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The meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at 5:11 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:

1 (929) 436-2866 US (New York)

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Meeting ID: 982 5842 0393

Mr. Labrador said 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 May 11, 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. 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 APRIL 13, 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 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 10th***

There was no submission for the Public Speaking Forum.

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. Brideau, seconded by Mr. Cotto, it was unanimously voted to deny the request due to lack of representation.

2. Jose Pabon, Awaken Movement, 93 Park Terrace, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to hold a Live performance of music at the Seaside Park Band Shell on Saturday, July 3, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. setup 5:00 p.m., cleanup 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Labrador asked if this would be his first time doing this type of event.

Mr. Pabon said that he has conducted two other events like this one, but this would be his first event at Seaside Park.

Mr. Pabon said that he has decided to hold his event from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. with a set-up time of 2:00 p.m. and clean-up time directly after the concert at 8:00 p.m.

He said that the concert will be an open Christian concert and will be advertised and by word of mouth.

He said that he will have small tents where hand sanitizers, masks and water will be available.

He also said that they will have 50 volunteers making sure that everyone is social distancing.

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

3. 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, With set-up dates of September 22nd – 23rd, 2022, and break down and clean up on Sunday, September 25, 2022, Gates open at 12:30pm | First Act at 2:30pm | End at 12:00AM.

On a motion made by Mr. Hosier, seconded by Mr. Cotto, it was unanimously voted to put the item back on the table to discuss concerns they have about the concert.

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Mr. Labrador said that he has read Mr. Safi's proposal and there are some things that he is not comfortable with and needs to look over and to have the City Attorney's Office look at it as well.

He said that he would like to have the request put on the June 8th Parks Board agenda.

Mr. Safi said that he would like to request that the Commissioners continue to hold their dates until that time because there is a proposal under new business from the Hartford Health Care Amphitheater that wants the same dates he is asking for.

Ms. Wade said that she is not comfortable with having kids ages 16 to 30 being at the event with alcohol being served and she is trying to save the City from having a lawsuit.

Mr. Safi said that their event is styled in the manner of the Gathering of the Vibes who did not have an age range to attend and did not have a problem with the alcohol that was served.

Mr. Safi said that Stamford puts on the concert series "Life at Five" and has had alcohol at their events for people over 21 years of age and has not had a problem with younger adults consuming alcohol for over a decade.

Mr. Tyler asked what Ms. Wade's concern would be since they plan on having the proper security at their event.

Ms. Wade said that having security does not mean that younger adults cannot get ahold of alcohol.

Mr. Hosier said that it would be wise to table the request and refer it to the City Attorney's Office for them to look over the contract and to go over where potential problems could exist.

He said that when and if we can solve the problems we can move on from there.

Mr. Safi said that they would like nothing more than to work with the City and to address any concerns that they might have and to tighten up the language or the way it was organized.

Mr. Cotto agreed that the request should be sent to the City Attorney's Office.

Mr. Safi asked if his dates were being held at this time?

Mr. Labrador said that he doesn't know if the Board can hold the dates at this time until it is looked at by the City Attorney's Office and discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Brideau said that the motion to hold the dates was made at the April Parks Board meeting and it should be upheld; what the Board is doing now is tabling the request because of legal ramifications.

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On a motion made by Mr. Hosier, seconded by Mr. Cotto, it was unanimously voted to table the request and to refer it to the City Attorney's Office for consultation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Pete Spain, 280 Grovers Avenue, Bridgeport, CT to speak about the Preserve at St. Mary's-by-the-Sea, 1.7-acre Bridgeport public park and its restoration.

Mr. Spain said that he wanted to give the Board a quick update on the preserve and see if the Board could lend them some advice.

Mr. Spain said that the City's 1.7-acre Woodland Park at St Mary's by the Sea where Ash Creek feeds into Long Island Sound was a park that had been overgrown with invasive plants and was neglected.

He said that about three years ago when he first came before the Board was because a group of community volunteers began clearing invasive brush with their hand tools and the Parks Department graciously picked up what they had cleared.

He said that is when they really started to come to the Board and talk about the plans they were thinking of, and the Board has been a great supporter of these plans and he wanted to thank them because the preserve has come a long way, but there's still some good work to do and he is here to tell the Board where they think it will go and if it's in line with the mission of the Parks Commission.

Mr. Spain said that he wanted to thank the Parks Department professionals such as Steve Hladun, Luis Burgos and his staff for working in close collaboration with the community and the Bridgeport based Ash Creek Conservation Association, and it's outside, landscape designer and ecologist.

