

**CITY OF NORWALK
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
June 14, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Travis Simms, Chair; Shannon O'Toole-Giandurco; Richard Bonenfant; John Kydes; Michael Corsello (arrived at 7:15PM)

STAFF: Mike Mocciae, Director Parks and Recreation

OTHERS: Wilfredo Perez
Susan Gilgone

I. ROLL CALL

Mr. Simms called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and stated that a quorum was present.

II. MINUTES OF APRIL 12, 2017.

**** MS. O'TOOLE-GIANDURCO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No one from the public spoke.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH LOCKWOOD-MATTHEWS MANSION MUSEUM TO USE THE GROUNDS OF MATHEWS PARK FOR THEIR ANNUAL OLD-FASHIONED FLEA MARKET TO BE HELD SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017 FROM 10:00AM-5:00PM. SET UP TO TAKE PLACE AT 7:00 AM ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017 WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 8:00PM ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 3,000**

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

Ms. Gilgone provided an overview of the event and said that it is an annual event and that 70-80 vendors will participate. She said that they expect approximately 3000 people to attend and that it is a great family event.

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Simms asked the representative to attend the June 27, 2017, meeting of the Common Council.

- 2. APPROVE THE USE OF THE CRANBURY PARK GALLAHER MANSION AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY SAMANTHA RAMOS FOR A WEDDING TO BE HELD FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2018 ROM 3:00PM-12:00 MIDNIGHT. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 150.**

****MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Simms asked the representative to stay in contact with Ms. Herring for further instructions.

- 3. APPROVE RACE COASTAL ENGINEERING (“RACE”) FOR DESIGN AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RELATED TO THE REPLACEMENT OF THE FLOATING DOCKS LOCATED AT VETERAN MEMORIAL PARK FOR THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$38,0000. ACCOUNT TBD VETERANS PARK PROJECT**

****MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

Mr. Mocciae stated that RACE has done all the architectural drawings for the docks at Veterans Park including the plans docks, and piles and that this approval is for the administration of the project. He said he is hoping that the project goes out to bid by the middle of July, and that the work will begin by the second week of October.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. DISCUSSION

1. Monument to be placed in Oyster Shell Park for those Soldiers who have lost their lives in the conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan throughout the State. Mr. Perez will make the presentation on behalf the Wilfredo Perez Jr. Memorial Fund

Mr. Mocciae said that Mr. Perez has been working on the monument for quite a few years and that he has the funds, and is ready to move forward with the project. He said that they are requesting that the monument be placed at Oyster Shell Park utilizing the existing facilities of the park, and is a great location as a reminder for people and is a peaceful location for the memory of the soldiers. He said he thinks that Mr. Perez's concept for the monument in Oyster Shell Park is suburb and it fits in with the existing design and is taking nothing away from the park but it is a great addition.

Mr. Perez stated he lost his son Wilfredo Jr. in Iraq in 2003 and it was a devastating loss for his family, and that every day is Memorial Day for them but instead of turning their grief into anger they have turned to something positive and started a memorial fund in his honor, and that the memorial funds primary fundraiser is golf event, and have managed to raise over \$500,000.

He said that the three primary goals are to award scholarships which have done so for the past 14 years to both Brien McMahon and Norwalk High Schools, support non-profit Connecticut Veteran organizations, and erect a memorial for all Connecticut soldiers who have fall in Iraq and Afghanistan, and that 65 soldiers from Connecticut to date will be honored. He presented the proposed memorial and said that they chose Oyster Shell Park because they believe that it's the future of Norwalk, and because they have limited funds and the cost of the monument will be between \$160,000 to \$200,000 and to go anywhere else would cost would be too much and is not sure they would be able to do it within the next 10 years. He concluded by saying that they want to honor these men and women who have

sacrificed all for the future of our safety and he believes this is the perfect site.

Mr. Simms said that he has supported the different events over the years and that he appreciates the hard work that Mr. Perez has done to honor his son. Mr. Kydes stated that he is aware of all the hard work that Mr. Perez has done for veterans' and that there was some discussion that this monument be more appropriate for Veterans Park, but he thinks being visual from I-95 in a park that he believes in underutilized and that this would draw attention to this park and he fully supports it. Mr. Corsello said that he has received quite a few responses from people questioning why this is not going into Veterans Park including some people who represent veterans groups. Mr. Perez said there is a cost of \$5.00 to enter Veterans Park for non-residents, and the cost to construct the monument of Veterans Park would cost too much and by putting it at Oyster Shell Park would be no cost to the city. Ms. O'Toole Giandurco stated that she agrees with Mr. Kydes and that it is a great use of Oyster Shell Park, and that it is underutilized and the design of the monument is stunning. Mr. Bonenfant stated prior to deciding anything he would like to hear from veterans groups and public comment. There was further discussion ensued and it was decided to schedule a public hearing.

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING ON JULY 12, 2017, AT 7:00PM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd
Telesco Secretarial Services

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Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee
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