

**RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL COMMITTEE**

**MARCH 9, 2016**

**PUBLIC HEARING - 6:30 PM**

**DEPARTMENT FEES AND CHARGES 2016-17**

**REGULAR MEETING - 7:00 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Travis Simms, Chair; Richard Bonenfant; Michael Corsello;  
Shannon O' Toole Giandurco; Steven Serasis

STAFF: Michael Mocciae, Director

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**DEPARTMENT FEES AND CHARGES 2016-17**

Mr. Simms opened the public hearing at 6:37 p.m. and asked if any members of the public wished to speak on the department fees and charges for 2016-2017. Hearing no one, the public hearing was closed at 6:38 p.m.

**I. ROLL CALL**

Mr. Simms called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and called the Roll. A quorum was present.

In order to accommodate the members of the public, the meeting recessed at 7:08 p.m. to move to the Common Council Chambers. The meeting resumed at 7:15 p.m.

## **II. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

The following corrections were made:

Page 3 - Change Bud Hempstead to Doug Hempstead

Page 13 - Change Mr. Serasis rescued himself from the ice rink vote to Mr. Bonenfant rescued himself from the ice rink vote.

**\*\* MR. CORSELLO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS AMENDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Simms announced that if anyone was present to speak about anything other than the zip line, they could speak now; otherwise comments about the zip line will be heard at the end of the agenda.

## **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was discussed this evening.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

**\*\* MR. BONENFANT MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

- 1. APPROVE THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK PAVILION 1 AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY THE NORWALK JUNIOR SOCCER ASSOCIATION FOR A FAMILY FUN DAY TO BE**

**HELD SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2016 FROM 10:00 AM-4:00 PM.  
ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 150.**

Ms. Jessica Morin was present.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. SERASIS MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

- 2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO A 5 YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT WITH A 2 YEAR OPTION WITH LIVE GREEN CT FOR A SPACE AT THE FODOR FARM HOUSE AT A RATE OF \$150.00 PER MONTH STARTING MARCH 15, 2016. GROUP WILL PAY FOR THEIR OWN PHONES AND INTERNET. LIVE GREEN WILL BE RESPONSIBLE TO HOST A FUNDRAISER WITH THE OTHER 3 GROUPS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF FODOR FARM.**

Ms. Daphne Dixon was present. She said that they have been around for six years and provide environmental education to the public.

Ms. Diane Cece asked to speak. Mr. Simms asked that comments be kept to two minutes.

Ms. Cece said that she had questions about leasing the space at Fodor Farm and said that Live Green CT! is not based in Norwalk and the event is sponsored by Scott Weicker and that she feels that this does not fit the criteria.

Pastor Kevin Mullins said that Live Green CT! has had a direct impact on Norwalk and bases their activities on environmental issues.

Ms. Diane Lauricella said that she was one of the group that saved Fodor Farm and worked with Daphne. She asked the Committee to table this request to next month so that she can find out what the process is upon how giving up this done. She said that there is no transparent process to select entities and said that first rights should be given to Norwalk residents.

Ms. Dixon explained that they do not have a big staff. She said that it is a labor of love and provides tremendous value to Norwalk.

Mr. Michael Mushak said that Live Green CT! is a Norwalk based event at Taylor Farm. It helps a lot of people and exposes them to new, green awesome things. He thanked Ms. Lauricella and Mr. Mocciae for saving Fodor Farm and applauded Ms. Dixon. He said that this is a great non-profit and does not want to see them run out of town.

Mr. David Rolling said that the major point was how the lease was done.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. CORSELLO MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

- 3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL MS SOCIETY FOR USE OF CRANBURY PARK FOR THEIR "BIKE MS" TO BE HELD SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2016 FROM 4:00 AM-5:00 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 300.**

Ms. Kate Maloney was present and said that this is their 35<sup>th</sup> year doing this event.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Simms asked Ms. Maloney to attend the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Common Council meeting.

**\*\* MR. SERASIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

- 4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CT FOOD BANK FOR THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH FOR A "CT FOOD BANK 5K" TO BE HELD SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2016 FROM 6:00 AM-11:00 AM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 450.**

Mr. John Bysiewicz was present. He explained the event and said that the Police Department has signed off on the event and that residents living along the race route will be notified.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Simms asked Mr. Bysiewicz to attend the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Common Council meeting.

**\*\* MS. O'TOOLE GIANDURCO MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

- 5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NINETY 9 BOTTLES FOR THE USE OF OYSTER SHELL PARK FOR THEIR ANNUAL "NINETY 9 BOTTLES CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2016 FROM 10:00 AM-5:00 PM WITH A RAIN DATE OF SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2016. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,200.**

Ms. Jill Dunn was present. She said that this will be their third event.

**\*\* MR. SERASIS MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO CHANGE THE TIME FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. TO 10:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Simms asked Ms. Dunn to attend the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Common Council meeting.

