

**CITY OF NORWALK
RECREATION AND PARKS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Michael Corsello, Chairman; Barbara Smyth, Christopher Yerinides

STAFF: Nick Roberts, Director

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Corsello called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was not present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Diane Lauricella came forward and said that there was a discussion of Freese Park at the last meeting. She asked if the Recreation and Parks Committee wanted to hold the public hearing or if it was going to the Arts Commission. Ms. Lauricella said that any new monument should go to the area designated for monuments across from the Lockwood Mathews Mansion.

She added that the minutes stated the Committee had discussed various RFPs initiatives, but wanted a list of those project made available to the public.

Ms. Lauricella said that she had noticed that the Agenda Items 7, 8, and 9 had to do with some trucks and a lawn mower. She said that there are some light duty electric trucks and hybrid vehicles available. She said that there was an opportunity for the Council to encourage the City to look at using hybrid, electric or clean gas vehicles instead of diesel or standard gas vehicles.

Ms. Lauricella said that the agenda listed a discussion about smoking on the sandy portions of Calf Pasture and Shady Beach. Ms. Lauricella said that she had been involved with Keep Norwalk Beautiful, which was part of Keep America Beautiful program. The Keep Norwalk Beautiful group did a study that involved counting the cigarette butts at Oyster Shell Park. The funding ran out before they were able to do Calf Pasture Beach. She said that America Beautiful has free cigarette butt cans available for the City. She said that she was in favor of keeping the cigarette butts off the sandy portion of the beach.

Ms. Lauricella said that she was present to ask the Committee to table the discussion on Agenda Item 9 -- the Nathan Hale Memorial Fountain Project. While the Fountain would be nice to have, it's not a need. The grand total of the various accounts posted online combined was \$116,000. As a member of the Friends of Fodor Farm, which she helped save during the Esposito Administration, she pointed out that while Nathan Hale is a very

important figure, that as Democrats, the Committee should try for some corporate fund raising. When the Manresa Island project was underway, the cost was split between the City and the neighborhoods. She informed the Committee that she has been meeting with the new staff hired by the Mayor in an effort to have an expert consultant hired. The Health Department does not have a chemist on staff and the money saved could go a long way towards that.

Mr. Corsello informed Ms. Lauricella that she was over her time limit. Ms. Lauricella replied that she was the only person present to speak.

Ms. Lauricella said that the Committee should think outside the box and that while the Historic Society and others would love to have this monument project finished, it is nice but not necessary. There are many other needs in her opinion. She said that she did not want to have to go to the public about this if it goes to the full Council. She said that they needed to find a way to do this with other people's money, not just taxpayer's money.

OLD BUSINESS.

There was no old business to discuss at this time.

MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2019,

Due to the lack of quorum, the minutes from July 10th were not considered at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve the use of Cranbury Park Gallaher Estate and immediate surrounding grounds by Laura Maleski and Ronald Abelli for a Wedding to be held Saturday, September 5, 2020 from 2:00 PM - 11:00 PM. Estimated attendance 150.

Ms. Maleski and Mr. Abelli came forward and greeted the Committee. Mr. Corsello asked the Committee if they had any questions about the event. There were no questions from the Committee.

Mr. Corsello said that due to the lack of quorum, this would be forwarded to the full Council on September 10th.

Approve the use of Calf Pasture Beach by Mountain Workshop for a Team Building Day to be held Saturday, October 16, 2019 from 8:00 AM -- 3:00 PM. Estimated attendance 250.

Mr. Kent Tullo came forward and greeted the Committee. Mr. Corsello asked the Committee if they had any questions about the event. There were no questions from the Committee.

Mr. Tullo pointed out that October 16th was a Wednesday, not a Saturday and this is the correct date for the program.

Mr. Corsello said that due to the lack of quorum, this would be forwarded to the full Council on September 10th.

Approve the use of Cranbury Park Pavilion 1 and immediate surrounding grounds by Punch Gym for the Battle of the Belles X to be held Sunday, October 20, 2019 from 9:00 AM -- 3:00 PM with set up to begin at 6:00 AM. Estimated attendance 100.

Ms. Johnson came forward and forward and greeted the Committee. She said that this was an all women's weight lifting competition and the proceeds are donated to a cancer center.

Mr. Corsello asked the Committee if they had any questions about the event. There were no questions from the Committee.

Mr. Corsello said that due to the lack of quorum, this would be forwarded to the full Council on September 10th.

Approve the use of Springwood Park by the Norwalk Grassroots Tennis & Education for a New Court Celebration to be held Monday, September 9, 2019 from 4:00 PM --7:00 PM. Set up to begin at 10:00 AM with tear down no later than 7:00 PM on Monday, September 9, 2019. Estimated attendance 150.

Ms. McNeil came forward and forward and greeted the Committee. She said that there is an issue because the event was scheduled for the day before the next scheduled Council Meeting. Mr. Corsello asked if the Director of Recreation and Parks could approve this item without full Council approval. Mr. Roberts will look into this and get in touch with Ms. McNeil.

Authorize the Mayor, Harry. W. Rilling, to enter into an agreement with the Human Services Council for the use of Taylor Farm Park for a Kidzfest Touch a Truck & More to be held on Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 10:00 AM -- 3:00 PM. Set up to begin Friday, October 25, 2019 at 10:00 AM with tear down no later than 5:00 PM on Saturday, October 26, 2019. Estimated attendance 500.

Ms. Persavento came forward and forward and greeted the Committee. She said that this year they would be having three food trucks along with the other vehicles.

Mr. Corsello asked the Committee if they had any questions about the event. There were no questions from the Committee.

Mr. Corsello said that due to the lack of quorum, this would be forwarded to the full Council on September 10th.

There were representatives from Wolfpit School regarding an event that was not listed on the agenda. Mr. Corsello explained that due to the lack of quorum, they would not be able to add an item to the agenda. Mr. Roberts said that he would be in touch with Wolfpit about this event.

Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a purchase order to Turf Products for the purchase of a Toro Groundsmaster 5910 (T4) for a sum not to exceed \$114,679.44. Account #0920-6030-5777-C0486.

Mr. Corsello said that due to the lack of quorum, this item will be deferred to next month.

Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a purchase order to Gengras Ford, LLC for the purchase of a Ford Explorer Base 4x2 SUV for a sum not to exceed \$29,356.00. Account # 0918-6030-5777-C0486 - \$28,929.23; 0919-6030-5777-C0486 = \$426.77.

Mr. Corsello said that due to the lack of quorum, this item will be deferred to next month.

Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling to enter into a contract with Conserve ART LLC for Restoration of the Nathan Hale Memorial Fountain Project #3915 for a sum not to exceed \$58,225.00. Account #0919-6030-5777-C0624 = \$45,000 and Account #014150-5585 = \$13,225.00.

Mr. Corsello said that due to the lack of quorum, this item will be deferred to next month.

DISCUSSION

Possible action regarding “smoking on the sanded portions” of Calf Pasture and Shady Beach.

Mr. Corsello said that there were concerns about smoking on the sandy portion of the beach. He spoke with Corporation Counsel. It was the attorney's opinion that as long as there was no fine involved, it could be a policy for Recreation and Parks. As long as there is no specific area set aside for smokers, this would not require an ordinance.

Ms. Smyth suggested emailing the other members of the Committee. Mr. Corsello said that if it was just a policy, it would not require a ordinance.

Ms. Lauricella said that by reaching out to the Health Department, the Committee could strengthen the policy. Mr. Corsello said that Mr. Roberts had already spoken to the Health Department Director about this.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Corsello adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services