He said that they have a very different park right now, and that they are on track to make it a park that's much more enjoyable and accessible to the public, and will be much more beneficial for decades to come to native migratory birds and fauna including pollinators, which are very important to making our parks, and our ecosystem resilient.

He said that they are starting the third year into this plan and that there are no major changes since they are on track of what they had been expecting this year and there are three things they wanted to talk to the Board about tonight and to make sure that the Park Staff is notified in writing to ensure that everything that's required by the city is in place before anything's done.

He said that this year because of the damage from Storm Isaias they have lost three or four of the newer plantings that were paid for by the community, and they are going to try to replant those in the next 30 days.

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He said that they have already touched base with Mr. Hladun about this and they will follow all the requirements they set out to do.

He said that they also learned through experience that they have to make sure the watering of these new plantings is really happening, so they've gained the cooperation of an adjacent neighbor who has allowed for this and will all be reimbursed to him by the Ash Creek community, and no cost to the city.

He said that finally the third thing is ongoing third party maintenance and nontoxic mitigation of the non-native spreaders like Mugwort, Phragmites and Tree-of-Heaven, which they had cleared out of there so well, and put down cardboard and then some great woodchips to keep them at bay.

He said that they will need some more added cardboard and wood chips, about 100 square feet and in 2021 they are right on track.

He said there is no extra work on part of our Parks Department that they need immediately, he just wanted to share the gratitude of the community, but also that they've got some more work to do and they are plowing along.

Mr. Labrador thanked Mr. Spain, the Ash Creek Community, and the Parks staff for their interest in what goes on in that surrounding neighborhood, and that it is a positive for the Black Rock community.

He also appreciates the hard work the community does in coming up with the funding so these things can get done.

Mr. Labrador ended by saying he hopes that the Park Department and Board can be of further assistance to them in the future.

He said that is isn't always possible financially for the Parks Department, but he thinks that manpower is possible, and he hopes we can continue with that.

2. Howard Saffan, Managing Member, Harbor Yard Amphitheater. LLC, requesting to speak to the Board in regards to holding a proposed Seaside Park Festival "Sound on the Sound Festival 2022 on Saturday, September 24, 2022 through Sunday, September 25, 2022 for the Sound on Sound Festival, and possibly a Country Festival the weekend of September 17, 2022 through September 18, 2022.

Mr. Saffan said that he is the owner of the Hartford HealthCare Amphitheater and on their presentation tonight, they have Tom Russell and Jordan Wolowitz, Founders Entertainment and creator of the Governors Ball Music Festival, the largest and longest running multi stage music and arts festival in New York City's history.

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He said also present tonight is Jim Koplik, President of Live Nation Connecticut, and Upstate New York, Jim Runt, President, Live Nation Connecticut and a gentleman from Ferocious Media that will play a brief video to show the Park Commissioners of what they are looking at for Seaside Park in 2022, also present is Tom Gill, Director of Economic Development for the City of Bridgeport.

A brief video show shown of what can be expected at their event.

Mr. Saffan said that after running the Sound Tigers for 10 years plus and having had a business in Bridgeport for 35 years, and now, over the past eight years planning out and successfully building out the amphitheater, they have continuously heard the clamoring for the return of the Gathering of the Vibes festival at Seaside Park.

He said that he and Jim Koplik approached the City of Bridgeport with the idea of bringing a festival back to beautiful Seaside Park.

He said that they met with Mr. Gill, the Chief of Police, and Fire Chief and now they are before the Board requesting approval of their concert dates at Seaside Park in 2022, and seeking the Board permission to have a relationship with the parks in the city

He said that word obviously got out that they were looking to do that the concert in 2022 and it is ironic that it's the same date that they have been talking about for the past five months, but they are before the Parks Board tonight seeking their permission to have a relationship with the parks in the city.

Mr. Saffan introduced Mr. Russell and Jordan Wolowitz, Founders Entertainment to expand a little bit on this since they are the professionals in the festival business, they've been doing this for over a decade, and are known, worldwide as the experts in this field.

Mr. Russell said that he and Mr. Wolowitz are the co-founders of Founders Entertainment, and the Governor's Ball Music Festival, which is New York City's largest and longest running music festival and he along with Jordan are thrilled to be here tonight talking to the Board.

He said that Seaside Park and Bridgeport truly hold the dear place in our hearts because they not only attended multiple Gathering of the Vibes annually as kids, but it was also the very first festival that they ever attended and there's no doubt that they were directly impacted by that event, and that beautiful park to be here talking to the Board tonight about this exciting new event.