**\*\* MR. CORSELLO MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL MARINE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION FOR THE USE OF CALF PASTURE, SHADY BEACH, TAYLOR FARM AND MARVIN SCHOOL FOR A \$10.00 PARKING FEE FOR THE ANNUAL 2016 PROGRESSIVE INSURANCE NORWALK BOAT SHOW TO BE HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016 THROUGH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2016 FROM 10:00 AM-6:00 PM DAILY.**

Mr. Josh Rosales was present. He said that the hours may possible be from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., but he is waiting to hear from his management.

**\*\* MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO CHANGE THE TIME FROM 10:00 A.M. 6:00 P.M. TO 10:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Simms asked Mr. Rosales to attend the March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Common Council meeting.

**\*\* MS. O'TOOLE GIANDURCO MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**7. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH STAR SHINE EVENTS MANAGEMENT TO USE CALF PASTURE BEACH FOR A STAR KIDS TRIATHLON TO BE HELD SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2016 FROM 7:30 AM-10:30 AM. SET UP TO TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2016 AT 12:00 NOON WITH TEARDOWN NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON ON SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2016. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 220.**

Mr. Robin Myers was present. He said that they have been holding this event for many years; it introduces kids to the sport.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Simms asked Mr. Myers to attend the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Common Council meeting.

**\*\* MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

- 8. APPROVE THE USE OF THE CRANBURY PARK GALLAHER ESTATE AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY TINA SALVIOLI FOR A WEDDING TO BE HELD SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2017 FROM 1:00 PM-10:00 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 200.**

A representative was present.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

- 9. APPROVE THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH BY MOUNTAIN WORKSHOP FOR A SCHOOL OLYMPIC FIELD DAY ON THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2016 FROM 7:30 AM-2:00 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 300.**

Mr. Kent Tullo was present. He described the event and said that it includes students and teachers from Bedford Middle School. They wanted a different opportunity for the kids; they do activities such as zip lining and canoeing to get them outdoors.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MS. O'TOOLE GIANDURCO MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

- 10. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH YOUNG LIFE FOR THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH AND PAVILION #2 FOR THE 5K SPLATTER RUN TO BE HELD SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016 FROM 6:00 AM-10:30 AM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 500.**

Ms. Grace Bradley was present. She said that they have done this event for the past three years.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Simms asked her to attend the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Common Council meeting.

**\*\* MR. CORSELLO MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

- 11. APPROVE THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK PAVILION AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY THE NORWALK SENIOR CENTER FOR THEIR ANNUAL PICNIC TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016 FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 150**

Ms. Beatrix Winter was present.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Simms asked Ms. Winter to attend the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Common Council meeting.

**\*\* MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

- 12. APPROVE THE USE OF VETERANS PARK ATHLETIC FIELDS BY THE SIDE BY SIDE CHARTER SCHOOL FOR A FIELD DAY TO BE HELD FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2016 FROM 8:00 AM-3:00 PM WITH A RAIN DATE OF FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2016. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 250.**

A representative was present.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MS. O'TOOLE GIANDURCO MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

- 13. APPROVE THE USE OF PONUS MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUNDS BY THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOR AN EASTER EGG HUNT TO BE HELD SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2016 FROM 8:00 AM-12:30 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 200-300.**

Pastor Kevin Mullins was present and explained the event. He said that they have held this event on their Church grounds, but the event has grown.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Simms asked Pastor Mullins to attend the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Common Council meeting.

**\*\* MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

- 14. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO A LEASE**

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**AGREEMENT WITH TYRONE MARTYLEWSKI FOR THE USE OF THE CRANBURY PARK CARETAKERS COTTAGE FOR 5 YEARS WITH A RENT OF \$1,271.93 PER MONTH EACH YEAR STARTING JUNE 2016.**

Mr. Bonenfant said that he knows Mr. Martylewski and said that he looks out for the Park. Mr. Mocciae said that he has been there for 25 years.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MS. O'TOOLE GIANDURCO MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

- 15. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO APPLY AND EXCEPT FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A LAND BASED MSDF (PUMP OUT STATION). THE GRANT IS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,198.50 WHICH IS PAYING 75% OF OUR OPERATION IN EFFECT THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016.**

Mr. Mocciae explained that he applies for every year.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. SERASIS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

- 16. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH DIVERSIFIED CONTRACTORS, LLC FOR PROJECT #3659 IN A CLARK COMMUNITY GARDENS, SAN VINCENZO PLACE FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$95,000.00 ACCOUNT #'S 030000-2690, 09166030-5777- C0131, 09176030-5777-C013 L 50% BY STATE DEEP GRANT.**

Mr. Mocciae explained that this was the first community garden.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

- 18. APPROVE THE DEPARTMENT FEES & CHARGES FOR THE 2016-17 SEASON.  
DISCUSSION**

Mr. Mocciae explained that effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, people will need a beach sticker to get into Cranbury Park or they will be charged \$5.00. Event participants will not be charged.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**



**\*\* MR. CORSELLO MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

**17. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH GO ADVENTURE FOREST LLC T/A GO APE FOR A 10 YEAR TERM WITH 2 FIVE YEAR OPTIONS FOR THE USE OF A PORTION OF CRANBURY PARK (NOT EXCLUSIVE USE) FOR A ROPE ZIP LINE COURSE.**

Mr. Simms opened the meeting to public comments. Additional comments and petitions attached.

