

**CITY OF NORWALK
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
NOVEMBER 17, 2010**

ATTENDANCE: Richard McQuaid, Chairman; Richard Bonenfant,
Fred Bondi (7:07 pm); Laurel Lindstrom, John Tobin.

STAFF: Michael Mocciae, Director, Recreation and Parks Department

OTHER: Representatives of Facility Rental Applications, as noted

Roll Call

Mr. McQuaid called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated that the above members were in attendance.

Approval of Minutes from September 16, 2010

Mr. Tobin requested a correction on page 9 to delete the first sentence on that page.

**** MR. TOBIN MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE
SEPTEMBER 16, 2010 MEETING AS SUBMITTED.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Old Business

Approve the use of the Gallaher Estate/Patio by Christin Daley for a wedding to be held Saturday, September 10, 2011 from 3:00 PM – 10:00 PM. Estimated attendance is 150.

Mr. McQuaid stated that the above item has been removed from the agenda.

New Business

1. Approve the use of Gallaher Estate/Patio by Mark Davis for a wedding to be held Saturday, June 25, 2011 from 5:00 PM – 11:30 PM. Estimated attendance is 160.

A representative from the party was in attendance, and there were no questions from the applicant or the Committee.

**** MS. LINDSTROM MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE USE OF GALLAHER
ESTATE/PATIO BY MARK DAVIS FOR A WEDDING TO BE HELD
SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2011 FROM 5:00 PM–11:30 PM. EST. ATTENDANCE 160.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Bondi entered the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

2. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to enter an agreement with the Sound Cyclists Bicycle Club for the Annual "Bloomin Metric" bike tour to be held Sunday, May 22, 2011 at Shady Beach from 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM. Set up to take place Saturday, May 21, 2011 at noon with breakdown by 8:00 PM Sunday, May 22, 2011. Estimated attendance is 2,500.

A representative from the organization was in attendance, and there were no questions from the Committee or applicant. Mr. Mocciae stated that this has been a great event for the last ten years that has been well done and orchestrated from organization to clean up.

**** MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO APPROVE AND FORWARD TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUND CYCLISTS BICYCLE CLUB FOR THE ANNUAL "BLOOMIN METRIC" BIKE TOUR TO BE HELD SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2011 AT SHADY BEACH FROM 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM. SET UP TO TAKE PLACE SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2011 AT NOON WITH BREAKDOWN.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. McQuaid instructed the representative to attend the next Common Council meeting on Tuesday, November 23, 2010 which will be held at Lockwood Matthews Museum.

3. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to enter into an agreement with C.A.F.E. for a Columbian Festival to take place in Veteran's Park Sunday, July 17, 2011 from 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM. Set up to take place Saturday, July 16, 2011 at noon with breakdown Monday, July 18, 2011 by noon. Estimated attendance 6,000+ (last years numbers).

A representative from the organization was in attendance, and there were no questions from the applicant. Mr. Mocciae stated that this has been a well run event, with no problems or calls from neighbors or police, and added that improvements to the layout have reduced the noise factor and has made for a smooth festival.

Mr. Bonenfant asked if this event should be combined with the same weekend as the Haitian Festival, which is scheduled for the following weekend, in order to have it take place over two days. Mr. Mocciae replied that the logistics are difficult to manage, and the groups give up control over vendor selection and clean up procedures. Ms. Lindstrom stated that combining the events in the same weekend is not necessarily the desired outcome, and that the objective is to manage the noise and to schedule quieter events. Mr. Bonenfant asked about parking, and Mr. Mocciae stated that it is arranged to be off-site or at Marvin School with shuttles, and it is required to be listed as such on all fliers and advertising and promotional materials.

Mr. McQuaid added that there was a delay due to the late submission of the contract, and as a result the Legal Dept. has asked that the paperwork due date of 30 days prior to the expiration date be enforced for this year's contract, to avoid last minute approvals.

- ** MR. BONDI MOVED TO APPROVE AND FORWARD TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH C.A.F.E. FOR A COLUMBIAN FESTIVAL TO TAKE PLACE IN VETERAN'S PARK SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2011 FROM 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM. SET UP TO TAKE PLACE SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2011 AT NOON WITH BREAKDOWN MONDAY, JULY 18, 2011 BY NOON. EST. ATTENDANCE 6,000+).**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. McQuaid instructed the representative to attend the next Common Council meeting on Tuesday, November 23, 2010 which will be held at Lockwood Matthews Museum.

- 4a. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to enter into an agreement with the Alzheimer's Association, CT Chapter for the use of Calf Pasture Beach to hold a "Walk to end Alzheimer's" Sunday, October 2, 2011 from 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Estimated attendance 500.
- 4b. Approve the use of the Show mobile by the Alzheimer's Association, CT Chapter Sunday, October 2, 2011 for their "Walk to end Alzheimer's".

