

**RECREATION, PARKS &
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
COMMITTEE
JUNE 16, 2010**

ATTENDANCE: Richard McQuaid, Chair; Fred Bondi; Richard Bonenfant; Laurel Lindstrom; Travis Simms; John Tobin

STAFF: Michael Mocciae, Director

I ROLL CALL

Mr. McQuaid called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and called the Roll.

II MINUTES FROM MAY 19, 2010

- ** MOTION MADE TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2010 AS PRESENTED
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

III OLD BUSINESS

- ** MOTION MADE TO TABLE THE USE OF TESTA FIELD NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL FOR A SOCCER TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2010 FROM 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 100. SUBJECT TO ALL FEES, NO COOKING ON GROUNDS, NO GLASS.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

IV NEW BUSINESS

- ** MOTION MADE TO APPROVE THE USE OF CALF PASTURE/SHADY BEACH BY MELISSA LEMIEUX AND KATE GORE LULULEMON ATHLETICA FOR AN EVENT ENTITLED SALUTATION NATION TO BE HELD SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2010 FROM 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM. INCLUDING A \$5.00 NON-RESIDENT FEE. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 300-400.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- ** MOTION MADE TO APPROVE THE USE OF SHADY BEACH BY PRICELINE.COM FOR A COMPANY BARBEQUE TO BE HELD THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2010 FROM 12:00 NOON – 5:00 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 250.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- ** MOTION MADE TO APPROVE THE USE OF SHADY BEACH BY TAUCK FOR A COMPANY PICNIC TO BE HELD MONDAY, JULY 12, 2010 FROM 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 135.**

Ms. Valarie Rafael was present to answer any questions.

- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- ** MOTION MADE TO APPROVE THE USE OF RAY BARRY SOFTBALL FIELD AT NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL BY DANIEL COHEN AND THE CHELSEA COHEN FUND FOR A SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2010 FROM 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM WITH A RAIN DATE OF SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2010. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 100+.**

Mr. Larry Cohen was present to answer any questions.

- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- ** MOTION MADE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH N.E.O.N. NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER AT NATHANIEL ELI SCHOOL TO USE THE GROUNDS FOR A SUMMER CAMP TO BE HELD FROM TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2010 – FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2010 FROM 8:30 AM – 6:00 PM DAILY. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 160 AND TO FORWARD TO THE FULL COUNCIL**

- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- ** MR. BONDI MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY'S LEASE WITH STEPPING STONES MUSEUM FOR CHILDREN, TO AUTHORIZE THE MUSEUM TO 1) OBTAIN A LOAN THAT USES THE NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT PROGRAM, CREATED AS PART OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNITY RENEWAL TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2000, AS AMENDED, SPONSORED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY UNDER ITS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION FUND FOR PURPOSES OF MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT; AND 2) EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN SUCH A LOAN, INCLUDING ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS OR INSTRUMENTS NECESSARY TO SECURE SUCH LOAN-SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY THE CITY'S CORPORATION COUNSEL**

Mr. Nolin, representing Stepping Stones Museum for Children and Mr. Sklar, CFO of the Museum were present. Mr. Nolin distributed a powerpoint document describing the item. He said that Stepping Stones will get \$2.7 million which will be structured as a loan to them. At the end of seven years, it flips to a forgiven loan, which is essentially a grant.

Mr. Nolin explained that they are before this Committee because they were not sure if they could do this under the existing lease with the City. He said that they have to set up a partnering entity, which is required by the federal government.

Mr. Tobin asked if they are asking for collateral. Mr. Bonenfant asked what the total amount borrowed would be. Mr. Nolin said that they would borrow \$4 – 5 million. Mr. Bonenfant asked if the City is a co-signer. Mr. Nolin said that neither the City nor the Museum is obligated to pay this money back. All fees and expenses are up front. Mr. Sklar explained that the City of Stamford did this as well as a soup kitchen in the Bronx. He added that this funding can be used for a nonprofit or a for profit organization. Mr. Nolin said that the lease between the Museum and the City requires the Museum to go to through the City for this.

Mr. Nolin said that the real funder of this is the federal government; it is run by the Department of the Treasury. Ms. Lindstrom asked about the cost to the City. Mr. Nolin said that there is no cost to the City. There is no obligation on the part of the City. They are here to ask the City permission to enter into this agreement. Mr. Nolin said that they may have to put up their own assets.

Mr. Sklar said that the \$2.7 million will help them reach their goal of raising \$17 million; they are counting on this funding. Mr. Nolin said that they are pledging the building or a variation of that for this loan; they are not pledging the land. Mr. Mocciae said that he does not see any concerns from the department.

Mr. Bonenfant asked if timing is of the essence, since there was no back up available. Mr. Nolin said that he feels that they would be at risk if this was delayed. Mr. Tobin suggested that they could present this at the first Common Council meeting of the month. He added that he did not like the program, but if Stepping Stones does not get the funding, someone else will.

Mr. Nolin said that he contemplates a simple amendment to the lease authorizing this one time program, but he said that he has to work out the language with the Law Department.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. SIMMS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH LOS CABOS RESTAURANT ERWIN COSTELLANOS FOR THE USE OF VETERAN'S PARK SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2010 FROM 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM FOR A LOS CABOS ANNIVERSARY EVENT. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 8:00 AM WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 8:00 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 500-1000.**

Mr. Moccia explained that this is a first time event. Mr. Jose Conferes the owner of the restaurant talked to the Town Clerk who suggested using Taylor Farm for the event. Mr. McQuaid suggested that they meet with the department first and then they can have this item on the next agenda. Mr. Moccia said that he was concerned about the impact on East Norwalk during this time period.

