

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BOARD OF PARKS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 12, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Banjed Labrador, Acting President; Cruz M. Cotto, John Mark Hosier, Lee Grisby, Lillian Wade

OTHERS: Angel DePara, CAO's Office; Ernest Brown, Charles Carroll, P.T. Barnum Foundation, Inc. Trustee, Luann Conine, Recreation; Steven Hladun, Parks; Isaam Kadi, Patricia Rowe, Public Facilities; Tanya Skeeter, Nutrition; Tatiana Urena, Parks Department; Council Member M. Valle; Council Member M. Pereira, Atty. E. Skyers, Associate City Attorney; Isolina DeJesus, Central Grants Director; Ms. Pascale Butcher, Trifitness; Luis Burgos, Parks Department; Deborah A. Caviness, Juneteenth of Fairfield County, Ms. Danielle Bernard, Bring Bridgeport Community, Nicole Santos, Bring Bridgeport Community, Don Wilson Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse Sports Academy, Craig Nadrizny, the Acting Public Facilities Director; Carey Hart, Luis Palau Association; Pastor William McCullough, Bishop Plumber; Patrick Mihai, Don Raphael, LLC; Katherine Morris, UCCO Founder; Ivette Cabrera, Norma Pfriem Breast Center, Laura Pennock, Black Rock Pilates Studio, Daniel Vieira, LivFree President, Ted Thomas, Ted Thomas Dance Foundation, Benjamin Saldana, GBAPP INC., Jean Brown, GBAPP, Inc.; Nina Gibson, of BRCC, Audrey Bauer, Recovery Network; Razul Branch, BACC; David Daniels III, Bridgeport Jazz Fest Partners; Ramona Santelises, The Dominican-American Coalition of Connecticut (DACCT) Non-Profit, Tristan M. Haller, Connoisseur Media CT, Henry Vehslage, Groundworks, Bridgeport; auren Beth "LB" Stein, LBSpinners Artz iPhone-F17H820U0DXT; 203-449-8616

This meeting was conducted by teleconference.

OPENING CEREMONY

Commissioner Labrador, the Acting President, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The Commissioners then recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Urena called the roll. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF:

City of Bridgeport
Board of Parks Commissioners
Regular Meeting
April 12, 2022

• **August 10, 2021, Parks Board Meeting**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 10, 2021 PARKS BOARD MEETING.**

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 10, 2021 PARKS BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INTRODUCTION OF NEW PARKS BOARD COMMISSIONER, LEE GRISBY (R)

Commissioner Labrador then introduced Mr. Lee Grisby, the new Parks Board Commissioner.

APPROVE THE 2022 PARKS BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

**** COMMISSIONER WADE MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2022 PARKS BOARD MEETING CALENDAR AS PRESENTED.**

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2022 PARKS BOARD MEETING CALENDAR AS PRESENTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM:

There was no one who had signed up to address the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Maria I. Valle, Councilwoman 137th District, submitting a proposal to establish a commemorative walkway in Wheeler Park (aka City Hall Park) as a ‘Walk of Honor’ to recognize individuals’ achievements in the City of Bridgeport.

Council Member Valle greeted the Parks Commissioners and explained that there were individuals who wished to honor someone by adding memorial street names. However, this confuses some residents and visitors when they need assistance since the memorial names are not listed on the maps. She said she would like to have some type of walkway with the individual’s names leading up to City Hall.

Commissioner Labrador thanked Council Member Valle for the idea. He said there were questions like who would pay for it and wondered if there were grants that would cover the cost.

Council Member Valle said that the family should come up with the funding for the memorial brick, similar to the Veteran’s Walk. Discussion followed about the minimum number of bricks that would be needed to start the project. Council Member Valle said that she would check with

Mr. Boyer to find out how much a brick costs. This project is in the beginning stages, so the measurements still need to be determined.

Commissioner Labrador said that he would love to see this happen, but suggested that it be tabled until they determine how long the walkway would be and how much it would cost.

Commissioner Hosier said that he would like to see some information on who the individuals were and why they were being honored.

Commissioner Cotto asked for clarification on where the walkway would be. He stated for the record that it should be noted it would be at City Hall located on Lyon Terrace and the walkway would be between the parking lot and the building.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 1, MARIA I. VALLE, COUNCILWOMAN 137TH DISTRICT, SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A COMMEMORATIVE WALKWAY IN WHEELER PARK (AKA CITY HALL PARK) AS A ‘WALK OF HONOR’ TO RECOGNIZE INDIVIDUALS’ ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Commissioner Labrador asked Council Member Valle to come back to the Committee with additional information in the near future in order to move the project forward.

