

April 13, 2021

The meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was held on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference. The public had access to this meeting by calling the following conference line and then entering the conference code:

Dial to join Zoom Meeting by Phone:

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Meeting ID: 942 7517 2065

Mr. Labrador stated that this meeting is being conducted with the authority issued by the Governor of the State of Connecticut and read the following:

Tonight's meeting of the Board of Park Commissioner is the regular monthly meeting for March 9, 2021, and is being conducted by electronic means as authorized by Governor Ned Lamont executive order 7B which was issued on March 14, 2020, and which the Public has electronic access to witness this meeting.

The recording and transcription of this meeting will be posted on the City Clerk's website within 7 days.

Mr. Labrador asked that everyone abide by the Governor's request and directives contained in his various executive orders: 7 through 7J, with additional orders to be forthcoming.

OPENING CEREMONY

ROLL CALL

Present: President Labrador, Vice President Brideau, Commissioners: Wade, Cotto and Hosier, Clerk Ellen M. Gerrity. Absent was Craig A. Nadrizny, Acting Public Facilities Director, Also, in attendance were: Luann Conine, Recreation Superintendent, Stephen Hladun, Special Project Coordinator, Luis Burgos, Manager of Roadway and Parks Services, and Lee Nastu, Recreation Coordinator with Angel DePara, Database Administrator, presiding as host of the meeting. After determining there was a quorum, Mr. Labrador called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF March 9, 2021, PARKS BOARD MEETING

On a motion made by Mr. Brideau, seconded by Mr. Cotto, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes as presented.

PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM:

Due to the public health emergency, public speaking will be by written testimony only**

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Please submit written testimony to Ellen.Gerrity@bridgeportct.gov by 4:30p.m.on Monday, April 12, 2021.***

The following letters were submitted and read by Board of Park Commissioners:

1. Madeline Dennis Raleigh, 52 Arthur Street, Bridgeport, CT 06605

In 2019 I organized a Fishing Line Recycle Bin Project in Bridgeport and Fairfield sponsored by the CT Audubon Society and funded by the Ash Creek Conservation Association. Discarded monofilament fishing line is dangerous to birds, fish and other wildlife. Line caught on piers, branches and bushes on land and water can result in wildlife drownings, starvation, and limb amputations. Fishing line also imperils swimmers and damages propellers and outboard motors. In recent years birds have been entangled along Bridgeport waterways and were transported to wildlife rehabilitators. Tubular bins made of PVC with signage have been devised to be placed at fishing locations so used line can be placed in them, collected & properly disposed. There are about 45 bins statewide (including 2 in Beardsley Park), but no others in Bridgeport.

I organized the construction by local high school students of 20 PVC tubular bins and worked with Bridgeport and Fairfield agencies on placement & installation. They are now located at 18 city park locations, fishing locations, marinas and yacht clubs. They have been placed on 7 city land locations: 2 at Seaside Park, 2 at St. Mary's-By- The-Sea, one at the Pleasure Beach fishing dock at Central Avenue, one at Pleasure Beach on the dock and one at the popular fishing location near Arthur Street in Black Rock. We'll soon be placing another at Knowlton Park and moving the one at the Seaside Park jetty to a more suitable location. Seven others were placed at private yacht clubs and at Captain's Cove, and at 4 locations around the Fairfield Marina. To see an interactive map of all the locations with photos, go to <https://bit.ly/3a4mafz>.

The project has organized monitors for each bin, sometimes an employee of the venue, but also volunteers. They clean out the bins when needed. An important point is that line made of monofilament cannot be included with municipal plastics collections and should not be placed in the trash where it will remain in landfills & still present an environmental hazard. The final part of this bin project is to ship the line to the only place in the county that can properly recycle it - Berkley Fishing Company in Iowa - who melt the line into plastic pellets that are made into tackle boxes and underwater fish habitats.

The most difficult part of this project has been getting the word out to fishermen. Although the bins have prominent signage on them & a metal sign above, many fishermen are not aware of what these white tubular containers are for. This year we hope to do additional public outreach by getting the word out to fisherman and bait and tackle stores. We have English/Spanish handouts for fisherman and posters & cardboard collection boxes with colorful signage for the indoor store locations. We need volunteers' helpers to help distribute these information materials.