He said that it really brings it all full circle and he thanks the Board for listening to them.

He said that as seen in the video and in the deck which many of the Commissioners have "Sound on Sound" is a multi-stage multi act festival, aiming to take place September 24, to 25 2022.

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He said that the event aims to draw upwards of 25,000 to 35,000 people per day, with most attendees coming from Connecticut and the surrounding area.

He said that illustrative talent examples for the event are Stevie Nicks, the Lumineers, Lionel Richie Eddie Vetter, Leon bridges, among many others.

He said that given this type of programming, and what they are going for; there target demographic are primarily folks above the age of 30, and there will be a big family kids element to it as well.

He said that the doors for the event would open as early as noon each day, and music would end as late as midnight.

He said that tickets would be purchased online, and RFID wristbands would be mailed to each purchaser before the show dates.

He said that in addition to two main stages of music, there will be an extensive food and beverage program, which will both highlight local vendors and offerings and appeal to the wide-ranging tastes of today's consumers.

He said that alcohol will be served at the event, but in full compliance with State Liquor Authority laws and all concessions will be managed by Spectrum Concessions, who run food and beverage for the PGA Tour, the Bonnaroo Music Festival, the Governor's Ball, and a slew of amphitheaters in arenas around the country.

He said that complimenting the music, food and beverage will be sponsorship activations a family and kids' area, ADA accessible viewing areas art installations, free water stations, bathrooms, and much more.

He said that load-in for the event would begin on Monday September 19, 2022, which is the Monday before the event, and load-out which will conclude on Thursday September 29, 2022, a more detailed load-in and load-out schedule will come, following conversations here and after.

He said that after having done their festival The Governor's Ball in New York City for over a decade., they will work closely with the Parks Department to keep the park as open to the public as humanly possible during the build and the breakdown.

Mr. Russell said that they know how sensitive and important park space is, so it is really them working together with the Parks Department to keep areas open as they are needed by the local community.

In terms of event clean up, trash and recycling, all of that will be managed by a festival specific cleaning organization, such as Clean Vibes, or Venue Smart, who specialize in this area.

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He said that they always fully commit to leaving the park even better than when they inherited it no matter what.

He said that event safety is always their number one priority, and as such they will be contracting with multiple security vendors for the event, including an overarching festival security management team, and a CCTV provider.

He said that all security deployments and plans, including emergency plans will be shared with local agencies for feedback and discussion well before the event, and as mentioned at the deck, the festival is responsible for all costs related to the Bridgeport Police Department.

He said that while they will be encouraging everyone to take Metro North to and from the festival, they do anticipate a large demand for parking between the Harbor Yard Amphitheater and parking available there, the University of Bridgeport, the baseball fields to the west of the event, and other options, will have ample and ticketed parking options available.

He said that a further detailed transportation and traffic plan will be presented in the coming months after further detail conversation with the applicable parties and agencies.

He said that the last thing they wanted to mention, is their dedication to the local community and the area in which their events impact the most, and here they are talking about the south end.

He said that one of the things that really separates Founders and their company from many others, is how closely they work with local community groups and local businesses and local residents to make sure their event has a positive impact.

He said that in New York City, they worked closely with the City Council, community board, eight in both Queens and in Harlem, and they would routinely attend community board meetings, they contract with local companies.

He said that each year their volunteer program contributes thousands of hours of community service to local nonprofits and that blueprint has been very successful for them with the local communities they've worked in over the years, and they fully intend to follow it here with the Park Board's blessing.

He said that amongst the agencies they work with in the City of New York are the Mayor's Office, NYPD, FDNY, OEM and the DOH, both on the city and the state level, they have impeccable reputations with these organizations and agencies, and if anyone would like to see references, or talk to someone over there about their resume, how they stick to their word, they would be happy to put anyone in touch.

Mr. Russell said that there's a lot more detail in the deck that had been distributed about the event, more specifically, the money to the city to quickly touch on that; the festival commits

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to remitting 5% of the festival ticket price to the city and it's their goal to make this an annual institution, it's their goal to do more than one of these a year.

He said that it is their goal that they can be the new annual institution that the Gathering of the Vibes, used to be and that far too few people know Seaside Park, and really appreciate it for what it is.

He said that they want do an event, more than one event, and many events that can highlight Seaside Park.

Mr. Saffan introduced Jim Koplik, President of Live Nation Connecticut.