2. Maria Pereira, Councilwoman 138th District, submitting a proposal to establish a Dog Park located at Success Park on behalf of constituents residing in the JFK Precinct and the Success Park neighborhood.

Council Member Pereira greeted the Commission and said that her colleague Council Member Small was not able to attend the meeting. She said that there were three pocket parks in her district and only one, Nob Hill, had a dog park. Wherever there are condos and co-ops, there are strict leash laws for the common areas. She listed the number of units that were in the nearby condo developments.

Council Member Pereira said that that Success Village was the largest co-op in not only Bridgeport, but also the State of Connecticut. There are 900 units, with 100 units in Stratford and the remaining 800 in Bridgeport. The Village abuts Success Park. There are more apartments on Palisades Avenue.

Council Member Pereira then described an area of the park that was under-utilized and fenced off on three sides. Council Member Pereira said that Mr. Nadrizny viewed the area and indicated that they could fence off the area and install a gate.

Success Village is the second largest taxpayer in the City. A lot of work has been done in that area to improve the area, along with the installation of new sidewalks and some new Habitat for Humanity homes. Council Member Pereira went on to describe some of the improvement projects that had been done on the Park over the years. She then spoke about a ceremony that was being planned for the area because this was needed for the nearby units.

Commissioner Labrador asked who would be financial responsible for putting in benches. Council Member Pereira said that Mr. Nadrizny indicated that it would be a minimal amount and that his Department could handle the cost.

Ms. Rowe said that she was a staff member and had been at the staff walk of the proposed area. She confirmed that it would be a nominal cost. She said that she had a map of the area. Commissioner Labrador said that he would like to view the site with Council Member Pereira so they can move the project forward.

Commissioner Grisby said that he thought it was a great idea and had seen the many improvements to the park over the years. He said that he would like to visit the area also. Commissioner Labrador said that they should schedule a date. Council Member Pereira said that she would contact Ms. Urena about this.

Commissioner Hosier had some questions about the height of the fencing. Council Member Pereira said that she thought it was similar to Nob Hill. Discussion followed about the details.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 2 MARIA PEREIRA, COUNCILWOMAN 138TH DISTRICT, SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A DOG PARK LOCATED AT SUCCESS PARK ON BEHALF OF CONSTITUENTS RESIDING IN THE JFK PRECINCT AND THE SUCCESS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD.**

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Pereira thanked the Commissioners for their time.

3. Tyisha Toms, Associate City Attorney, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to move forward with the approval of the partially executed Occupancy Agreement of Isaam Kadi at 1062 Church Hill Road, Fairfield, CT; known as D. Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course.

Mr. Kadi and Atty. E. Skyers introduced themselves to the Commissioners. Atty. Skyers said that he would be speaking on behalf of Atty. Toms. He welcomed Commissioner Grisby to the Commission. He said that recently some issues had been brought to the City Attorney's attention and so he was requesting that the item be tabled until the details could be clarified.

Commissioner Labrador thanked Atty. Skyer for his attention to details.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 3. TYISHA TOMS, ASSOCIATE CITY ATTORNEY, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE PARTIALLY EXECUTED OCCUPANCY AGREEMENT OF ISAAM KADI AT 1062 CHURCH HILL ROAD, FAIRFIELD, CT; KNOWN AS D. FAIRCHILD WHEELER GOLF COURSE.**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. Office of Central Grants, Bridgeport, CT, in partnership with Department of Health and Social Services and Parks Dept, Bridgeport CT, requesting to provide an update on the Fitness Court project previously approved for Seaside Park and to see approval for a potential 2nd court at Beardsley Park.

Ms. DeJesus greeted the Commission and said that she was also with Ms. Ebony Jackson-Shaheed, the Health Department Director and a staff member from the Parks Department.

Commissioner Labrador said that there had been a proposal a few years earlier about the courts at Seaside Park. He asked why the previously approved project had not happened.

Ms. DeJesus then updated the Commission on the status of the 2018 project which involved fund raising. Fund raising is difficult to do and was further delayed by the pandemic. She explained they had sought out different funding sources for the project and are waiting on final notification from one of the funding sources. The original proposal had been for one site at Seaside Park, which was at the old skate park location.

Ms. DeJesus said that they expected notification from the second funding source by the end of the month. If it is confirmed, they can put the Seaside Fitness Court up sometime in June.

Commissioner Labrador said that they had not given other projects a deadline. He said that he would like some kind of timeline for the start date and completion date for the project. Ms. DeJesus said that she would develop a timeline based on what was currently happening. Discussion followed about the details including liability.