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We are hoping that the members of the commission will help to get the word out on this project which is so important to our environment and parks. Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information on this project.

2. Jorge Cruz, Common Council Member, 131st District, 251 Black Rock Avenue, Apt. 2-R Bridgeport, CT

He requests that the following be submitted to the Board of Park Commissioner's expressing my opposition for the renewal of the contract that operates the Seaside park Concession stands. It is very unfair that food trucks serving a variety of food are excluded from the park due to the monopolizing restrictions to the concession stand. I cannot attend the parks meeting due to my committee meeting on April 13th.

3. John Brezina, asked that the Seaside Park Anchor be painted before Memorial Day weekend.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Christy Duffy Acevedo, requests to obtain a park permit for the purpose of playing cricket at Seaside Park, in the area at the end of Barnum Boulevard.

On a motion made by Mr. Hosier, seconded by Mr. Cotto, it was unanimously voted to table the request due to lack of representation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Maria Pereira, 138th District City Councilwoman, requesting to hold a Ribbon Cutting Event at Manila Park, on Saturday, May 22, 2021, rain date Sunday, May 23, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with a setup time of 9:00 a.m. and cleanup of 12:30 p.m. with pre-packaged bottled water and juices as well as individually wrapped cupcakes and Micalizzi's Italian Ice, a DJ and children's entertainment requiring no contact.

Ms. Pereira said that she briefly requested to hold Manila Park's ribbon cutting last year, but then COVID-19 occurred.

She said she is here again requesting to hold a ribbon cutting event at Manila Park.

She said that in 2019 when she was elected to the Common Council, there was a 20-year-old jungle gym at the park which had a lot of graffiti on it and was in poor condition.

She said that with the help of Craig Nadrizny who had the entire design of the park ready because it was on his radar since his grandparents lived across the street when he was a child and spent many hours there.

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She said that since then, the Parks Department has added the things she has requested such as lighting, benches, picnic tables, trash barrels and the planning of trees.

She said that that this is an impoverished community that cannot afford to rent a hall for a birthday so now they can use the playground and park for their children's birthday party's family events.

She said she will have appropriate children's entertainment with music, pre-packaged food with no open trays of food and they will not have any close contact or anything that requires touching or getting too close to other people.

Also, no beverages will be poured out of two-liter bottles or pitchers, everything will be prepackaged because of COVID-19.

She said they will have a free raffle that will help in having everyone sign in for their contact tracing at the event.

She said they want the neighborhood and the community to know that the Park Commissioners have done a great job with the park.

She said that parks increase property values and certainly give a place to the neighborhood children and grandparents and parents to take their children for recreation to play sports, to have a child's birthday party so there's a lot of positives that come with rehabilitating or renovating a park.

Ms. Pereira said that all COVID-19 guidelines will be adhered to.

She said that their neighborhood organization POP "Protect Our Property" will be distributing invitations and flyers the length of Pearl Harbor and side streets to make sure that everyone is aware of the event.

She said that they will also have a table about adopting children and they are going to see if they are able to get someone from the Department on Aging to explain the senior rebate program.

Mr. Cotto said that he is happy she mentioned the COVID guidelines because that is important for all events in the City of Bridgeport parks.

Ms. Pereira said that she would like to invite the Board of Park Commissioners, Acting Public Facilities Director Nadrizny and staff along with Senator Blumenthal and Channel 12.

She said that when she has a more formal invitation made up, she will ask Clerk Gerrity to distribute it and hopes that everyone is able to attend.

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She said that it is important that the Park Commissioners get recognized for the good things that they do.

On a motion made by Mr. Brideau, seconded by Mr. Cotto, it was unanimously voted to approve the event with the usual stipulations.

2. Thomas Errichetti, Bridgeport Public Library Board Member requesting to speak to the Board regarding the installation of solar panels on the North Branch Library roof.