A representative from the organization was in attendance, and there were no questions from the Committee or applicant. Mr. Mocciae stated that this has been a fabulous event for the past several years that has been well done and orchestrated from organization to clean-up.

- ** MR. TOBIN MOVED TO APPROVE AND FORWARD TO THE COMMON COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION, CT CHAPTER FOR THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH TO HOLD A "WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S" SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2011 FROM 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 500; AND, APPROVE THE USE OF THE SHOW MOBILE BY THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION, CT CHAPTER SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2011 FOR THEIR "WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S".**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. McQuaid instructed the representative to attend the next Common Council meeting on Tuesday, November 23, 2010 which will be held at Lockwood Matthews Museum.

5. Approve the use of Cranbury Park Pavilion and immediate surrounding grounds by the Norwalk Little League for a League Picnic to be held Sunday, June 26, 2011 from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Estimated attendance 200.

A representative from the organization was in attendance, and there were no questions from the Committee or applicant. Mr. Mocciae stated that this has been a great event for the past several years that has been well done from organization to clean-up.

- ** MR. BONDI MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK PAVILION AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY THE NORWALK LITTLE LEAGUE FOR A LEAGUE PICNIC TO BE HELD SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2011 FROM 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 200.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. Approve the use of the Cranbury Park Pavilion and immediate surrounding grounds by St. Jerome Church for a picnic to be held Sunday, September 25, 2010 from 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM. Estimated attendance is 200.

There was no representative from the organization in attendance, and Mr. McQuaid suggested that the item be tabled until next month's meeting agenda.

**** MR. BONDI MOVED TO TABLE THE ABOVE ITEM UNTIL NEXT MONTH'S MEETING AGENDA.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to enter into an agreement with the United Haitian American Society for the use of Veteran's Park to hold their CT Haitian American Day Festival to be held Saturday, July 23, 2011 from 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM. Estimated attendance 3,000.

Representatives from the organization were in attendance, and there were no questions from the Committee or applicant. Mr. Moccia stated that this has been a nice, orderly event for the past few years and one that is welcomed back for repeat.

**** MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO APPROVE AND FORWARD TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED HAITIAN AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE USE OF VETERAN'S PARK TO HOLD THEIR CT HAITIAN AMERICAN DAY FESTIVAL TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JULY 23, 2011 FROM 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 3,000.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. McQuaid instructed the representative to attend the next Common Council meeting on Tuesday, November 23, 2010 which will be held at Lockwood Matthews Museum.

8. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to enter into an agreement with Live Green Connecticut, Scot Weicker for the use of Taylor Farm to hold "Live Green Connecticut" to be held Saturday, September 17, 2011 and Sunday, September 18, 2011 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Set up to take place Friday, September 16, 2011 at noon with take down by Monday, September 19, 2011. Estimated attendance 1,000+.

Mr. Bondi suggested the item be modified to 8a. and to add 8b. for the use of the Show Mobile.

Mr. Weicker from the organization was in attendance, and there were no questions from the Committee or applicant. Mr. McQuaid stated that this was a first-time event held last year and was a fabulous event for the City and for Taylor Farms, it was done and orchestrated quite well from organization to clean-up. Ms. Lindstrom added that last year there were initially several questions, but that Mr. Weicker had done a great job with all the vendors and this was an event well suited for Taylor Farms and a welcomed repeat program for the City.

**** MS. LINDSTROM MOTIONED TO APPROVE AND TO FORWARD ON TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH LIVE GREEN CONNECTICUT, SCOTT WEICKER FOR THE USE OF TAYLOR FARM TO HOLD "LIVE GREEN CONNECTICUT" TO BE HELD SATURDAY,**

SEPTEMBER 17, 2011 AND SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2011 FROM 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. SET UP TO TAKE PLACE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2011 AT NOON WITH TAKE DOWN BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2011. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,000+. AND TO INCLUDE THE USE OF THE SHOW MOBILE BY THE “LIVE GREEN CONNECTICUT” TO BE HELD SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2011 AND SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2011 FROM 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. McQuaid instructed Mr. Weicker to attend the next Common Council meeting on Tuesday, November 23, 2010 which will be held at Lockwood Matthews Museum.

9. Approve the use of Gallaher Estate/Patio and immediate surrounding grounds for a Ceremony and Reception by Angela Purciello to be held Saturday, September 3, 2011 from 1:00 pm–8:00 pm. Estimated attendance 100.

A representative from the organization was in attendance, and there were no questions from the Committee or applicant.

**** MR. TOBIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF GALLAHER ESTATE/PATIO AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS FOR A CEREMONY AND RECEPTION BY ANGELA PURCIELLO TO BE HELD SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2011 FROM 1:00 PM–8:00 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 100.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. Approve the use of the Gallaher Estate/Patio and immediate surrounding grounds by Jan King for a Wedding Reception to be held Saturday, June 11, 2011 from 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM. Estimated attendance is 100.