Commissioner Labrador said that if they can put up the first court on the former skate board site, the Commissioners would then consider the second court.

Commissioner Wade asked what would happen if the funding does not come through. Ms. DeJesus said that the Commission's permission was if the funding came through then the project moves forward. If there is no funding, then there is no project.

Ms. DeJesus said that the submitted request was for the Seaside court and an additional one at Beardsley. She asked for clarification on what might be approved. Commissioner Wade said that they needed to complete the first court and then get approval for the second one. Ms. DeJesus said that her concern was that the second court might be delayed. Commissioner Labrador said

that if there was a problem with the first court, the second one would be delayed. He added that he did not expect there to be a problem.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 4. OFFICE OF CENTRAL GRANTS, BRIDGEPORT, CT, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES AND PARKS DEPT, BRIDGEPORT CT, REQUESTING TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE FITNESS COURT PROJECT PREVIOUSLY APPROVED FOR SEASIDE PARK AND TO SEE APPROVAL FOR A POTENTIAL 2ND COURT AT BEARDSLEY PARK WITH THE TIME STIPULATIONS FOR THE SEASIDE COURT PROJECT.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. Charles M. Carroll, P.T. Barnum Foundation, Inc. Trustee, Bridgeport, CT, requesting the use of Kennedy Stadium to hold the Barnum Festival Champions on Parade Drum Corp Show on Saturday, June 25, 2022. In addition, requesting the use of Seaside Park on Saturday, June 25, 2022, for practice fields. Requesting the use of Seaside Park on Sunday, June 26th for the Barnum Festival and Barnum Festival Fireworks.

Mr. Carroll greeted the Commissioners. Commissioner Labrador said that he had seen the Barnum Festival and the Parade of Champions for years. He asked Mr. Carroll what part of Seaside Park they wanted to use for the practice. Mr. Carroll said that Lee has been assigning them to the same area of the park for years. Once of the practice areas is up by the Soldiers, Sailors and Marine Monument, which is all grass. The practice lasts about until about 2 in the afternoon on a Saturday.

Commissioner Labrador said that in the past, he had noticed that they sometimes had grills set up to feed the band members. He asked if the Parade administration had thought about some child putting their hands on the grill. Mr. Carroll said they always give the City an insurance policy that indemnify city from the Barnum Festival. They do insure the City and Mr. Carroll give Mr. Flatto, the Finance Director the insurance certificate before Mr. Flatto signs off on the permit.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 5. CHARLES M. CARROLL, P.T. BARNUM FOUNDATION, INC. TRUSTEE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING THE USE OF KENNEDY STADIUM TO HOLD THE BARNUM FESTIVAL CHAMPIONS ON PARADE DRUM CORP SHOW ON SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2022. IN ADDITION, REQUESTING THE USE OF SEASIDE PARK ON SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2022, FOR PRACTICE FIELDS. REQUESTING THE USE OF SEASIDE PARK ON SUNDAY, JUNE 26TH FOR THE BARNUM FESTIVAL AND BARNUM FESTIVAL FIREWORKS.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. Pascale Butcher, Trifitness, requesting to organize the Seaside Triathlon event on Sunday, June 12, 2022, at Seaside Park with a start time at 7:00 a.m. Looking to set up the day before Saturday, June 11, 2022.

Ms. Butcher greeted the Commissioners and said that they have been doing this event for over 10 years. They are done by 9 a.m. and out of the park by 10 a.m. Last year they were not able to set up the day before, but she would like to set up in advance in order to set the markers. Mr. Burgos said that the group was very organized and there were no issues in the past. Ms. Urena confirmed that the dates were already plugged into the calendar.

Commissioner Cotto said that the park will be open when the event takes place. Ms. Butcher said that they were aware of this. She said that at 7 a.m., there are not many people in the park and they never had a problem. This is why it is scheduled early in the season.

Commissioner Labrador asked if there would be someone at the park to let them in. Mr. Burgos said that they have always sent someone out to open the gates.

**** COMMISSIONER WADE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 6. PASCALE BUTCHER, TRIFITNESS, REQUESTING TO ORGANIZE THE SEASIDE TRIATHLON EVENT ON SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022, AT SEASIDE PARK WITH A START TIME AT 7:00 A.M. LOOKING TO SET UP THE DAY BEFORE SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022.**

**** COMMISSIONER GRISBY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. Deborah A. Caviness, Juneteenth of Fairfield County, requesting the use of the Seaside Park Bandshell on Saturday, June 11, 2022, with a set-up time of 8:00 a.m. and clean-up time of 6:00 p.m. for their annual Juneteenth Community Festival with approximately 4,500 people in attendance.