Mr. Errichetti stated that he is Treasurer and a member of the Bridgeport Public Library and that they are requesting to speak to the Board in regard to installation of solar panels on the roof of the North Branch Library.

Mr. Errichetti said that the Park Board Commissioners are the owners of the land and they are the owners of the building.

He said that the building is now just over 25 years old and they are pursuing the installation of solar panels both at the North Branch and Newfield branch libraries.

He said that because they are not the owners of the land where the building sits, it was suggested by the City Attorney's Office that they present to the Parks Board their plan for solar panels because anything that goes on at the park is supposed to go before the Parks Board.

Mr. Errichetti said that the solar panels will sit on the roof of the North Branch Library and that there will be equipment installed on the side of the building where the transformer is since there is not enough room in the electrical room to install some equipment so it will be installed on the side of the building and it will not be noticeable to the general public.

Mr. Labrador asked if the panels will be an eye sore or will they be barely seen.

Mr. Errichetti said that he thinks that the panels will be barely visible because of the way the building sits in the parapet on the roof itself.

He said that the panels generally always lay pretty flat to capture the sunlight, especially since it's a flat roof.

He said that it's also a good educational experience for children in particular, one of the things we had explored previously is to have the equipment in the library that will show how much power is being produced by using solar.

Ms. Wade said that she is in favor of the solar panels and said that they should be used more often to cut down electricity.

Mr. Cotto asked Mr. Nadrizny if he could provide some insight on the solar panel installation.

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Mr. Nadrizny said that the City has looked over the plans and that previous libraries already have solar panels and they think it is a great idea.

On a motion made by Mr. Cotto, seconded by Mr. Brideau, it was unanimously voted to approve the installation of solar panels on the North Branch Library roof.

3. Tristan M. Haller, Director of Sales Support / Connoisseur Media CT WEZN/WPLR, 440 Wheelers Farm Road, Suite 302, Milford, CT, requesting to hold two golf tournaments at the D. Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course: 1. The Star 99.9 Anna and Raven Open on Friday, July 16, 2021 to benefit The Center of Family Justice. 2. The 99.1 PLR Mike Lapitino Golf Tournament on Friday, August 13, 2021, to benefit local Breast Cancer Awareness Programs.

Ms. Shannon Begley, Connoisseur Media spoke on Mr. Haller's behalf.

Ms. Begley said that last year the Parks Board approved for them to hold two tournaments and they both went off without a hitch.

She said that they are working with Gina Malheiro and the Mayor's Office, Vazzy's Restaurant and the Golf Course.

She said she is looking for the Parks Board to approve both tournaments, both tournaments as said are tied into local charities, which are important.

She said that they would abide by the COVID guidelines, taking all precautions as they did last year.

Mr. Labrador said that they are doing a great job and the organizations that they looking to help are so important to the community that some support goes to those people.

Gina Malheiro said that they did a phenomenal job last year and she would like to show her support for them.

Mr. Brideau asked if she was working with the Golf Pro Stephen Roach, he said that he is a great man to work with and is very conscientious.

Ms. Begley said that they are, and it is great working with him.

On a motion made by Mr. Brideau, seconded by Mr. Cotto, it was unanimously voted to approve the tournament dates of Friday, July 16, 2021 and Friday, August 13, 2021 at the D. Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course.

4. William Giannos, Mr. Softee, 325 Cherry Street, Bridgeport, CT, requesting an extension of his Seaside Park, Concession License Agreement.

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Mr. Giannos said that their plans last year were to open the grove stand in April, but due to COVID-19, they did not open the stand, or the west beach stand. He said that their plans this year are to open the grove stand first somewhere between the 15th and the 25th of May and to open west beach by Memorial Day.

He said that they've spent a lot of effort in remodeling the inside of the stand and the city also helped putting in a new floor, and they are basically ready to go and all they need to do now is to hook up the Wi Fi for the credit cards, and hire their staff.

Mr. Labrador said that it sounds like he is pretty motivated to get this concession stand open since it has been closed for so long.

