

May 12, 2010

The Honorable Peter Hughes and Members of Glen Ridge Borough Council
825 Bloomfield Avenue
Glen Ridge, NJ 07028

Dear Mayor Hughes and Members of Council:

Earlier this week, both in a Parks & Recreation subcommittee meeting and at a Borough Council meeting later the same day, Mayor Hughes stated on the record that there are no plans to replace any grass athletic fields in the Borough with artificial turf, and that he wished publicly to dispel any rumors to that effect.

Imagine my surprise and dismay when I was forwarded an email from Bob Salvatelli, sent to members of the GRAA, which clearly states that the GRAA plans to raise funds for the installation of artificial turf, and that in a prior, private meeting with the Borough Council, members of the GRAA were told that "[the Borough Council] would support a privately financed field." Attached please find the full text of this email.

At Monday's subcommittee meeting, Councilwoman Yvonne Provost's suggestion that members of the public be included on decisions regarding fields was vigorously rejected on the grounds that no decisions have been made; and that the public need not be included in preliminary discussions. But it would appear that decisions have been made without public participation. At the very least, it would appear that what is being said in private differs from what is being said in public.

I would respectfully suggest that any meetings among the Mayor, the Borough Council and the GRAA (or representatives of any of the foregoing) at which significant alterations to public property are discussed, as in the case of the fence at Sherman field and in the case of potentially installing artificial turf at Hurrell field, which are not publicly announced 48 hours prior to the meeting and to which the general public is not invited or advised to attend, are in violation of the Sunshine Laws.

I would respectfully request a transcript of the minutes of the meeting to which Mr. Salvatelli refers when he quotes the Borough Council as voicing its support of privately funded artificial turf fields, and I would also request to see the vote of Borough Council members who supported the GRAA proposal.

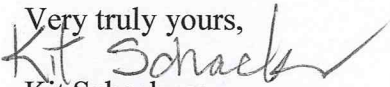
While not belaboring the point, I am one of the people being intentionally circumvented by the Borough Council, as evidenced in Mr. Savatelli's e-mail. Suffice it to say that I am troubled by the suggestion that my elected officials would intentionally disenfranchise me and my neighbors.

I would suggest that, rather than discussing artificial turf behind closed doors, it would be a more productive use of the Mayor and Borough Council's time and energy to attempt to circumvent another contentious battle over how Glen Ridge does or does not operate

within statutory requirements. The last such discussion resulted in a referendum on bonds supported by the Mayor and Borough Council but overwhelmingly rejected by the taxpayers.

Please make every effort to hold all meetings with the GRAA in full public view, and keep the business of Glen Ridge fully transparent and accountable. It is a definite possibility that, as it was with respect to the issue of bonding for turf, a majority of residents do not agree with the priorities of the Glen Ridge Athletic Association.

Very truly yours,



Kit Schackner
92 Carteret Street
Glen Ridge, NJ 07028

cc: Members of Glen Ridge Votes

From: Glen Ridge Athletic Association <info@graa.org>

Date: May 11, 2010 7:26:40 AM EDT

Subject: GRAA News on Fields in GR

All,

The political process has been incredibly frustrating. We know the terrible condition of Glen Ridge fields, but we also know there is significant opposition in town to spending tax dollars on turf fields.

I believe that we should keep the heat on the town council, but given that a bond including funding for turf was previously defeated by Glen Ridge voters by a better than 3-1 margin and that the town's tax and fiscal situation has only deteriorated since then, a number of us who have been working for the past few years to get a turf field built believe that pursuing public funding for a turf field will require a very long process with an uncertain and unpredictable outcome.

Most of you saw the note I sent out last week on our meeting and we left it with the Town Council that we would come back to them shortly with a response. Though attending meetings is part of the eventual process to a successful outcome, we should really have a complete plan of attack in place before we go back to the council in a formal way. We want to try to avoid re-starting the "Turf Wars" and energizing the other side to organize a campaign against us. If you want to go to future meeting, I think the most productive thing at this stage would be for you simply to express your concern about the state of the fields. Being civil and respectful is the most effective way to get your point across.

This is frustrating, but we're trying to stay focused on what we think is best for our kids.

At this point, we think the quickest and surest way to get a turf field for Glen Ridge is to investigate the possibility of a fundraising campaign to turf the baseball and football

fields at Hurrell. The town council has told us they would support a privately financed field. This won't be easy and will require support from all of you and a great many other people in town. We're going to spend the next few weeks trying to organize such an effort and then launch a fundraising drive to raise the necessary funds.

