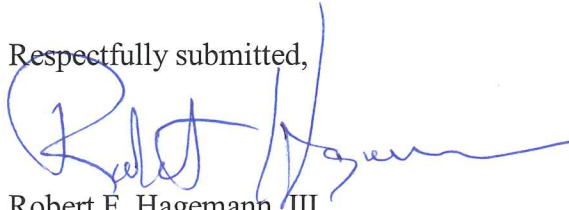
Chairman Ormsby introduced a resolution authorizing Jefferson County to be lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act for the purpose of conducting an Eight Year Review of the Jefferson County Southeast Agricultural District #1, and making a Determination of Non-significance and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Peck and seconded by Legislator Reed. Planning Director Don Canfield stated that this is the eight year re-certification and there are two resolutions, one is for approving the SEQR and the other is to adopt modifications to the district as recommended by the Ag and Farmland Protection Board. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Ormsby introduced a resolution adopting modifications pursuant to the Eight Year Review of the Jefferson County Southeast Agricultural District, No. 1 and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Reed and seconded by Legislator Ferris. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

Chairman Ormsby introduced a resolution reappointing members to Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors and entertained a motion for consideration. A motion was duly made by Legislator Thomas and seconded by Legislator Reed. There being no discussion, the Committee agreed to sponsor the resolution as presented.

There being no further business, on a motion by Legislator Thomas seconded by Legislator Reed and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert F. Hagemann, III
Clerk of the Board