

**CITY OF NORWALK
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
July 12, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Travis Simms, Chair; Richard Bonenfant; Michael Corsello;
John Kydes; Michael DePalma

STAFF: Ken Hughes, Acting Director

OTHERS: Alan Lo, Building & Facilities Manager
Caron Palder
Wilfredo Perez
Deborah Goldstein
Tim Currie

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Simms opened the public hearing at 7:00PM.

Mr. Perez provided an overview of his proposal and said that it is to erect a memorial in honor of 65 Connecticut soldiers who had lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, and that he is looking at the location of Oyster Shell Park. He said that there will be no cost to the City on Norwalk for the project, and that it will be funded by an annual golf tournament in memory of his son.

Ms. Goldstein- 66 Osborne Avenue

Ms. Goldstein stated that the public hearing was correctly processed in the newspaper, but that the agenda did not reflect the topic of the public hearing and it would have been very difficult for the public to know what was going on. She also said that the calendar on the website did not reflect that there was a public hearing scheduled.

Ms. Goldstein stated on behalf of her and other East Norwalk residents the placement of the monument should have been the city's decision, and that they highly recommend that it be in Veterans Park. She said that it is better equipped to deal with the traffic and for the public attendance that will come from having a regional attraction.

Matt Bako- 57 Fort Point Street

Mr. Bako asked if someone from out of town were to come to visit the memorial if there would be a fee to enter Veterans Park. Mr. Simms said "yes".

Mr. Simms closed the public hearing at 7:10PM

I. ROLL CALL

Mr. Simms called the meeting to order at 7:10PM and stated that a quorum was present.

II. MINUTES OF JUNE 14, 2017.

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENSION (MR. DEPALMA)**

III PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No one from the public spoke.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. APPROVE THE USE OF TAYLOR FARM BY PAWS FOR A CHARITY WALK TO BE HELD SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2017 FROM 9:00AM – 12:00 NOON. SET UP TO TAKE PLACE 7:00AM ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 7, 2017. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 200.**

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

A representative was present and stated that this is a fundraising walk and that they expect to have approximately 200 participants.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

2. APPROVE THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK PAVILION 1 AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY FACT SET RESEARCH SYSTEMS FOR THEIR FACT SET INTERN FAREWELL EVENT TO BE HELD FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 2017 FROM 11:00AM-4:00PM WITH SET UP TO TAKE PLACE 10:00AM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 100.

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

A representative was present and stated that they are planning an event for their interns this year, and that they are planning to have approximately 100 employees attend the event.

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

3. APPROVE THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH TENT 2 BY DAVID SAWICKI FOR A 50TH BIRTHDAY PARTY TO BE HELD SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2017 FROM 5:00PM-9:00PM WITH SET UP TO TAKE PLACE 4:00PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 120.

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

A representative was present and gave an overview of the event and asked if his out of town guests will need to pay to enter the beach. Mr. Hughes said “no”

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

4. APPROVE THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK GALLAHER MANSION AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY LOUIS DREYFUS COMPANY LLC FOR A CORPORATE OUTING TO BE HELD THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2017 FROM 4:00PM-7:00PM WITH SET UP TO TAKE PLACE AT 12:00 NOON. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 100-150.

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

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. APPROVE THE USE OF THE CRANBURY PARK GALLAHER MANSION AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY KATHLEEN UGALDE AND ROB GRUNER FOR A WEDDING TO BE HELD SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2018 FROM 6:00PM-11:00PM WITH SET UP TO TAKE PLACE AT 12:00 NOON. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 200.

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

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

6. APPROVE THE USE CRANBURY PARK GALLAHER MANSION AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY RAJ CHEEMA FOR A WEDDING RECEPTION TO BE HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2017 FROM 4:00PM-11:00PM WITH SET UP TO TAKE PLACE AT 1:00PM. 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.

7. APPROVE THE USE OF THE CRANBURY PARK GALLAHER MANSION AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY MARIA PETER FOR A

**WEDDING TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2017 FROM 2:00PM-11:00PM
ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 200.**

****MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

**8. APPROVE THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK GALLAHER MANSION AND
IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY PRESTIGE AFFAIRS EVENTS
PRODUCTION FOR THE VICKIE LAURENT AND JERREL BURNEY
WEDDING TO BE HELD SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2017 FROM 3:00PM-
10:00PM WITH SET UP TO TAKE PLACE AT 1:00PM. ESTIMATED
ATTENDANCE 230.**