Mr. Koplik just wanted to add that he has been promoting concerts in Connecticut now for over 15 years and hopefully many of the board members have gone to those shows.

He said that he is heading the booking at the New Hartford Healthcare Amphitheater and is proud to say that he has just booked the Temptations and the Four Tops there so he is continuing their efforts to book shows there, and they expect to have at least 20 more shows there this summer.

He said that he is pleased that Tom and Jordan have asked him to come along to assist them in this project and they clearly, respect loyalty, his local knowledge in Connecticut and that he has been a Fairfield County resident for almost 40 years now and that he promotes a lot of shows in Bridgeport going all the way back to the highlights from times back in the 80s.

Mr. Koplik said that his company owns the Oakdale, the Xfinity Theater in Hartford and they book exclusively at the Mohegan Sun arena, and they now are looking at the Harvard Healthcare Arena and hopefully the Healthcare Amphitheatre.

He said that they are there to assist and be involved and they are sure that their success and all their other venues in the State of Connecticut will continue to be seen at Seaside Park.

Mr. Saffan asked Mr. Gill if he would like to add anything.

Mr. Gill said that these gentleman approached the City of Bridgeport at the beginning of the year with this concept and idea and as they watched it evolve, they realized the professional aspect to this whole thing, but more importantly, the economic benefit that is there at no cost to the City.

He said that he would like the commissioners to recognize that it's not who got the date first, but to analyze the proposals and determine who has the best proposal, who has got the best economic benefit for the City of Bridgeport, for the Parks Department and for the people of Bridgeport.

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He said that he thinks that is how decisions should be made on this and that is why from the Economic Development Department's perspective not only are they dealing with these professionals, but we also are dealing with people who have just recently invested millions of dollars into the City of Bridgeport with the amphitheater so they fully support what they have come to the City with, and they have not seen anyone else come before them.

Mr. Saffan said that over the past two weeks, the Hartford Healthcare Amphitheater has hired over 400 local residents of Bridgeport which is near and dear to his heart.

Mr. Cotto said that the Park Board's decision is weighing on referring Mr. Safi's to the City Attorney's Office and we should wait for what the City Attorney's Office advises them on what they should do.

Mr. Labrador said he is going to ask his Park Commissioners to table Mr. Saffan's request until the City Attorney's Office can come to a fair decision.

Mr. Labrador said that he is looking for a motion to table Mr. Saffan's request.

Mr. Cotto said that they should also make a motion to hold the dates.

Mr. Safi said that the dates they should also hold are from September 15, 2022 through September 18, 2022.

On a motion made by Mr. Hosier, seconded by Mr. Cotto, it was unanimously voted to table the request and hold the dates of September 15th through September 18, 2022, and wait for the response of the City Attorney's Office on the conflict of the other concert.

3. Scott Lipow | Founder & Director, Fairfield Fierce Basketball, requesting to construct a basketball dome in place of one of the soccer fields at the Puglio Park location.

Mr. Lipow said that he sent Clerk Gerrity a power point deck for the Park Commissioners to look at before the meeting.

He said that he is proposing to construct a basketball dome in place of one of the soccer fields at Puglio Park.

He said that it is purely about promoting health for our youth, and for adults and to inject the feeling of environment into the community, amongst other things and to make a long story short he operates a successful basketball program. throughout Fairfield County and has been doing it for years now, and he realizes that he would love to bring these types of youth sports experiences to more families, and Bridgeport's the perfect place to do this.

He said that it has a densely populated area and it brings a lot of diversity; he can also offer scholarships to families that may not be able to afford it.

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He said that there is a strong community aspect to what he wants to do here.

I've put a lot of thought into how this would work operationally all the small details that go into it. I'm certainly happy to discuss that further with you, depending on what questions you may have.

Mr. Lipow said that there will be major events at the facility, and this will bring in all sorts of visitors spending from outside of the city, primarily Fairfield and other surrounding towns in Fairfield County, which he already has a strong customer base in his existing program.

He said that the plan would be to bring those customers into the city to bring new money into local, businesses and local restaurants.

Mr. Labrador said that he would like to view the area and visualize what a dome would look like in that neighborhood, whether it's white, pink, purple or green.

Mr. Labrador said that they would have to investigate how much room the structure will take up in the park and if it could co-exist with the surrounding kids who may want to play in that area.

He said that the other question would be if legally the Air Dome can be put on Park Department property and that would be something they would have to investigate.

Mr. Brideau said if he's not mistaken, James Blake, tried to put a tennis structure in Veteran's Memorial Park but was denied because you cannot put a profit-making structure on City property.