Let me know if you know anyone who is interested in helping – whether contributing and/or helping to organize and do some of the necessary leg work – and please pass along their names and email addresses. There will be a lot to do.

I appreciate everyone's support.

Bob

bob@graa.org

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of Engineers®



New York - New Jersey
Harbor Estuary Program



THE PORT AUTHORITY
OF NY & NJ

Notice of
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS
for the
Hudson-Raritan Estuary:
COMPREHENSIVE RESTORATION PLAN

The New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the New York / New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program (HEP), has developed a Comprehensive Restoration Plan (Plan) to restore the Hudson-Raritan ecosystem. A draft Plan has been prepared in collaboration with the region's state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations as a part of the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. The Plan also has been adopted by the HEP Partners as the "path forward" for future restoration in the Estuary. Your review and assistance is being sought to tailor the plan to meet local needs and opportunities.

The Hudson-Raritan Estuary is a complex ecological system in the midst of a thriving metropolitan center. The estuary includes rivers, wetlands, coastline, and open waters spanning more than 1,600 square miles across New York and New Jersey. The Estuary ecosystem has been degraded from centuries of industrialization and urbanization throughout the watershed. This Plan provides the framework for an estuary-wide restoration program by identifying eleven specific habitat and ecological targets to focus restoration efforts on. The Plan calls for the establishment of tidal wetlands, oyster reefs, eelgrass beds, islands for waterbirds and coastal and maritime forests, as well as the re-establishment of connectivity between habitats, such as tributaries and shorelines and shallows, and habitat complexes for fish and crustaceans. The reversal of human-induced degradation (contaminated sediments and enclosed and confined waters) and increasing and improving public access throughout the estuary are also priority goals of the Plan. Restoring the Estuary will create a mosaic of habitats—where nature and people coexist and where the environment and economy receive balanced consideration—providing us with all the benefits the estuary can offer striving to be a World Class Estuary.

The purpose of these meetings is to introduce the Comprehensive Restoration Plan to the public and be an opportunity for stakeholders of each Planning Region to identify potential restoration actions that could implement the goals of the overall plan in their community. This information will aid in the revision and further development of the Plan.

The project partners will present an overview of the project on the dates listed below, with a special emphasis on restoration projects and opportunities specific to the local planning region and mechanisms for current and future input. Following the presentations, partners will be available to meet with participants to discuss existing conditions and restoration goals for the estuary as a whole, and how they can reflect local concerns/needs and be advanced within the region. Each meeting will consist of posters, an oral presentation, and will provide the opportunity for the public to comment on the Plan. Meeting updates and the schedule for future meetings within the other Planning Regions (Hudson River; Harlem River, East River & Western Long Island Sound; Lower Bay; Arthur Kill & Kill Van Kull; and Lower Raritan River) will be posted on-line at <http://www.watersweshare.org> or <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/harbor/crp/>.

In preparation for the meeting, you are invited to review the draft Plan, which is available on the above websites. To provide comments or request a hard copy of the Plan, please email HRE-PLAN-Comments@usace.army.mil. If you have questions about the Plan or the HRE Restoration Study, please contact Peter Weppler, Chief – Coastal Ecosystem Section (peter.m.weppler@usace.army.mil, 917-790-8634) or Lisa Baron, Project Manager (lisa.a.baron@usace.army.mil, 917-790-8306).





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New York - New Jersey
Harbor Estuary Program



**THE PORT AUTHORITY
OF NY & NJ**

MAY 20, 2010

Jamaica Bay Planning Region
JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE VISITOR CENTER
CROSS BAY BOULEVARD
QUEENS, NEW YORK
(718) 318-4340

DAY SESSION 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. 3:30 Presentation	EVENING SESSION 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. 6:30 Presentation
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JUNE 3, 2010

Newark Bay, Hackensack River and Lower Passaic River Planning Region
MEADOWLANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTER AUDITORIUM
1 DEKORTE PARK PLAZA
LYNDHURST, NJ
(201) 460-1700

DAY SESSION 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. 4:00 Presentation	EVENING SESSION 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. 7:00 Presentation
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JUNE 17, 2010

Upper Bay Planning Region
LIBERTY STATE PARK TERMINAL AUDITORIUM
MORRIS PESIN DRIVE
JERSEY CITY, NJ
(201) 915-3440

DAY SESSION 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. 2:30 Presentation	EVENING SESSION 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. 6:30 Presentation
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[Note: All facilities are fully accessible to persons with disabilities.]





VCapture Productions LLC.