****MR. DEPALMA MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

**9. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN
AGREEMENT WITH TIM CURRIE'S MOTOWN REVIEW BAND FOR THE USE
OF TAYLOR FARM FOR A CONCERT/TRIBUTE FESTIVAL TO TAKE PLACE
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 FROM 12:00PM-8:00PM WITH SET UP
TO TAKE PLACE AT 9:00AM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,000.**

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

Mr. Currie gave an overview of the event and said it will be a tribute festival that will consist of six to seven bands on two stages. Mr. Hughes asked if they will be scheduling the garbage collection for the event. Mr. Currie said "yes". Mr. Simms asked if police officers will be present for the event. Mr. Currie said "yes" as well as a security team.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1)
ABSTENTION (MR. BONENFANT).**

Mr. Simms asked Mr. Currie to attend the Common Council meeting on August 8, 2017, for final approval.

10. REVIEW AND APPROVE DESIGN FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW TENNIS COURTS, TWO NEW YOUTH TENNIS COURTS AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FOUR EXISTING TENNIS COURTS AT SPRINGWOOD ELY PARK AND PROCEED WITH THE BIDDING PROCESS.

Mr. Lo stated since the time of the original proposal was approved the Board of Education has been looking to build a new school in South Norwalk which creates a conflict with the tennis courts, and that the capital money for construction has been approved. He said that the option is now to relocate the tennis court and a test boring of the area was conducted a few months ago and that they did not hit ledge. He said that the goal is to move the construction of the tennis courts for the design of the new school, and the cost to move the courts is \$350,000 which will come from the school construction funds. Mr. Corsello asked what the original cost of the project. Ms. Palder said approximately \$ 650,000. Mr. Kydes asked prior to the recommendation of the new school how much the city was contributing to the project. Ms. Palder said \$250,000 for the renovation of the tennis courts. Mr. Kydes asked if the children attending the proposed school will have access to the tennis courts. Ms. Palder said "yes". Mr. Simms said that the project seems like it is being fast tracked, and there is still no approval to build a school from the DEEP which is required because there is a restrictive covenant on the property, and approval is also needed from the National Parks Association. Ms. Palder said it will be good for the community if the school is built or even if the school is not built, and it is a wonderful location for the courts and it will leave green space available. Mr. Simms said that there is a lot of ledge that will need to be removed and will cost the city an exorbitant amount of money to remove it. Mr. Lo said if the bids come in too high the Common Council will need to decide whether to move the project forward or not.

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

11. APPROVE THE PLACEMENT OF THE MONUMENT IN OYSTER SHELL PARK FOR THOSE SOLDIERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE CONFLICT IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN THROUGHOUT THE STATE. ALL FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE WILFREDO PEREZ JR. MEMORIAL FUND.

Mr. Simms asked the committee members if they had any comments or questions. Mr. Bonenfant said that he thinks the memorial is a great idea but he thinks that it is in the wrong location, and the right place is Veteran's Park where it is on ground level and is accessible to parking. Mr. Perez said his foundation is paying for the monument and that he does not want it at Veterans Park where people from out of town have to pay to visit the monument. He said the perfect location is Oyster Shell Park. Mr. DePalma said that he agrees that it is difficult to get to but that Oyster Shell Park is underutilized and is a great location for the memorial. Mr. Kydes said by far it is a very underutilized park and that the memorial will be very visible from I-95. Mr. Corsello said that the committee had received an e-mail from the Arts Commission stating that they have stewardship over many of the city's monuments and that they would like to have input into this. He suggested before voting on the item to give them the opportunity to give some input. Mr. Simms also requested that there be accurate information on the city website with regard to the public hearing.

****MR. CORSELLO MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM TO THE SEPTEMBER MEETING.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

12. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO PROBUILT DESIGNS, LLC. FOR THE INSTALLATION OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT MARVIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (PROJECT # 3742) FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$28, 746

ACCOUNT NO.0918-6030-5777-C0364

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

Mr. Hughes said that the equipment has already been purchased and that this is the labor to install it.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. DISCUSSION

1. San Vincenzno's Place

Mr. Simms stated that some of the residents have stated concerns that the management company for San Vincenzno had threatened to fine any resident \$25 that utilized the park. He said that it is his understanding that it is a city park, and they don't have the right to fine any resident for using the city park. Mr. Corsello asked if the management company has issued something in writing to the residents. Mr. Simms said "yes". There was further discussion ensued and it was decided that that Mr. Simms would get a copy of the letter and forward it to the Corporation Counsels office.

Ms. Goldstein stated that the noise from the NICE Festival was extremely loud and out of control and suggested in the future there be a sound technician.

Ms. Goldstein suggested that there be a policy implemented so the fee for parking is waived for when people from out of town come to visit the monument.

**** MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd
Telesco Secretarial Services