Mr. Lipow reminded the Board that The Adventure Park installed a zip line behind the Discovery Museum and that is a profit-making company.

Mr. Lipow said that the Air Dome could possibly pass as a temporary structure and can be removed at the end of the park season.

Mr. Labrador said that the people living in that neighborhood and would be looking at it every day should also be considered before a decision is made.

He also said that we already have Sacred Heart University's ball field in that area.

Mr. Lipow asked the Board to give him the opportunity to let them know what could happen with their request.

Mr. Labrador assured Mr. Lipow that the Parks Board will try to work out whatever it is and if it can be done.

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He said that there is nothing more we would like for our kids than to have an opportunity to take part in this.

Mr. Lipow said that he is not married to the Puglio Park location and would consider locating his Air Dome in another park location.

On a motion made by Mr. Brideau, seconded by Mr. Cotto, it was unanimously voted to table the request until it is brought before the City Attorney's Office for an opinion.

4. Deborah A. Caviness, President, BPT-OIC, Inc., 510 Barnum Ave., #104, Bridgeport, CT requesting to hold the Juneteenth Parade and Festival on Saturday, June 19, 2021, at the Seaside Band Shell.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Brideau, seconded by Mr. Hosier, it was unanimously voted to put Mr. Caviness back on the table.

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

5. Drew Goldsman, AICP, Urban Conservation Director, The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut on behalf of the Seaside Wellness Trail Project Team, requesting to update the Park Commissioners on the Seaside Wellness Trail.

Mr. Goldsman introduced himself and said he is here to represent the Seaside Wellness Trail.

He said that he would like to provide the Board with an update along with teammates Beth Santa and Barbara Geddis who will be available if there are any additional questions.

Mr. Goldsman shared a few slides of the project with the Commissioners.

He said that in June of 2019 they provided an update and they were thankful to receive a unanimous vote of support to move forward with the project, they have continued to work closely with Steve Hladun and the rest of the Parks Department on refining the project concept and charting a path towards getting this project on the ground.

He said that as a reminder, this is a kind of park within a park concept at the at the corner of Park Avenue and Walden near the arches.

The idea is to establish a 1.15 acre walking trail and kind of enhanced space, with the tree canopy being the central component of it but with an understory planting and a trail and informational signage, that would help to reestablish some of the original design that

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everyone is familiar with, that historic core of the Olmsted design for the park which has been a bit degraded over the last decades.

He said that they are excited to work in collaboration with nonprofit organizations including the Nature Conservancy, including folks from Fairfield Garden Club, Groundwork Bridgeport, Yale New Haven Health, the University of Bridgeport and others.

He said that they have come together listening to the community, working with the NRZ and are trying to explore which could be a really valuable new kind of nature-based investment here in Seaside Park and that the collaboration is really key to this.

He said that lastly, the kind of this core principle is the healing power of nature which they think if there's anything the last year has taught all of us is that being outside and getting fresh air is critical to all of our health and well-being.

He said while the south end has Seaside Park, the south end community doesn't always have the greatest access to natural resources, and we see this as a great way to improve health equity and parks access across Bridgeport.

He said that the design includes a meandering path that loops around the different designated gardens with different themes and they want to make sure they are providing key benefits to the community.

He said that some of the key benefits are related to health and well-being, and thinking about children and wellness at that equitable access to nature and really thinking about sustainable, long term landscape design, which really will support the ongoing maintenance of the project.

Mr. Goldsman said that they want to make sure they are connecting into the intricate programs that are happening across Bridgeport and the region, such as the pollinator pathway program and that they are connected in with the Bridgeport waterfront parks and the waterfront pathway, and they are thinking about the whole region and how Bridgeport and the East Coast Greenway paths and trails will ultimately link northern suburbs to Bridgeport and Long Island Sound.

Mr. Goldsman said that they are in the fundraising phase of this project and they are really trying to drum up support and they have a lot of potential donors who are really eager to put some money into this project

He said that they are looking primarily to have this project entirely privately funded.

He said that this is an investment to be made in Bridgeport and that they really see kind of enhancing the parks and creating a new destination.

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He said that as the Commissioners heard a little earlier tonight, about the kind of the economic development impacts of these projects, a concert is one thing, but this is another great opportunity.

He said that it is complimentary to all of these other activities that are happening so it's just another great kind of destination for Bridgeport, and they really see this ideally as a catalyst for other great Park enhancement projects here at Seaside Park and beyond.