Project Proposal

Project Proposal

Prepared for: **Community Affairs Committee**

Prepared by: Megan Giulianelli, Director

April 05, 2010

VCapture Productions LLC.
OFFICE (973)632-6016 FAX (973) 566-9696
EMAIL vcapture@mac.com

Objective

Our goal is to make a short Public Service Announcement geared specifically towards Glen Ridge residents explaining in detail how they can effectively participate in Single Stream Recycling Program. Unfortunately some of our residents still are not participating in the recycling program due to either confusion as to what to recycle and what not or perhaps not fully appreciating the benefits of Recycling. Being an environmentalist, I am a firm believer that once we clearly explain the benefits of the 3R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle), everyone would want to do the right thing and will start participating. We each need to do our part and educate and inspire those around us. A sustainable Glen Ridge is not far beyond reach.

We have a group of seven students (fourth through sixth grade) who have researched the subject and have successfully written a script and would like to make a short film about the benefits of recycling as well as clarifying the program in details. They believe they can make a contribution and a difference through this film. Channel 36 has expressed interest to run this PSA on a regular basis as well as our town's library is interested to show this film before and after their special activities and program at the library. In addition, this film will be distributed to all three elementary and upper elementary schools in Glen Ridge so that all students can watch it. We will take advantage of the opportunity and try to show it as often as we can and to as many people as we can and hope this film serves as a tool to empower and encourage the members of our community to become actively involve in future environmental initiatives.

Capital Expenses

We have expenses in two areas of production and post production. Production cost of hiring a small crew, rental of some equipments such as a wireless microphone system, a light kit, a shot gun microphone and purchase of tapes, batteries, cables, some props and other material needed for the film shoot as well as post production cost ranging from purchase of necessary b-roll footage and the cost of hiring an editor.

Short-term & long-term benefits

It is an educational and environmental film designed for Glen Ridge residents done by Glen Ridge students and we believe it will be effective. There is no reason that our community should not take a leadership role amongst our neighboring towns in becoming a sustainable town. By increasing the amount of our recycling and decreasing the amount of our trash, our Borough can make money and the residents can see some of their tax dollars back which is something that in this economy everyone can appreciate.

Beyond this grant

No funding available at this time other than my personal saving.

Proposed Budget

The previous environmental film that we produced at Ridgewood Avenue School, won a recognition award by the Environmental Protection Agency and it cost us approximately \$3,600.00 because we had very little equipments available at the time. Since then, we have been slowly building a set of equipment and now can make the same length short film for much less. I am confident we can make this short film with a budget of \$2000.00. The production portion of this film cost us approximately \$750 and the post production cost will be anywhere between \$1000-\$1250.

Cast

Lily McHale, Abigail Robertson, Ariana Giulianelli, Lane Darby, Kevin Feimster, Constantino Spiliotopoulos, Cameron Sprong & Michael Donovan.

Team

Megan Giulianelli (independent film maker/volunteer), Shari Drier (attorney/volunteer), Devin L.Cantor-Sternin (Camera - hired), Rob Ciano (sound - hired), PJ Alampi (camera/volunteer). Elif Mamak (assistant- hired), Terri Tenseth (editor - hired).



Film Fund Grant Application:

Agency Name: Glen Ridge Music Parents Association (GRMPA)

Contact Person: Diane Vecchiarello

Official Title: President

Address: P.O. Box 203
Glen Ridge, NJ 07028

Telephone Number: (973) 632-7960

Fax Number: (973) 743-6518

E-Mail Address: dvecc@comcast.net

Fiscal Year End (Month/Day): 12/31

Grant Award Period: from: _____ through _____

Are other funds to be utilized for this project? Yes No _____

If yes, please identify: Federal \$ NO Private Contributions
 \$ 1,550.-

State \$ NO Other \$ _____

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE: April 30, 2010

Film Fund Grant Application

Any Glen Ridge civic and non-profit organization can apply for a grant, with the exclusion of religious organizations. Programs can be of broad appeal to the Community; however grant applications which promote art and cultural events in the Borough will be given preference by the Community Affairs Committee.

The following information must be provided to the Borough of Glen Ridge, Community Affairs Committee.

1. A detailed description of the objectives of the project, a proposal for project implementation and a timeline for completion of project milestones.
2. A description of any capital expenses or capital improvements to be supported with grant funds.
3. A brief description of the project's short-term and long-range benefits to the organization and/or t Borough.
4. If applicable, a brief description of how the project will be continued beyond the grant-supported funding period.

5. Proposed Budget

Please send the completed grant application to:

The Film Fund
c/o Glen Ridge Community Affairs Committee
825 Bloomfield Avenue
Glen Ridge, NJ 07028.