Mr. Hosier asked Mr. Giannos for an overview of what type of food he will be serving at each concession stand:

Mr. Giannos said that they will be serving hamburgers, hotdogs, grilled cheese, grilled chicken, french fries, salads, chicken tenders and fries, chips, candy, bottled water, Gatorade, fountain soda, Snapple packaged ice cream fruit bars, Italian Ice, cup ice and mozzarella sticks.

Mr. Hosier asked if he would sell these foods at both concession sites?

Mr. Giannos said he would have the foods at both sites, and they would also like to sell soft ice cream at the grove concession.

Mr. Cotto asked if they would still have push carts in the park.

Mr. Giannos said that the push carts are not theirs, they are illegally in the park selling Italian ice and have caused them big problems.

He said that all his trucks carry the Mr. Softee's name on the truck.

He said that they have notified the Police Department about the problem.

Mr. Giannos said the other problems they have had is that the Police Department closes the Seaside Park too early.

Mr. Labrador said that he will have to notify the Police Department that the parks should closed at 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Cotto said that Mr. Giannos has explained himself eloquently and would like to make a motion.

Mr. Hladun said that the license agreement, as it is structured, indicates, three, one-year extensions, so, this extension we are looking at today would be just for this season.

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He said that it is in yearly increments, and if the City chooses to continue looking at extensions for future years, that would be done at the end of each season,

Ms. Wade asked how the City would handle people bringing food truck into the park to sell ethnic food.

Mr. Labrador said that as long as the trucks are licensed and not too close to the concession stand, he believes that they would be able to vend.

He said that he believes that anyone wanting to sell at the park would need to go before the Board of Park Commissioners; the Board would have to look at that.

Mr. Hladun said that vending on park land is required to be approved by the Board of Park Commissioners.

He said that in 2016 when the license agreement was approved that awarded the two concession stands and the ability to provide mobile carts within Seaside Park to Mr. Giannos; within that license agreement there is language that refers to designating a specific area to provide other food offerings or food trucks; however, the city did not pursue that over the last several years.

He said that this is something that the Park Commissioners and the City of Bridgeport would have to look at, and would have to do some due diligence as far as how best to facilitate that in a specific area safely and for the public to enjoy in addition to the West Beach and Grove concession as well as the ice cream trucks that Mr. Giannos offers.

Mr. Cotto mentioned that he does not think that other concession trucks are allowed in the parks.

Mr. Labrador said that the Parks Department has to make the Police Department aware that unless a truck says Mr. Softee on the side of it, it should not be in the park.

On a motion made by Mr. Hosier, seconded by Mr. Brideau, it was unanimously voted to approve a 1-Year extension of the Seaside Park Concession's License Agreement through the 2021 Season.

5. Amara Johnson, 325 Lafayette St Unit 4101, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to speak to the Parks Board regarding the Community and Environmental impact of cars at Seaside Park.

Ms. Johnson read her concerns regarding the community and environmental impact of cars at Seaside Park

Mr. Labrador said that he is willing to walk the park to discuss her concerns about the park.

He also said he would like to have her go to Pleasure Beach to see what is out there.

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He said that he will take Ms. Johnson's concerns into consideration and look into seeing if there is money available to do a study of the situation.

6. Bassick High School, requesting to hold their Senior and Junior Proms at the Seaside Park Band Shell on Thursday, May 13, 2021.

Christopher Johnson, Vice Principal, Bassick High School spoke to the Commissioners.

Mr. Johnson said that last year they had to cancel both proms due to the pandemic.

He said that this year as the schools began opening on a remote schedule and all sports and the and social distancing have been in flux all year long they really didn't want to go ahead with planning the proms for the kids for fear of losing deposits and the uncertainty of everything.

He said that they just got the go ahead with School Superintendent Testani recently to start planning the Senior and Junior proms along with the graduation ceremonies.

He said that Seaside Park is in close proximity to where a lot of their kids live so it would be easy access for them.

He said that the school would like to give the kids a positive experience they can remember as they graduate Bassick High School.

Mr. Johnson said that they would follow all the same social distancing measures that they use at the school, we would we would look to bring in some tables and chairs, and would distance them so the kids can maintain a safe distance.