Ms. Caviness greeted the Commissioners and explained that she was using someone else's computer. She said that she would like to use the Bandshell for a Harambe festival and the bath house to set up for the 30th Annual Juneteenth Parade. Last year, they were able to have the parade at the Park and it went well. She said that they were working with Mr. Don Wilson because they know Mr. Wilson will be having a Juneteenth Tournament for his teams.

Commissioner Labrador said that there were cars parked on the grass by Diamond 6. He wanted to make sure that no cars were parked on the grass at the Park unless Mr. Burgos or his staff is aware of it and designated where those vehicles can be parked. It costs a great deal of money to get grass back in shape. Mr. Burgos said that he was not aware of any issues.

Commissioner Labrador asked Ms. Caviness if she could meet with Mr. Burgos to work out the details of the area that they are looking to use. Ms. Caviness said that she had met with Mr.

Burgos and the Police Department to confirm the route. She explained that they line up for the parade by the bath house.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 7. DEBORAH A. CAVINESS, JUNETEENTH OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY, REQUESTING THE USE OF THE SEASIDE PARK BANDSHELL ON SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022, WITH A SET-UP TIME OF 8:00 A.M. AND CLEAN-UP TIME OF 6:00 P.M. FOR THEIR ANNUAL JUNETEENTH COMMUNITY FESTIVAL WITH APPROXIMATELY 4,500 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE WITH THE STIPULATION THAT MS. CAVINESS MEET WITH MR. BURGOS TO CONFIRM THE DETAILS AND BRING THE INFORMATION TO THE COMMISSION AT THE MAY MEETING.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Caviness invited all the Commissioners to join them at the event and noted that Juneteenth was now a Federal Holiday.

8. Lorraine Gibbons, John Torres, Bridgeport, CT, requesting the use of the Seaside Park Bandshell on Thursday, May 19, 2022, for a Mindfulness event for Bridgeport Public School Students from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and a set-up time of 7:30 a.m. and clean-up time of 3:30 p.m. with approximately 100 people in attendance.

Ms. Danielle Bernard, of the Bring Bridgeport Community and Ms. Nicole Santos, greeted the Commission. Ms. Bernard said that they would like to present a program for the students on mindfulness that would focus on yoga and coping mechanism to reduce stress. It will be by the bandshell because there will be either a DJ or stations there. The students will arrive by bus and break into groups to each move through the different stations to learn various coping techniques.

She said that there will be volunteers to provide safety and security. If the event turns out to be well attended, they may ask the police to provide security.

Commissioner Labrador said that he had worked for the BOE for 35 years and knew some of the things that could happen. He pointed out that it would be easy for someone to infiltrate the program. He said that he was supportive of the students empowering themselves. Safety is his largest concern.

Commissioner Labrador said that he imagined that Superintendent Testani would be aware that the students would be bussed there. He added that parental permission slips would be required for the event. Ms. Bernard said that her group was planning on working with the guidance counsellors and staff to insure those who need it the most can attend the event. They are working with a member of the BOE to insure that this will be permitted.

Commissioner Wade asked what age students would be allowed to attend. Ms. Bernard said that they were targeting high school students. Commissioner Wade said that unfortunately there were

11 and 12 year old children that were committing suicide. She suggested that they consider possibly allowing the younger students, the 7th and 8th graders, to participate.

Commissioner Labrador suggested that Ms. Bernard reach out to Mr. Testani and Lt. Grech to see if they can provide security personnel from the schools, like SRO's.

Commissioner Hosier said that he appreciated the outreach. Ms. Urena said that the date was available for the bandshell.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 8. LORRAINE GIBBONS, JOHN TORRES, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING THE USE OF THE SEASIDE PARK BANDSHELL ON THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022, FOR A MINDFULNESS EVENT FOR BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M. AND A SET-UP TIME OF 7:30 A.M. AND CLEAN-UP TIME OF 3:30P.M. WITH APPROXIMATELY 100 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. Don Wilson Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse Sports Academy, Divine Creations, Iyaba Arts, DSSD, Colorful Bridgeport and The Greater Bridgeport STEM Ecosystem for use of McLevy Green on Monday June 6th, 2022, from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. for their 'Painting the Greens - Kick-Off Event and Press Conference.

Mr. Wilson greeted the Commissioners and thanked them for their patience. He said that they had gotten permits previously, but they were not able to actually hold the event due to scheduling conflicts.