Mr. Conferes said that they want to try and hold this event in September when school is in session, because it is a fundraiser for the schools.

Mr. Moccia explained that the owners have moved the date and location three times. They can't use Veteran's Park in September because of the Oyster Festival and Cranbury Park is booked through September.

Mr. McQuaid said that the only time available is Sunday, August 15th. Mr. Conferes said that if that is the only date, they will take it.

Mr. Bondi asked Mr. Conferes what he needs for this event. Mr. Conferes said that he knows what he needs. He used to organize similar events for a living in California for more than 500 people. Mr. Conferes said that he will be bringing a Mariachi Band from Mexico.

Mr. Conferes said that they are only charging for food tickets that will be purchased in advance of the event so that he will know how much food is needed. He said that for \$10.00 they will get an alcoholic drink and food. Mr. Bonenfant asked how they will know someone is of legal age to drink. Mr. Conferes said that they will issue identification bracelets that will be checked by their security company.

Mr. Conferes said that he has two sponsors who are willing to help a little. Mr. Bondi said that there is not enough parking. Mr. Simms said that he would like clearer information. Mr. McQuaid told Mr. Conferes that he did not think he understood the layout of Veteran's Park and what is needed to make this event work. He said that there are a lot of questions that need to be answered. Mr. Bonenfant said that the numbers don't add up and that he was concerned about the alcohol portion of this event.

Mr. Conferes said that this is a festival for his customers. He said that he does not want anything to go wrong and that he has done this a lot of times and does not see what could go wrong.

Mr. Mocciae said that if this is a showcase of the Mexican culture, that he would love to do something such as bringing a Mariachi Band to the Beach for a Wednesday night concert. He suggested that Mr. Conferes could contact Stew's and request a waiver so that they could sell Mexican food during the concert. He said that they could hold this event in September and invite the schools to participate. Mr. Conferes said that he liked this idea. Mr. Mocciae said that this would be an event partnered with the City.

No action was taken on this item.

**** MR. BONDI MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH TJL INDUSTRIES, LLC (DBA DALTON TRACK & TENNIS) AS LOW BIDDER PROJECT #2958 NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL TRACK RESURFACING FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$88,000.00. ACCOUNT #'S 09116030- 5777-C0454 AND 09096030-5777-C0454.**

AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS ON CONTRACT FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$8,800.00. ACCOUNT #'S 09116030-5777-C0454 AND 09096030-5777-C0454.

Mr. Mocciae explained that this project will protect the track at Norwalk High School for another eight or nine years.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING DIRECTOR TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO LOW BIDDER SOUND CONSTRUCTION PROJECT #2961 CONCRETE SLAB FOR CARRIAGE HOUSE FODOR FARM FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$17,457.00. ACCOUNT #016031-5585.**

Mr. Mocciae explained that the Common Council had approved the three-bay garage; this provides the foundation for the structure. The garage was paid for through a grant.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. BONDI MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER AN AGREEMENT WITH WERNERT CONSTRUCTION FOR PROJECT #2900 FODOR FARM HOMESTEAD DWELLING FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$209,375.00. ACCOUNT #'S 09116030-5777-C0447 AND 90906030-5777-C0462.**

AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARK TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS ON CONTRACT NOT TO EXCEED \$21,000.00. ACCOUNT #90906030-5777-C0462 & 09116030-5777-C0447.

Mr. Mocciae explained that three bids were received and this was the lowest one. He described the project. The Recreation and Parks Department is sending two staff to lead abatement school so that the lead abatement can be done in house. He said that he expects the exterior of the house to be 100% completed.

Mr. Mocciae explained that the Historical Commission approved the drawings and the grant. He said that Mr. Bryant has been involved as a consultant. Ms. Lindstrom asked about the funding for this project. Mr. Mocciae said that \$200,000 was approved through the capital budget for this use.

Mr. Mocciae updated the Committee on the progress of the other homes on Fodor Farm.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

V. DISCUSSION

Mr. Art Goldblatt, president of the Norwalk Grassroots Tennis reported on the programs that use Springwood Park. He said that Grassroots Tennis is well used by the local youth and is supported by various fundraising events. Mr. Goldblatt thanked Mr. Mocciae and the Committee and asked if they could build tennis courts in the center of town. Mr. McQuaid thanked Mr. Goldblatt and told him that a lot of students praise him for the work he's done.

Ms. Lindstrom asked for an update on the Veteran's Park master plan. Mr. Mocciae said that he will look at it at the end of August when the Beach project is completed. He will e-mail the Committee a list of people who are interested on serving on the Master plan Committee.

Mr. McQuaid suggested holding the next meeting at Calf Pasture Beach to see the new construction. Mr. Mocciae reported that the light poles will be up next week. He said that they looked at some lower level lights, so that the lighting won't be so bright. A car show will be held at the beach next Wednesday evening.

Mr. Moccia reported that they have already sold 20 non-resident season passes. Ms. Lindstrom asked who is responsible for where people are allowed to fish. Mr. Moccia said that Parks and Recreation is responsible and that people are only allowed to fish from the pier.

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

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services