He said that ideally, they would like to bring in some food trucks as well as utilize Mr. Softee's concession.

They would also like to bring in porta-johns to the area.

Mr. Labrador said that from knowing Mr. Johnson from the past, he knows that he only has the best in mind for the kids.

Mr. Labrador asked what time they would come into the park?

Mr. Johnson said that their event is on a Thursday afternoon May 13th with a rain date of the following Thursday the May 20th.

He said that staff would get to Seaside at about 12:00 p.m. and setup until 4:00 p.m. and the kids would be there from about 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

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He said that he and the staff would wait there with kids, until everyone is home, and everyone's accounted for which is the typical protocol for any type of event like that.

He said that the remaining staff and chaperones would make sure everything is cleaned up and they would make sure that everything is cleaned up, to make sure the park is left in the exact same exact shape as they found it.

Mr. Labrador suggested that Mr. Johnson have conversations with Lieutenant Grech due to there not being any lights in that area.

Mr. Johnson said that their principal has already been in touch with Lieutenant Grech to make sure everything goes off safely.

Mr. Nadrizny introduced Acting Health Director Ebony Jackson-Shaheed who shared some of the Covid-19 guidelines.

Ms. Jackson-Shaheed stated that we have guidance, effective Friday, March 19th, all business capacities are now up to 100%, subject to social distancing requirements, unless otherwise noted, six feet spacing of social distancing continues to be required where possible unless otherwise noted.

She said that masks continue to be required in all public settings for social distance when possible and all establishments must, must follow the CDC cleaning and disinfecting guidelines.

She said that she noticed that there will be some performances at some of the events, so performers and musical vocalists at restaurants, outdoor and indoor events and performing art venues are allowed subject to 12 feet spacing, or more from the nearest person dining or working for example workstations or walking paths used by employees must be included in the 12 foot distance, so for instance if you're going to have some sort of a band or musical DJ they need to have their own area where they're 12 feet away from the rest of the party to maximize the protection of their patrons and employees businesses and organizations are strongly encouraged to require performers to obtain a negative Covid 19 test or PCR within 72 hours prior to performing in terms of some guidance and I that know obviously events will come here first to the Parks Board and then we will obviously review some things on the health side.

She said that effective April 2nd, the following is the newest guidelines that they have so far for outdoor events.

She said that venues such as amphitheaters and racetracks are up to 50% capacity with a cap of 10,000 people, fairs festivals and carnivals are up to 50% capacity of last year's capacity so if it was zero for last year and everything was closed, it is now up to 50% of last year's capacity.

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She said that for outdoor organized gatherings there's a cap of 500 people, six feet of space blanket to blanket open to the public example fireworks, concerts and a municipal park, the event organizer is responsible for compliance with the guidance.

She said that effective Friday, April 2, 2021, outdoor amusement parks can be open with no capacity limit, outdoor event venues can increase to a 50% capacity cap at 10,000 people She said that indoor stadiums can be open at 10% capacity.

She said that there is also a reopen recommendations section by sector and she will send the link to Craig Nadrizny which is specific, and actually a complete document that includes amusement parks, film, TV, hair salons, barber shops, etc., at which you can go in and look up for to look at your business, or whatever pertains to you, and you can look at the specific guidance for your specific business.

Mr. Labrador said that Mr. Johnson is probably going to be okay with what he's doing as far as people, as long as he maintains social distancing and the mask wearing and, wiping down chairs down tables and chairs.

Ms. Jackson-Shaheed said that having food is a completely different consideration and will be discussed later with the Health Department.

Mr. Labrador and Ms. Wade both discussed how important it is for the kids to have their Senior and Junior proms to make it work safely and in a healthy environment.

Mr. Cotto said that Lieutenant Grech should be aware that in order for this event to be a success he thinks we will should block off the street at the Barnum statue, and at the entrance of the park so people do not just walk in there from other areas.

On a motion made by Mr. Hosier, seconded by Mr. Brideau, it was unanimously voted to approve the event with the usual stipulations.