Mr. Goldsman said that he wanted to share the list of community partners, and leaders that they have had involved in the design of this project. They have been working closely with New Haven Health on a series of community input sessions, for example, on the programming of the signage, and they want to make sure they are really incorporating wellness into this and that they are wellness trails and they are going to have some designated stations.

He said that ideally, where they would have different kinds of workouts and wellness guidance to really help people as they are walking through this, and have a place close by to be healthy and really kind of motivate them to continue that practice.

He said that what they are doing here tonight is to provide the Commissioners with this update, and that they are excited about the momentum again that they've been working with Steve Hladun on really thinking through the details.

He said that one thing that has always been a core part of this is again the partnership with the City of Bridgeport, it's city property and is a city kind of project fundamentally, even though it's one that they have been leveraging private funds to help build.

He said that they see this opportunity as maintenance and stewardship and so the only way to get a significant number of trees and plants established, is by having a reliable source of water and unfortunately if you're familiar with that corner of the park, there is not a water tap that they would be able to tap into to make sure that the irrigation system that they would want to install and pay for has the water source to get these plants watered and to make, sure that they are sustainably stewarded into the future.

He said that the discussions they have had with Steve Hladun and others in the Parks Department have been that the proposal is, that either the Parks Commission or the Parks Department would be a partner investment in the installation of a new water source at this site.

He said that they are doing a site visit at the Perry Memorial Arch on May 21st at 10:00 a.m. and the Park Commissioners and anyone else that would like to attend are invited to have additional one on one conversations to better incorporate their interest and values into the project.

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He said that they requested to seek bids and proposals on what the installation of a new water source would cost, and out of the three proposals, \$5,000.00 was the best price for the best product that is out there, so, they are here tonight to get approval for the investment.

He said that the \$5,000 investment will unlock what is about a \$150,000 to a \$275,000 project overall, which they are seeking to get paid entirely with private funds. He said that they have been working closely with the south end and the NRZ and have done a lot of outreach with the council members in the district and elected officials but they are really trying to get that community based input.

Mr. Goldsman thanked the Commissioners for their support throughout this process and they are happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Labrador asked Mr. Hladun if the Parks Department is able to help them financially since this is Seaside Park.

Mr. Hladun said he believes that there is enough money in the Parks Development Fund to contribute \$5,000.00.

He also said that there is also the consideration of introducing an additional water bill to the overall operation of the parks, but they have also been faced with challenges in establishing new trees and plantings at Seaside Park.

Mr. Goldsman said that the watering system would not only be for their project, but for whatever is needed in the park.

On a motion made by Mr. Brideau, seconded by Mr. Hosier it was unanimously voted to continue with the project and to approve \$5,000,00 from the Parks Development Fund to go towards the water system in the parks project.

Mr. Goldsman, Ms. Geddis and Santa thanked the Board for their support and that they were very excited about this project.

Mr. Hosier said that he would like to take a moment on behalf of the Parks Board to publicly acknowledge Cub Scout Pack 38 of Bridgeport, and Cub Scout Master Nanette Nunemacher for their heroic efforts in keeping the parks in the Park City pristine.

He said that Cub Scout Pack 38 performed a cleanup of trash from the Perry Memorial Arch around the Band Shell to the Mummy Pond area of Seaside Park, on Sunday, March 28, 2021.

Mr. Hosier identified the first names of the Cub Scout Pack 38 who participated in the cleanup as: Lloyd, Brycen, Dayami, Davine and Dexter. He said that Pack 38 has also agreed to adopt the newly planted trees sponsored by Groundwork Bridgeport and will periodically water the trees to make sure they take hold and grow strong.

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He said that Cub Scout Pack 38 is a fine example of civic pride and the Board of Park Commissioners and Parks Department are proud of them.

6. Khaled Elleithy, 703 State Street, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to hold a religious event (Speech, Prayer and refreshments at Seaside Park on either May 13th or 14th, 2021, from 6:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., with approximately 500 people in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Brideau, seconded by Mr. Cotter, it was unanimously voted to approve the religious event with a start time of 8:00 a.m.

7. Gabriel Zayas, Pomperaug District Vice Chairman for Membership, Boy Scouts of America, Connecticut Yankee Council, requesting to speak to the Board to reserve the upper field of Veterans Park for a Cub Scout event. Events will include Bow and Arrow, Slingshot, Nature, Hiking, BB Gun Target, and other Scout skills on Saturday, June 5, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a set-up time of 8:00 a.m. and take down by 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Zayas canceled his event

8. Davon Pratt, Yagga LLC, 1545 Boston Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to hold a Basketball Community Event at Newfield Park on Sunday, June 6, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., with a setup time of 9:30 a.m.

