

RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 17, 2010

ATTENDANCE: Richard McQuaid, Chair; Richard Bonenfant; Laurel Lindstrom;

John Tobin; Fred Bondi (7:12 p.m)

STAFF: Michael Mocciae, Director

I Roll Call

Mr. McQuaid called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and called the Roll.

II Minutes of January 20, 2010

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 8: Delete item 9 Sailing School Lease and delete Sailing School Lease motion

Pages 10 - 14: Delete The Master Plan for Cranbury Park

** MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

III Old Business

1. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to enter into an agreement with the United Haitian American Society for the use of Veteran's Park for their Annual CT Haitian-American Day Celebration to be held Saturday, July 17, 2010 from 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM. Set-up and breakdown to be determined. Estimated attendance 3,500.

There was no one present representing this request.

2. Approve the Master Plan of Cranbury Park.

** MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO FORWARD THIS ITEM TO THE FULL COMMON COUNCIL

Mr. Mocciae explained that an updated he will have an updated Master Plan available for the Common Council meeting. Mr. Bonenfant said that he was happy that comments from the public were taken into consideration.

Mr. Bondi joined the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Ms. Lindstrom agreed that the revised version is precisely what the residents and the Committee wanted.

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

IV New Business

** MS. LINDSTROM MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. APPROVE THE USE OF THE SHOWMOBILE FOR THE JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION "WALK FOR THE CURE" TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2010 AT CALF PASTURE BEACH.
2. APPROVE THE USE OF THE SHOWMOBILE FOR THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION CT CHAPTER FOR THEIR WALK TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 3, 2010 AT CALF PASTURE BEACH.

Mr. Mocciae explained that these events were previously approved. These groups are now seeking approval to use the ShowMobile.

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

** MR. BONENFANT MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE YMCA OF NORWALK, INC. TO USE TRACEY SCHOOL GROUNDS FOR CAMP SUNRISE TO TAKE PLACE JUNE 28, 2010 – AUGUST 27, 2010 FROM 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM. ESTIMATED PARTICIPATION 160.

Mr. Mocciae explained that the YMCA camp has been held for a number of summers at a different location. The CEO from the YMCA said that the program has been restructured for a better camp experience. He said that Mr. Stewart from Milford and his team came in to enhance the programs. The students will be dropped off at Tracey School.

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

** MS. LINDSTROM MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH KAYAK FOR A CAUSE FOR THEIR EVENT KAYAK FOR A CAUSE X TO BE HELD AT CALF PASTURE BEACH, JULY 24, 2010 FROM 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,500.

The end time was corrected to 9:00 p.m.

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

** MR. BONDI MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM

5. APPROVE THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH BY THE NORWALK ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS TO HOST THEIR EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE TO BE HELD EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2010 FROM 6:30 AM – 9:00 AM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 95.

Reverend Cardimone explained that they have been holding the Easter Sunrise Services at Calf Pasture for at least 40 years.

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

** MR. BONDI MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

6. A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA SOCIETY TO HOLD THEIR "LIGHT THE NIGHT WALK" ON OCTOBER 1, 2010 FROM 5:00 PM TO 10:00 PM AT CALF PASTURE BEACH. SET-UP AT 12:00 NOON, OCTOBER 1, 2010, BREAKDOWN BY 11:00 AM ON OCTOBER 2, 2010. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 800.

6. B. APPROVE THE USE OF THE SHOWMOBILE FOR THE LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA SOCIETY'S "LIGHT THE NIGHT WALK" TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 1, 2010 FROM 5:00 PM TO 10:00 PM

This walk will take place at Calf Pasture Beach

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

** MR. BONDI MOVED TO TABLE THE FOLLOWING ITEM BECAUSE THERE WAS NO REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

7. APPROVE THE USE OF THE PAVILION AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS AT CRANBURY PARK BY LATONIA TAYLOR FOR A FAMILY REUNION TO BE HELD ON JULY 10, 2010 FROM 10:00 AM TO 8:00 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 150+.

