

Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus
County of Bergen
Mayor and Council Public Information Meeting Minutes
November 28, 2022 7:00 p.m.

The Public Information Meeting of the Municipal Council of the Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus was held in the Municipal Building at 333 Warren Avenue, Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ on November 28, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Randall who asked the Clerk to read the open a public meeting statement:

The Public Information Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus is now in session in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of the “Open Public Meetings Act”. Notice of this meeting has been posted in the front lobby entrance to the Borough Hall and Council Chambers, a copy has been filed with the Borough Clerk, and copies of the Annual Notice of Meetings, of which this is a part, have been heretofore sent to the Record and the Ridgewood News.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor.....	Thomas W. Randall
Council President.....	Douglas Troast
Councilman.....	Steven Shell
Councilman.....	Edward Iannelli
Councilman.....	Kevin Crossley
Councilman.....	Dane Policastro
Councilwoman.....	Kathleen Moran

FLAG SALUTE:

Mayor Randall led those present in the salute to the American Flag.

Mayor Randall made a brief statement stating why we were having this meeting. He explained the Mayor and Council has been considering relocating the Worth Pinkham Memorial Library to the former Bank of America Building, 10 Orvil Court, a Borough property and would like public input. He stated their will be no formal action taken.

Mayor turned the meeting over to Library Director, Morgan Taylor who made a presentation highlighting the barriers at the current location and the highlights of the new location She also stated that this has been in the Borough Master Plan for many years where it states that the library should be relocated.

Barriers at 91 Warren Avenue;

Physical Access – The building is on the busy Franklin Turnpike, with a difficult winding driveway that provides access to only one handicap accessible parking space. The street parking is insufficient and the steep hill and stairs make access to the building difficult in all-weather condition, especially for those with physical challenges, senior and caregivers.

Limited Space - With the Community continuing to grow, their collection of material is condensed based upon what fits with their wall. The library does not have adequate or designed space for programs, the Borough, local organization, senior, STEM/ STEAM technology, etc.

Repairs & Maintenance – The building was constructed for residential living 100+ years ago and retrofitted to become a library. The HVAC & Plumbing systems are outdated. The roof is currently sporting several tarps and needs a full replacement.

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Highlights of 10 Orville Court, the library can provide;

Accessible Community Space – The Brough does not currently have an accessible indoor gathering space for formal and informal purposes.

A Bridge - This location would provide a space in the heart of town, where residents could easily get to from the schools, public services, and businesses.

Something for all Residents – Few other organization have the ability to reach every person in the community. The purpose of the library is to provide engagement and enrichment for all.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Randall opened the meeting to the public.

Many residents spoke in favor of relocating the library, stating they use other towns library because of the lack of access to the current location and they feel this would be a good fit for the town.

No resident spoke that was not in favor of moving the library.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilman Iannelli, seconded by Councilman Policastro, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. Motion Carried by voice vote – all present voting “Aye”.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Herve, RMC/CMR
Borough Clerk