FILM FUND GRANT APPLICATION – 2010

LAUNCH OF INDOOR GUARD PROGRAM TO SUPPLEMENT MARCHING BAND PROGRAM

**Submitted by the Glen Ridge Music Parents Association (GRMPA)
April, 2010**

Background

GRMPA is launching its first Indoor Guard Workshop this spring and we are seeking a grant from the Glen Ridge Film Fund to help us successfully launch this program. The goal is to teach the skill set required for Color Guard and thereby increase the success of the Glen Ridge Marching Band program.

The Indoor Guard program is derived from the outdoor summer/fall color guard activity that is part of the marching band. Color guard is performed outdoors on a football field with the marching band in an entertainment musical performance. Indoor guard is performed indoors, usually in a gym or indoor arena during the winter or spring season. Instead of performing as a visual accent to the marching band, each indoor guard team stands on its own. Indoor guard teams can compete and are judged, not only on talent and precision, but also on creativity.

Indoor Guard programs exist in many schools with which Glen Ridge Marching Band competes and its current absence is a significant factor in scores received during competition.

Objectives of the Program

An indoor guard program will establish a much needed technical foundation for new and existing color guard members. This is analogous to members of the marching band laying their foundation by participating in instrumental lessons, concert and jazz bands and percussion ensemble. Members learn to function in a group situation setting common goals, cooperating and striving for success as a team.

An indoor guard program is not only educationally sound in and of itself, it can have a dramatic and positive influence on the total marching band program. The color guard skill set and artistic ability has a significant impact on the overall judging in marching band competitions.

The guard is an extra curricular activity which offers participation to both boys and girls. Its purpose is similar to that of a sports team:

- To strive for excellence
- To develop teamwork
- To learn sportsmanship
- To master a specific skill set

In addition to what sports teams offer, the artistic factor of indoor guard makes this program unique – it is truly a blend of athletics and theatrical arts. In fact, the indoor guard is known as “The Sport of the Arts.”

Project Implementation

The administrative structure for this program already exists within the Glen Ridge music department. Kevin Lagos, the high school music director, is recruiting and organizing the classes. Indoor rehearsal facilities have already been secured by Kevin Lagos and will utilize the Linden Avenue School gym twice a week for 10 weeks.

Mr. Joe Fego has been the color guard director for the GR marching band program for the last 4 years and has been hired to develop the curriculum and teach the program to the indoor guard participants.

Capital Expenses – Request for Grant Funds

Indoor guard requires special equipment. Flags, rifles, sabers and a vinyl floor are used to learn skills and perform routines. Equipment needed for the program includes a vinyl floor, flags, poles, rifles and/or sabers. The indoor guard program success depends on two additional instructors to assist Mr. Fego with specific skill acquisition for the team members. As this is a new program, we are applying to the Film Fund for funding to purchase the basics. As the program grows, GRMPA will continue funding additional equipment as the skill set of the team develops.

The program costs will be offset by a student participation fee and GRMPA assistance from its regular budget. GRMPA's regular budget is raised annually via established fundraisers -- pancake breakfast, fruit sale, etc. The color guard and marching band members themselves are the labor force raising the money. GRMPA is seeking your help to launch the program. A preliminary budget for the start-up is as follows:

- Vinyl mat \$1,000
- 12 training flags \$700
- 12 training poles \$350
- Instructors fee \$1,500

Description of the program's short-term and long-term benefits to the organization and/or the Borough

An Indoor Guard program will teach a required skill set to new and existing color guard members. In Glen Ridge, music is taught beginning in the 3rd grade. A dedicated music class for a full year is available to students beginning in the 7th grade. Sports such as soccer and baseball are started in Pre-K while lacrosse and football start in 4th grade through the GRAA program. These programs feed the high school programs. An Indoor Guard program will lay the foundation on which to build the color guard program each year.

Many outlets for performances are available to indoor guard besides formal competitions. Through venues such as pep rallies and basketball half-times, the indoor guard program will have the opportunity to showcase them, increase their skills and recruit future members.

Brief description of how the program will be continued beyond the grant supported funding

In addition to existing annual fundraisers, GRMPA will implement new fundraisers in the coming 2010-2011 year to continue funding the Indoor Guard program. As a new program with club status, indoor guard needs to run for two years. After that time, GRMPA and Mr. Lagos will submit a request for financial support from the high school club budget.

Request for Funding

GRMPA is requesting \$2,000 from the Glen Ridge film fund to offset the cost of launching the Indoor Guard program.

GRMPA CONTACT: *Diane Vecchiarello, Vice President*
Cell: (973) 632-7960 / Email: dvecc@comcast.net