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

8. SET PUBLIC HEARING PRIOR TO NEXT MEETING OF COMMITTEE FOR DEPARTMENT FEES AND CHARGES 2010 – 2011.

Mr. Mocciae distributed the recommended changes. He said that he did not make a lot of changes due to the poor economy. He said that all of the fees go into the general fund. Ms. Lindstrom asked if the fees cover the associated costs. Mr. Mocciae said that there is the opportunity for the City to earn money on rental fees. He added that the City loses money on the Oyster Festival. Ms. Lindstrom asked if the costs are comparable with other towns. Mr. Mocciae said that some of the costs in other towns are prohibitive and that is why so many “walks” come to Norwalk.

Mr. Bondi suggested increasing the fee for Cranbury Park and the ShowMobile. Mr. Mocciae explained that the fee for the ShowMobile went up quite a lot last year. He said that they do not have a lot of requests from for-profits.

The Committee members discussed price increases.

** MR. BONDI MOVED THE FOLLOWING RENTAL FEE INCREASES:

SHOWMOBILE RENTAL FEE – FOR PROFIT \$350.00 TO \$400.00

CRANBURY PARK PICNIC PAVILION RENTAL FEE – FOR PROFIT \$200.00 TO \$250.00
GROUPS OF 100 – 149

CRANBURY PARK PICNIC PAVILION RENTAL FEE – FOR PROFIT \$250.00 TO \$300.00
GROUPS OF 150 OR MORE

Mr. Mocciae suggested holding the public hearing before the next meeting.

** MOTION TO INCREASE THE RENTAL FEES PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The public hearing will be held on March 17th at 6:45 p.m.

** MAIN MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

** MR. BONDI MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM

9. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK SEAPORT ASSOCIATION, INC. FOR THEIR USE OF HOPE DOCK, EXTENDING THE AGREEMENT FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2010 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2020.

Mr. Bondi said that the Agreement looked like an outdated document, but noted that it has been reviewed.

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

** MR. BONDI MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

** MR. BONDI MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

1A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH HAWLEY CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION FOR PROJECT #2916: PEDESTRIAN LIGHTING AND BOARDWALK AT CALF PASTURE BEACH FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$254,999.00.
ACCOUNT # 09106030-577 C0365

1B. AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS, MICHAEL A. MOCCIAE TO ISSUE CHARGES ON CONTRACT, TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$25,500.00.
ACCOUNT # 09106030-5777 C0365

Mr. Mocciae explained that they received competitive bids and Hawley Construction Corporation was the lowest bidder. They are from Windsor, CT. They will begin the project in April and expect to finish in June.

Mr. Mocciae described the scope of the project. He said that no trees will be removed. The boardwalk will go from the pier to the border of Shady Beach.

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

** MR. BONDI MOVED TO TABLE THE FOLLOWING ITEM BECAUSE THERE WAS NO REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT THIS EVENING

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED HAITIAN AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE USE OF VETERAN'S PARK FOR THEIR ANNUAL CT HAITIAN-AMERICAN DAY CELEBRATION TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2010 FROM 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM. SET-UP AND BREAKDOWN TO BE DETERMINED. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 3,500.

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

V. Discussion

1. Field Usage.

Mr. Mocciae distributed a schedule detailing field usage. He noted that the only fields without program activity are Columbus School, Ryan Park and Nathaniel Ely. Mr. Mocciae explained that this discussion started when a community soccer group started a league without consent and then asked where they could play. Mr. Mocciae said that he made the schedule available to the Committee so that they could formulate a plan for a moratorium.

Mr. Mocciae said that on the weekends, people from New York play on the wet fields, without anyone's knowledge. He said that if they were able to turf the fields, they would be able to schedule more playing time. Mr. Bondi said that Stamford put in a multitude of turf fields. Mr. Mocciae said that the key to re-using the fields is to put in turf fields.

Mr. Bondi noted the parking problem at West Rocks Middle School. Mr. Mocciae said that is another field to target to be turfed. Mr. Bondi suggested having a meeting with the Police to discuss getting Park Rangers. The Park Rangers could issue parking tickets to people who are parking illegally.

** MR. BONDI MOVED TO ADJOURN

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services