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

9. Don Wilson, Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse, Inc., 56 Fairview Avenue, Bridgeport, CT requesting to pilot a "Concession Stand" at Puglio Park field in the existing Pavilion.

Also requesting to hold a kickoff event for their Peace Day Rally at McLevy Park on Monday, June 7, 2021, and to hold their Peace Day Rally at the Seaside Park Band Shell on Sunday, June 13, 2021.

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

10. David Daniels III, 325 Lafayette Street, Bridgeport, CT, Bridgeport Jazz Fest Partners, requesting to hold a Jazz Concert at McLevy Park on Saturday, August 28, 2021, from 12:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. with a set-up time of 10:00 a.m. and clean-up until 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Brideau asked if they will be having food or beverages?

Mr. Daniels said that they would have food vendors and artisan vendors. He said that their event is free, but they will charge the vendors to be able to have seed money for the event.

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Mr. Cotto asked if the side street will be blocked off?

Mr. Daniels said they will be looking to have it blocked off for the vendors.

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

11. Deborah Sims, requesting to paint a mural on the restroom exterior wall facing the basketball courts at Newfield Park on June 5, 2021 for Wear Weekend campaign to bring awareness to victims of gun violence. The mural will be painted on a removable board and placed on the wall.

Ms. Sims said that they would have several local artist and school children paint the mural.

Mr. Labrador asked if she will be keeping the board clean if it was vandalized?

Ms. Sims said that it will be painted on a 4' x 8' board and will be on a traveling board so it can be taken down at any time upkeep.

Ms. Wade liked the proposed designs and thinks it is a good idea for the community and City.

Mr. Brideau said that it is a great endeavor.

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

12. Daniel Vieira, LivFree, 10 Buttercup Lane, Shelton, CT requests to hold his Baseball Tournament for Charity at Seaside Park, on Friday, September 24, Saturday, September 25, and Sunday, September 26, 2021 with a start time of 7:30 a.m. and end time of 9:00 p.m. They are requesting to use ball fields 1, 6, 7, 10, 11 & 14.

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

13. Heidi Vanderwal, requesting to hold the Stratfield Saturday Market at Clinton Park on Saturday's from June 9, 2021 until October 9, 2021, from 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. with a setup time of 8:00 a.m. and cleanup until 2:30 p.m.

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

14. Melva Riddick, Black Rock School, 545 Brewster Street, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to hold two school field days at Ellsworth Park, on June 4, 2021, rain date June 11, 2021 and June 7, 2021, rain date of June 14, 2021. Starting time 8:00 a.m./8:30 a.m. and ending at 2:30 p.m.

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

15. Efrain Colon, Puerto Rican Parade of Fairfield County Inc., 50 Harding Avenue, Stratford, CT, requesting to end the Puerto Rican Parade at the Seaside Park's Casino Bathhouse, on Sunday, July 11, 2021.

Ms. Valle said she has been in contact with Chief Garcia and Gina Malheiro about their event.

Ms. Valle said that the parade caravan will go through the Seaside Park Perry Memorial arches, turning right on to Soundview Drive, following on Barnum Boulevard, turning right on to Barnum Dyke and leaving the park.

Mr. Cotto had some concerns with the traffic flow.

Mr. Nadrizny said he does not see any problems with the route, and it would have to be approved by the Police Department.

On a motion made by Mr. Brideau, seconded by Mr. Hosier, it was unanimously voted to approve the event with the stipulation that the route of the parade is approved by the Bridgeport Police Department.

16. Patty Foster Newton, and Anthony Oakes, Coleman Brothers Inc., requesting to hold a Midway at the Seaside Park Band Shell and area that was previously used by the Gathering of the Vibes, from Monday, June 28, 2021 through Sunday, July 11, 2021, with setup days of Monday and Tuesday, the Midway Carnival beginning on Wednesday and leaving on Sunday. Time: 6P– 11P.

Mr. Labrador said that the Band Shell area is below sea level and he does not recommend for them to setup on that site.

Mr. Labrador said that the State Police would have to inspect all rides before they could hold the carnival.

Mr. Labrador said that in the past the Midway was on asphalt and was on sturdy ground.

He said that later on they then went to the west end of the park which was in a perfect place to hold the event and was above sea level.

Mr. Labrador asked Mr. Nadrizny if he thought the area was stable enough to be at the Band Shell location.