7. Pascale Butcher, Owner/Race Director, Trifitness, 96 Old Saugatuck Road, Norwalk CT, requesting to hold the Fourteenth Annual Seaside Triathlon at Seaside Park, to benefit Caroline's House in Bridgeport on Sunday, June 13, 2021, to start at 5:30 a.m. and end at 9:30 a.m., with a setup on Saturday, June 12th to start from 5:00 p.m. Up to 200 athletes from the area.

Ms. Butcher said that this is an annual event and they will now have the people go off three people at a time for safety reasons.

She said that all Connecticut safety guidelines will be followed.

Ms. Butcher invited the Park Commissioners to attend the event.

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At 6:31 p.m., President Labrador was no longer present in the meeting due to technical difficulties.

Efforts were made to aid him in re-entering the meeting; efforts were successful, and Mr. Labrador returned to the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

On a motion made by Mr. Brideau, seconded by Mr. Cotto, it was unanimously voted to approve the event with the usual stipulations.

8. Laura Pennock, 2889 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to hold a Pilates Class at St. Mary's By-The-Sea next to the flag, on Saturday's from May 1st through October 2, 2021, from 7:15 a.m. until 8:15 a.m. setup 7:00 a.m., cleanup 8:20 a.m.

Ms. Pennock said she moved her business to Bridgeport sixteen years ago; she owns the building and pays taxes and they are currently the longest running Pilates Studio in Fairfield County.

She said that she has Bridgeport instructors that also serve the Bridgeport community.

She said that the shutdown took a toll on her business and thank goodness the government gave them help to get through this.

She said that their studio does not have a room large enough to allow them to social distance and their mat classes took about 30% of their income and they do a lot of rehab with people and the classes also provide health and wellness for people and they would love to hold their Pilate classes outside on Saturday mornings.

Ms. Pennock said that their mats will be 6 feet apart and they will follow all Covid guidelines

On a motion made by Mr. Hosier, seconded by Mr. Brideau, it was unanimously voted to approve the event with the usual stipulations.

9. Jose Pabon, Awaken Movement, 93 Park Terrace, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to hold a Live performance of music at the Seaside Park Band Shell on Thursday, April 29, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. setup 5:00 p.m., cleanup 8:30 p.m.

He said that the event will consist of live musical performance with a message of hope.

Mr. Pabon said that he is an alumnus of the University of Bridgeport and his target audience will be mainly college students and young adults from the area.

Mr. Brideau asked if he had ever done a concert like this before.

Mr. Pabon said that they just completed a live musical performance at the New Haven Green on April 3, 2021, and they will have events like this across the region.

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Mr. Labrador asked what their target audience was?

Mr. Pabon said that their target audience would be college students and young adults, from the area.

He said that they would use social media and word of mouth to attract their audience.

He expects that they would have up to 100 people in attendance.

Mr. Labrador said that the power of social media is strong and what would they do if 1,000 people showed up at the event.

He said that he does not know how he would expect to control the people coming in without a fence surrounding the event and feels that things could get out of hand.

Mr. Labrador said he does not feel there is enough time to organize this type of event since he is asking for the date of April 29th.

On a motion made by Mr. Hosier, seconded by Mr. Cotto, it was unanimously voted to deny the event.

Mr. Pabon thanked the Parks Board and said that he will take everything into consideration and will bring back a better presentation.

10. Ms. Ashanti Cato, 400 Linden Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to hold a Barbecue at Seaside Park on Friday, April 30, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. with a setup time of 12:00 p.m. and cleanup of 8:00 p.m. with approximately 75 people in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Hosier, seconded by Mr. Cotto, it was unanimously voted to deny the request due to lack of representation.

11. Liza Marie Montanaro, VVA Chapter 251 Executive Secretary, 367 Benham Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to hold a POW/MIA Vigil Demonstration at Seaside Park opposite the Casino Bathhouse on Saturday, June 19, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. with a setup time of 7:00 a.m. and cleanup of 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Montanaro said that they were approved last year for this event, but it was canceled due to the pandemic.

Ms. Montanaro said that all Covid guidelines will be in place.

She also said that instead of two people in a cage there will only be one person per cage.

