

## Re: BOT Public Meeting Inadequacy

David McFadden <dmcfadden@tuxedopark-ny.gov>

Fri 8/20/2021 9:41 AM

To: Public Advocate & Staff <Oversight@tuxedoparkadvocate.com>

Cc: dennislynchesq@gmail.com <dennislynchesq@gmail.com>; Tinka Shaw <tshaw@tuxedopark-ny.gov>; jsherer@tuxedopark-ny.gov <jsherer@tuxedopark-ny.gov>; Paul Brooke <pbrooke@tuxedopark-ny.gov>; Tinka Shaw <tinkashaw@yahoo.com>; Elizabeth Doherty <edoherty@tuxedopark-ny.gov>; Brian Nugent <bnugent@fnmlawfirm.com>; Josh Scherer <jscherer@ducerapartners.com>; Chris Kasker <ckasker@tuxedopark-ny.gov>; Paul Brooke <paulbrooke@me.com>; Joshua Scherer <jscherer@tuxedopark-ny.gov>

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the BOT, I am excited to inform you that the Zoom company will begin its installation of our "Zoom Room" next week. As you can imagine, the demand on the company to install Zoom rooms is very high and that has affected their schedule. I look forward to returning to this style of meeting.

The room will consist of two large TV screens and cameras facing the Board and facing the in-person audience. The Board and audience will share four microphones. The setup will allow for multiple remote participants.

Thank you for expressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Mayor McFadden

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**From:** Public Advocate & Staff <Oversight@tuxedoparkadvocate.com>

**Sent:** Friday, August 20, 2021 9:03 AM

**To:** David McFadden <dmcfadden@tuxedopark-ny.gov>; Tinka Shaw <tshaw@tuxedopark-ny.gov>; Brian Nugent <bnugent@fnmlawfirm.com>; Chris Kasker <ckasker@tuxedopark-ny.gov>; Josh Scherer <jscherer@ducerapartners.com>; Tinka Shaw <tinkashaw@yahoo.com>; Elizabeth Doherty <edoherty@tuxedopark-ny.gov>; dmcfadden@cons4arch.com <dmcfadden@cons4arch.com>; jsherer@tuxedopark-ny.gov <jsherer@tuxedopark-ny.gov>; Paul Brooke <pbrooke@tuxedopark-ny.gov>

**Cc:** dennislynchesq@gmail.com <dennislynchesq@gmail.com>

**Subject:** BOT Public Meeting Inadequacy

**To: Mayor McFadden and Village Board of Trustees,**

This letter is provided to you on behalf of a number of our Village Residents who have been participating in Village BOT Zoom Meetings for the past 18 months.

We believe that the unilateral decision by Mayor McFadden to eliminate the Zoom Meeting format to be at least unwise, if not illegal.

In the past, Village Board Meeting conducted over Zoom, not only enabled a greater part of our Community to participate in Village Governance every month, but also ensured that vital deliberation on important Village business was performed in front of as large an audience as possible. The Public generally and Village Residents specifically have a right to see their government in action. This

utilization of ZOOM allowed for more transparent Village Governance, but also more accountability on the part of the Mayor and the Board.

Currently, under the pretense of "COVID-19 precautions" the record is clear that only 10-15 of the Mayors friends+cheerleaders are allowed into the Village Meeting in person, while the rest of the Community is relegated to at best a crackly telephone line, where every other word is missed and half the Public Comments are muted. At last night's Village Board Meeting, the Public on telephone (held with the only way to participate by phone) were even cut off from the Village Board Meeting for a considerable time. Even if the telephone access worked properly (which it did not), that access does not allow the Village Residents who cannot be admitted physically into the Village Meeting to observe their Village Government in action.

I, for one, was plugged into the telephone line at yesterday's meeting, but was unable to hear most of the discourse and deliberation, let alone give a public comment, as I was quickly cut off. The Board can still have Zoom Meetings on their laptops in Village Hall, with everyone but the speaker on "mute", giving each other turns, thus ensuring a more methodical and meaningful meeting.

Unfortunately the Mayor has chosen against this option.

Over again, the Mayor has promised a return to Zoom Meetings by the August 2021 meeting, but unfortunately this promise has gone by the way of most of his other promises.

I cannot stress enough the importance to our Community, especially the older adults among us, to feel that we are included in Village Governance, and Meetings by Zoom allow us such access.

With kind regards,

Claudio Guazzoni de Zanett  
Office of the Public Advocate