Mr. Joe DeBone, Wolfpit Avenue said that this is a piece of wildland and wetlands. If people filled their property, they would be arrested. He said that the zip line is not needed and will bring people from out of town. He said that there is dumping going on there now.

Mr. Michael Mushak, said that he supports the tree top adventure and that there is a lot of misinformation. He said that this is a canopy course and they exist all over the country. He said that everything heard from the opponents does not hold and seems fear based. He said that public policy should not be based on fear. This will not be near the wetlands and there is a lot of support.

Ms. Diane Cece, Olmstead Place said that both ENNA and CNNA have a history of raising concerns when the City wants to use public parks and procedures are not transparent. She said that she is shocked and disappointed that this is an action item.

Mr. Matt Forte, Grumman Avenue, Co-Chair CPA did that he was disappointed in the members of the Common Council and thanked those in support of CPA. He said that he will present two petitions. He said that there has been an illegal fill job at Cranbury for a long time. He presented photos of construction debris.

Mr. (could not hear his name) said that there is debris and dumping going on in that area. The EPA has to come in and look at the site. There is continued dumping going on there that was not there a week ago.

Mr. Corsello asked for comments about the Go Ape lease agreement only. He said that there is a time and place to discuss dumping and this is the time to discuss the zip line.

Ms. Gretchen Crowley said that the master plan said that there would be an adventure playground, but there was no talk about a zip line. She said that she believes this is in contradiction to the master plan.

Ms. Carolyn Shanahan said that she is opposed to using public property for

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private gain.

Mr. Mike Shanahan asked about the insurance required for this type of industry.

Mr. David Radoldi, asked about the voting procedure. He said that Mr. Mocciae has not heard a good argument against this. He said that this is an endeavor that will not benefit him as a Norwalk resident. He said that he wanted to see the lease.

Mr. Jimmy Sivides said that he was not aware that the City could lease out public land. He asked what the benefit would be and said that this plan makes no sense for people living in that area. He said that he feels they can get more than \$15,000 per year.

Ms. Matina said that she just bought her home in the Cranbury area. There are 400 signatures and counting. She said that it is unfortunate that Cranbury Park is turning into an amusement park. She asked that the concerns could be taken into consideration and move the zip line out of Cranbury.

Ms. Matina's son, a student at Cranbury Elementary School said that he does not like the idea of putting the zip line near his school. He said that it is not safe to bring hundreds of strangers near his school.

Ms. Diane Lauricella said that what is on trial here is the public trust. She said that she is not deaminizing this, but is being demonized. She said that she was told by Mr. DePalma that the zip line began at the beginning of the dump line.

Ms. Lauricella said that she filed a Cease and Desist order with Ms. Cherichetti. She said that there are fresh trucks that Mr. Mocciae is responsible for. She said that she was a proud member of the master plan and nothing has been implemented to protect vernal pools. She asked that this be put on hold.

Ms. Georgia Papacos said that she and her kids go to Cranbury Park and that she was informed that the wetlands were going to be filled for the zip lines. She said that as a taxpayer, she can't fill in wetlands.

There were no other members of the public who wished to speak and Mr. Simms closed the public participation portion of the meeting.

Mr. Simms said that he is not going to hold a vote tonight, out of respect to the Committee members who were not present this evening and for the rest of the Common Council. He said that he is going to move this item to the full Common Council for further discussion and said that if the Common Council members want more information they can move it back to Committee. He noted that as Chair, he has the discretion to move this item to the full Common Council for discussion.

Ms. O'Toole Giandurco said that whether this is voted on her or at the Common Council meeting, she is not in support of this. She said that she has concerns about traffic and does not see the benefit to Cranbury Park at this time. She said that since the bunkhouse and pavilion are new, she asked to see how they work for a year, before bringing in something new.

Mr. Simms reiterated that he is moving this item to the full Common Council for further discussion. If they wish to send it back to Committee, they can table the item.

Ms. O'Toole Giandurco said that the Chair of all committees has the right to move items to the full Common Council.

Mr. Serasis said that he believes that Mr. Simms wants to move this item to the full Common Council because only five people were here this evening. Not all Common Council members had the chance to chime in on this. He said that there will be public participation at the Common Council meeting and it makes sense to bring this to the Common Council meeting.

Ms. Cece told Mr. Simms that he set a precedent and that this Committee needs to take a vote on this. She said that she does not remember when a Chair did not allow the Committee to vote on an item. She said that he owes this to the residents.

Mr. Bonenfant said that he was disappointed that there was no opportunity to vote, but it is the prerogative of the Chair. He asked if it would be forwarded as an action item. Mr. Simms said that he will send it as an action item, but if the Common Council feels they need more information, they will send it back to Committee. Mr. Bonenfant said that if they send it back to Committee, they are in the same spot.

Mr. Simms said that he feels it is in the best interest for all Common Council members to hear this and said that he is moving this item to the full Common Council for further discussion.

**Norwalk Tree Festival to be held Saturday, May 21, 2016 from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM. Estimated attendance 2,200.**

**\*\* MR. SERASIS MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services