On a motion made by Mr. Hosier, seconded by Ms. Wade, it was unanimously voted to approve the event with the usual stipulations.

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12. Harry Trinidad, Owner, Salsa Warriors LLC, requesting to play Salsa music at Seaside Park, in front of the Casino Bathhouse on the following dates: 5/30, 6/13, 6/27, 7/11, 7/25, 8/8, 8/22, 9/5 & 9/19/2021, from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Trinidad said that he usually averages anywhere from 75 people, plus, he will provide masks for the people that are basically at the event.

He said that the area is open and some people at the beach might want to dance to the music but they will be told to social distance.

There will also be people there that will sit and enjoy the music.

Mr. Trinidad said that they will have hand sanitizers and masks available at the area.

On a motion made by Mr. Hosier, seconded by Mr. Cotto, it was unanimously voted to approve the request to play Salsa music in front of the Seaside Park Casino Bathhouse for the requested dates and time.

13. Holly Zimmermann, Graduating Student, University of Bridgeport, requesting to use the Seaside Park Band Shell to host a small private graduate ceremony with classmates, faculty, family and friends, on Saturday, May 15, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. with a setup time of 10:00 a.m.

On a motion made by Mr. Cotto, seconded by Mr. Hosier, it was unanimously voted to deny the request due to lack of representation.

14. Adam Safi, TAD Productions, LLC, 3535 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to hold a concert at the Seaside Park Band Shell on Saturday, September 24, 2022, until early morning Sunday, September 25, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. until 1:30 a.m. Setup Saturday, 8:00 a.m. and cleanup Sunday, 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Safi said that they came before the Board in 2017 and was approved for a similar event, but due to the financial side of things, they decided to postpone it.

He said that he want to make it clear that this is for September in 2022, not 2021 so this is about 18 months out, and for that reason, they haven't yet prepared any kind of Covid policy because they are of the mindset that by the time this event happens that there will no longer be the social distance requirements.

He said that they are looking to have about 15,000 to 20,000 kids at the event, coming manly from Sacred Heart University, Fairfield University and the University of Bridgeport.

He said that they have a budget of around \$1,000,000 that they are looking to put into the event and they will have four top tier recording artist and are basically trying to state the event as a one day Gathering of the Vibes.

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Mr. Safi said that there was no way in the permit to actually say that we wanted to start setting up on Thursday, September 22nd for the event on Saturday September 24th, and cleanup on Sunday, September 25th.

He said that they are looking to work closely with the City of Bridgeport Police Department and will be hiring private security, probably about 100 to 200 security guards, we've already looked into insurance, with a \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 liability coverage.

He said that they are working with local businesses in the Fairfield County area who would be sponsors of the event and they are in discussions with the Fairfield Theatre Company right now, regarding ticket distribution.

He said that will have fencing around the area and bring in porta johns.

He said that they will be bringing in a stage so they would need to get building permits.

He said that they will work with local food vendors and food trucks to be able to provide food, and they will also be serving alcohol and liquor at the event.

Mr. Safi said that he does not know the specifics about the policies around that but they are working with a local restaurants who have a liquor permit.

They will look into utilizing a local business in the area who does off-site permitting for alcohol.

He said that they are also looking into having Budweiser, and some other local breweries as sponsors such as Two Roads and Aspetuck Brewery.

Ms. Wade was concerned about College students drinking since they would have 16 year old kids at the event.

Mr. Safi said that the age range would be from 16 to approximately 35 – 40, and people would need a valid ID and they would have to give their contact information when they go to purchase tickets.

He said that they would be given wristbands and there will be a big police presents and security guards checking IDs as well.

Mr. Cotto said that it looks like the are looking for a contract and that they should submit a proposal for their event and referred to the City Attorney's Office.

Mr. Labrador said that he would not be able to play music until 1:30 a.m. due to the noise ordinance.

Mr. Safi said that the music would end at approximately 1:00 a.m. and they people would start to leave at that time.

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Mr. Labrador said that we can hold Mr. Safi's dates for him until we get more information as to what he's going to do, and he would ask him to take into consideration not to think about playing music after 12:00 a.m. in that area.