Mr. Nadrizny said that he would not recommend the Band Shell area.

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Mr. Oakes said that the soccer field across from the Casino Bathhouse would be a good place for them.

Mr. Labrador said that soccer teams play on that land and if it was damaged, they would not be able to play.

Mr. Oakes said that he would put up a bond for any damages resulting from the equipment on that land.

Mr. Hosier said that he has major reservations on putting the carnival equipment on a soccer field.

Mr. Nadrizny said that it is the only ideal location to put that kind of equipment on and that they would have to repair any damages to the grounds.

Mr. Cotto recommends that the Board should go along with Craig Nadrizny's advise and approve the event.

Ms. Foster-Newton said that in all the years the carnival was at Seaside Park they did not have any problems except for when a different carnival came into the park.

Mr. Labrador asked how many rides he has?

Mr. Oakes said that they have 12 major rides and 10 kiddie rides.

Mr. Oakes said that he will have more control over his carnival by putting a six-foot fence around the entire area.

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

17. Delores Pearce, Teacher, Hall School, 290 Clermont Avenue, Bridgeport, requesting to hold their School Fund Day/Picnic at Success Park on June 10, 2021, with a rain date of Friday, June 11, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:30 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.

18. Randy Young, requesting to hold a community outreach to give back to the community, at McLevy Park on Saturday, May 22, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. giving away hotdogs and hamburgers, will also have a DJ with small equipment, mentor/motivational speaker, little girl Bridgeport dance team, singer, and three comedians.

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

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19. Diana Soares and Samantha Peck, Bridgeport Military Academy, 160 Iranistan Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to hold Field/Fun Day, at Seaside Park, on Friday, May 21, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 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.

20. Charles Carroll, P.T. Barnum Foundation, Inc. Trustee Barnum Festival LLC and the P.T. Barnum Foundation Inc., requesting to hold a Golf Tournament at the D. Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course on Saturday, June 17, 2021, to benefit the Barnum Festival.

Mr. Brideau said that the P. T. Barnum Foundation hold this event every year and has been in contact with the Golf Course.

Mr. Brideau represented Mr. Carroll.

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

REPORTS – CRAIG A. NADRIZNY, ACTING PUBLIC FACILITIES DIRECTOR

Mr. Hladun read the Director's report:

Request for a Motion of Approval:

- Memorial Bench w/Plaque- Seaside Park, Soundview Drive- Todd Anderson, in memoriam of his sister, Laura.
- Memorial Bench w/plaque- Seaside Park or St. Mary's by the Sea- Shelton Forney, Yairi Azoe, in memoriam of Yairi's Husband, Orlando.

Park Projects:

- D. Fairchild Wheeler Memorial Golf Course:
 - FWB057213—Sand Bunker Construction/Reconstruction Project is nearing completion.
 - Capital Equipment Purchase of a Compact Tractor has been received.
- Field Grooming:
 - Parks Maintenance has issued a purchase order for a new tractor with field grooming attachments to greatly improve the ballfields. One of the grooming attachments previously used recently went into disrepair in early April. The new machine is versatile and will benefit the Parks Maintenance division in its daily operations and upkeep of the fields. The machine is expected to be delivered in the next few weeks.

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- Newfield Park
 - Newfield Park Opening Day held on May 1 had a great turnout- thank you to all who provided support!
 - Juneteenth Memorial Plaque and Stone is scheduled for installation in early June. Revised location to be placed on the Newfield Park NW corner of Jefferson St at Seaview Ave to avoid being blocked from view by parked cars.
- Pleasure Beach
 - Water meters were installed by Aquarion on April 28, 2021 – re-opening and re-opening date has not been determined at this time.
- Seaside Park
 - Landscaping Re-Bid due on May 12, 2021 to beautify various areas and monuments at Seaside as well as other high visibility areas around the City.
 - Limited tree work resumed in late April and early May.
 - Seaside West Beach Splash pad shall be enclosed with a decorative fence for safety.
- Went Field
 - Ball Field Dugout Areas are being assessed to be enclosed with fencing for additional safety.

Recreation Dept.

- Bridgeport Resident Park stickers are being issued at the Parks Office.
- Recreation Dept. is assisting with the permit process for park events and sports activities.
- Recreation Dept. is preparing for Seaside Park Summer Day Camp, Checkpoints as well as Lifeguard staffing for the upcoming summer season.

Mr. Hladun had no further business.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Brideau, seconded by Ms. Wade, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M. Gerrity

Ellen M. Gerrity
Clerk