Mr. McQuaid stated that the above item has been removed from the agenda.

11. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to enter into an agreement with Mountain View Landscapes and Lawncare Inc. for Project #2998 Splash Pad Mathews Park for a sum not to exceed \$73,835.00. Account #09116030-5777-C0364.

Mr. Moccia gave an overview of the background on the item and referred to the supporting documents provided in the packet, and explained that the base bid has been negotiated down to \$73, 835 to represent the lowest bidder. Mr. Bonenfant asked why others in the packet were lower, and Mr. Moccia replied that it did not reflect the removal of the alternate item #2 along with a value engineering plan of the Parks and Recreation Department doing the excavation. He added that this vendor is the same as the installer for Devon’s Place, and he recommends reinstating this item which had been deleted from the original capital budget.

**** MR. BONDI MOVED TO APPROVE AND TO FORWARD ON TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MOUNTAIN VIEW LANDSCAPES AND LAWNCARE INC. FOR PROJECT #2998 SPLASH PAD MATHEWS PARK FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$73,835.00. ACCOUNT #09116030-5777-C0364.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. McQuaid mentioned that this item would be on the agenda for the next Common Council meeting on Tuesday, November 23, 2010.

12. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to enter into an agreement with Annabel Lee LLC for the use of the Veteran's Park Visitor Docks for the term Saturday, January 1, 2011 through Saturday, April 30, 2011. The docking/Winter Storage fee would be \$2,250.00 per month.

Mr. Mocciae stated that this item would help with the increased usage of the docks along with helping promote cruises of the Sound, and is a win-win for both the applicant and the City. He asked Mr. Ken Hart to present the item, who provided a letter outlining the proposal, and reviewed the background and objectives of the Annabel Lee, LLC. and its operations. He highlighted that, as stated in the proposal, its charter is to service the community to bring an increased use of the water and enhance the impact tourism, boosting the local economy and business in Norwalk. He added that additional the usage of the sound has been marketed to local foundations with fundraising opportunities including Norwalk Hospital, local schools, and non-profit organizations.

Mr. Bonenfant asked if the vessel was handicap accessible, and Mr. Hart replied that it is not and that the Coast Guard regulations do not require handicap accommodations, but that is something that can be addressed if needed. Mr. Bondi asked about the number of people the vessel can accommodate, and Mr. Hart replied that it is very spacious and the capacity is 600 which is 440 plus crew in Connecticut and 550 plus crew in New York. Mr. Hart added that the organization is exploring a name change to Island Belle in view of the historical influence of Belle Island, and the members were in agreement that this would be an added cultural aspect that would provide an additional attraction and an element of Norwalk's history.

Mr. Bonenfant asked if this would be a permanent dock arrangement, and if it would interfere with other users, Mr. Mocciae replied that it is just the four months during the winter season, and it does not encroach on others but encourages more traffic in the marina and dock areas.

**** MR. BONDI MOVED TO APPROVE AND TO FORWARD ON TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ANNABEL LEE LLC FOR THE USE OF THE VETERAN'S PARK VISITOR DOCKS FOR THE TERM SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2011 THROUGH SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2011. DOCKING/WINTER STORAGE FEE WOULD BE \$2,250.00 PER MONTH. ****
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. McQuaid instructed Mr. Hart to attend the next Common Council meeting on Tuesday, November 23, 2010 which will be held at Lockwood Matthews Museum.

Mr. McQuaid requested a suspension of the rules to add the following items on to the agenda under discussion:

1. Norwalk Carting – Season Wrap-up
2. Parking at West Rocks Middle School during Junior Soccer League Games
3. Norwalk River Water-Shed Shoreline Clean-up of Oyster Shell Park
4. Ryan Park Presentation (end of meeting)

V. Discussion

1. Norwalk Carting – Season Wrap-up

A representative from the organization stated that they wanted to thank the Committee for a successful season, and a plaque and check for \$1,200 was presented for landscaping improvements at Calf Pasture Beach. They added that they also wanted to thank Rich McDonald for all his help, and they offered to assist with the spring clean-up efforts prior to next season. Mr. McQuaid thanked the members of Norwalk Carting, and added that they have done a good job with safety and they have been a well-run organization and benefit to the Beach events. Mr. Bondi asked how the new pattern was working out, and they replied very well. There were no further questions from the Committee or applicant.

2. Parking at West Rocks Middle School

Mr. McQuaid stated that at the recent “Coffee with the Council” Dr. Moore, principal at West Rocks Middle School complained that parking during school events held when there is soccer has become an issue. Mr. Bonenfant stated that it has become impossible to control the parents who disregard parking notices. Mr. Bondi commented that parking on the fields has become a problem, and added that school events take priority when it comes to parking availability. Mr. Mocciae stated that as a result of these problems, Junior Soccer events will be cancelled when there is a school event scheduled, as the parents cannot be controlled to comply with parking regulations.