On a motion made by Mr. Brideau, seconded by Mr. Cotto, it was unanimously voted to hold the dates of Thursday, September 22nd, Friday, September 23rd, Saturday, September 24th and Sunday, September 25, 2022.

15. Kate Pique, 111 Beach Road, Fairfield, CT requesting to hold a Norma Pfriem Breast Center Zumba Fundraiser at the Seaside Park Band Shell on Saturday, June 12, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. with a setup time of 8:00 a.m.

Ms. Pique said that they have done several fundraising events at Seaside Park over the past few years for their breast cancer survivors and they would like to hold a new one on June 12th and they want to do a Zumba event at the bandshell.

She said that they are part of Yale New Haven Health they have to abide by all their restrictions, before they can do anything in their name.

She said they would like to hold this event with marking the field in front of the band shell with flags where every person can stand on 10 feet apart to leave room for a little bit of movement with the Zumba instruction, and would do all of this with pre-registered participation.

She said that they would have all the names and contact information for everybody who would be in attendance, and they would wear masks the entire time.

She said they will have hand sanitizer and ask everybody to bring their own water and provide bottled water for those who forget and have backup masks as well.

They would use the stage for their instructor, and that would be a microphone.

She said that the amplified event would need to set up at 8:00 a.m. and start at 8:30 p.m.

She said that they would only do the Zumba for about 45 minutes and then clean up directly after so it would be a quick morning fundraising event for the Breast Cancer Center.

On a motion made by Mr. Cotto, seconded by Mr. Brideau, it was unanimously voted to approve the event with the usual stipulation

REPORTS – CRAIG A. NADRIZNY, ACTING PUBLIC FACILITIES DIRECTOR

Mr. Hladun read the Director's report:

Park Projects:

April 13, 2021

- Comfort Station Renovations:
 - Newfield Park Restroom renovations price quotation requisition awaiting approval for purchase order in order to proceed with architectural services to renovate the existing restroom.
 - Went Field restroom fixture replacements have been installed by Public Facilities BLDG MTCE.
 - Request to replace restroom partitions at Went Field and Kennedy Stadium has been submitted.
 - Touchless soap and sanitizer dispensers are being scheduled for installation in all park restrooms.

- D. Fairchild Wheeler Memorial Golf Course:
 - FWB057213—Sand Bunker Construction/Reconstruction Project is awaiting final approval and purchase order to be issued.

- Newfield Park
 - Fields and picnic areas are being renovated for little league.
- Pleasure Beach
 - Water activation request has been made to Aquarion for the 2nd half of April to prep for the season – re-opening and re-opening date has not been determined at this time.

- Seaside Park
 - Picnic tables and grills are expected to come in May for installation.
 - Landscaping Bids are due on April 20, 2021 to beautify various areas and monuments at Seaside as well as other high visibility areas around the City.
 - Plans to re-paint the bandshell stanchions as well as stain the wood decking is in progress.
 - City is reviewing options for introducing message board signs at the entrance of West Beach and Park Avenue entrance to provide real-time updates for COVID, rules and regulations and events.

- Tree Planting is being planned. Washington Park shall receive a quantity of 15 cherry trees. Groundwork Bridgeport is partnering with the City to plant 25 trees at Seaside Park.

Recreation Dept.

- Bridgeport Resident Park stickers are being issued at the Parks Office.
- Recreation Dept. is assisting with the Dept. on Aging for Vaccination Transportation for Bridgeport Seniors.

April 13, 2021

- Public Facilities Building Maintenance is nearing completion on the renovations to the Seaside Lifeguard Station.
- Recreation Dept. is assisting with the permit process for park events and sports activities.

Mr. Nadrizny had no further business.

Mr. Labrador asked Mr. Hladun if the anchor at Seaside Park could be painted before Memorial Day.

Mr. Hladun said that he would put it on his list for things to get done.

Mr. Labrador thanked everyone and said that he appreciates everything they do.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Brideau, seconded by Mr. Hosier, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M. Gerrity

Ellen M. Gerrity
Clerk