3. Stew Leonard’s agreement Calf Pasture Beach Concession.

Mr. Mocciae presented a draft of an amendment to the current lease agreement , just for discussion purposes. Mr. Bondi suggested that in view of increased attendance during car shows and concerts, Stew Leonard’s should increase their staffing to accommodate the crowds. He added that the lines are long and they don’t appear to have sufficient staffing to serve the public, and Mr. Mocciae replied that they are aware of the schedule of events at Calf Pasture; and he would relay these comments on to Mr. Summa, the Executive Vice President and CFO for Stew Leonard’s.

4. Norwalk River Water-Shed Shoreline Clean-up of Oyster Shell Park

Mr. Mocciae presented a letter from David Park, the NRWA Board of Directors and stated that this required no action and was just for information purposes for the Committee. The letter stated that they plan to launch kayaks and canoes from Veteran’s Park to collect and pick up trash from along the trails on April 16, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. with a rain date of April 17.

5. Mill Pond

Mr. Mocciae explained that he received a letter from the representative from Harbor Lights and Overton’s on Seaview Avenue requesting to lease additional parking across the street near the Mill Pond.

Ms. Diane Ceci requested a point of order to have the person speaking to state his name and affiliation with the meeting.

Mr. Andreas Gavrielidis stated that he was representing Harbor Lights Restaurant and wanted to be able to have additional parking in view of the renovations to add a second floor to accommodate more functions and parties. Mr. Mocciae explained that parking spaces cannot be leased and suggested the group go to the Planning & Zoning Department. Mr. Gavrielidis replied that they will clean up the area next to Overton's in exchange for the approved usage of ten additional spaces. Mr. Bonenfant replied that this Committee cannot give up parking spaces, and he suggested that perhaps some of the parking at Veteran's Park be used. Mr. Mocciae stated that he would contact Mike Greene at Planning & Zoning to determine the options available and will advise their suggestions.

6. Resident Beach Pass.

Mr. Mocciae stated that the budgeting year challenges along with administrative difficulties have resulted in the need to change the beach sticker policy. He explained that the process of issuing beach stickers has become a staffing nightmare for the Department with thousands of residents coming into City Hall for a beach sticker, along with a high cost of printing stickers. He added that as a result of these issues, the Department is recommending a change to the policy of free beach stickers to limit 2 free per household and a charge for additional sticker requests. He gave examples of code rules whereby buildings are entitled to 20 passes, and this is just creates misuse of the system.

Mr. Mocciae gave an overview for discussion of the situation and stated that he is in working on development with the City's Information and Technology Department to come up with a procedure summarized as follows:

- Beach permit applications can be done on-line with a bar-coded pass printed by residents.
- The license plate reader would be used at the gate entrance with to verify registration.
- The pass would be a one-year as opposed to the current two-year renewal, which does not work due to the high rate of resident relocations to surrounding towns.
- A computer would be provided at the Department for residents to use for self-service.
- Mail-in applications would be accepted for those out-of-state residents who are seasonal property owners in Norwalk.
- This system would be the most creative in the state using up-to-date computer technology.

Mr. Mocciae summarized that he hopes to add this to the agenda shortly after the first of the year implementation in 2011.

7. Ryan Park Presentation

Ms. Anna Duleep, and Mrs. Gunga Duleep presented a power-point presentation of the concepts in development for playground improvements at Ryan Park that included an overview of the environmental goals and objectives for usage of the Park.

Mrs. Duleep stated that they have done research on other municipalities and this represented a preview of items that they hope to have included in next year's Capital Budget Recommendation. Mr. Bonenfant asked about the funding in the Capital Budget, and Mr. Mocciaie stated that Wolfpit and Jefferson School are on the list for funding, and to keep in mind that elementary schools are the priority.

A discussion ensued following the presentation on the accessibility of water to the park, and Mr. Bondi suggested that the connection to City water should be a donation from the Second Taxing District. Mrs. Duleep replied that she was told the cost was \$860 to connect from the fire hydrant system, and Mr. Mocciaie replied that he was told that his Department would be responsible for the excavation, which is very expensive.

Mr. Bonenfant asked if the presentation for the playground items for the park would encroach on the current open space, and what in the plan would address the needs of older children. Mrs. Duleep replied that the soccer field and basketball courts would remain in the plan, which is designed primarily for younger children, but will also include educational attractions for older-aged children as well.

Other Business

Mr. McQuaid announced that Talk Tours has made a \$1,000 donation to the City of Norwalk park improvements and he thanked the organization for their support.

Adjournment

**** MR. BONDI MOTIONED TO ADJOURN.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox,
Telesco Secretarial Services