Mr. Labrador asked if there would be any type of music at the event. Mr. Wilson said that they were not planning to have any music or vendors selling food. Ms. Urena said that the event had been reserved for that date.

**** COMMISSIONER WADE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 9. DON WILSON BRIDGEPORT YOUTH LACROSSE SPORTS ACADEMY, DIVINE CREATIONS, IYABA ARTS, DSSD, COLORFUL BRIDGEPORT AND THE GREATER BRIDGEPORT STEM ECOSYSTEM FOR USE OF MCLEVY GREEN ON MONDAY JUNE 6TH, 2022, FROM 5 P.M. – 8 P.M. FOR THEIR 'PAINTING THE GREENS - KICK-OFF EVENT AND PRESS CONFERENCE.**

**** COMMISSIONER GRISBY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. Don Wilson, Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse Sports Academy, Peace in the Streets (P.I.T.S), PURE Martial Arts, Rally in Peace (R.I.P) and numerous other community partners to request the use of Seaside Park on Saturday, June 11th, 2022, for their 4th annual Sports and Community Day Festival.

Commissioner Labrador asked Mr. Wilson if he was aware how big Seaside Park was. Mr. Wilson said that the Championship would be held during the Juneteenth Festival. The Championship event will be on the fields near Iranistan Avenue while Juneteenth will be by the Bandshell.

Mr. Burgos said that they had not had any issues in the past. Commissioner Labrador said that it would be important to stay in their designated area because the park will be open to the public and they also need to be able to move about freely.

**** COMMISSIONER WADE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 10. DON WILSON, BRIDGEPORT YOUTH LACROSSE SPORTS ACADEMY, PEACE IN THE STREETS (P.I.T.S), PURE MARTIAL ARTS, RALLY IN PEACE (R.I.P) AND NUMEROUS OTHER COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO REQUEST THE USE OF SEASIDE PARK ON SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH, 2022, FOR THEIR 4TH ANNUAL SPORTS AND COMMUNITY DAY FESTIVAL.**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

11. Don Wilson, BYLSA would like to pilot a “Concession Stand” at Puglio Park in the existing Pavilion, starting Monday, March 28 – Wednesday, November 23, 2022, with hours of operation of Monday through Friday – 3 p.m. – 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Sunday 12pm - 7pm.

Commissioner Labrador asked for more details about the types of food that will be offered. Mr. Wilson said that he was there at the park 7 days a week. He previously had a restaurant and is SAFE certified. This particular event will be basic table top foods, such as hot dogs, ready-made cold cut sandwiches, chips, and fruit. It will be another pair of eyes there to prevent graffiti on the walls. They will just be using the concession stand, not cooking there.

Commissioner Labrador said that he would like to hear from Atty. Skyer about the liabilities. Atty. Skyers said they don't usually give legal advice off the cuff and suggested that a complete proposal be forwarded to the City Attorney's Office for review. Discussion followed.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 11. DON WILSON, BYLSA WOULD LIKE TO PILOT A “CONCESSION STAND” AT PUGLIO PARK IN THE EXISTING PAVILION, STARTING MONDAY, MARCH 28 – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2022, WITH HOURS OF OPERATION OF MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY – 3 P.M. – 7 P.M., SATURDAY 10 A.M. – 7 P.M. AND SUNDAY 12PM - 7PM UNTIL THE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE FOR REVIEW.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

12. Dr. Perry, head of Schools for Capital Prep Harbor Schools requesting to speak to the Board regarding their sports programs.

Dr. Perry was apparently not on the call.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 12. DR. PERRY, HEAD OF SCHOOLS FOR CAPITAL PREP HARBOR SCHOOLS REQUESTING TO SPEAK TO THE BOARD REGARDING THEIR SPORTS PROGRAMS TO THE NEXT MEETING.**

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

13. Ernest Brown, 77 Huntington Tpke., Bridgeport, CT, requesting to use the Seaside Park Band Shell on Saturday, August 13, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. with a set-up time of 8:30 a.m. and clean-up until 8:30 p.m., to hold a Team Focus Summer Groove concert with approximately 10,000 people in attendance.

Mr. Brown said that he had been doing these types of events with the Father Panic Reunion and was now looking to bring a different type of music to the City. He said that the insurance would be handled through his company, and they are going to contact 10 food truck vendors. Security will be handled by the Bridgeport Police Department and he has spoken briefly with the Health Department.

Commissioner Labrador requested a more detailed description of what they are planning to do, how they plan to fence it in, where attendees will park, the location of the port-a-potties, what park staff will be needed and other details to make it a successful event. There are a number of departments that will have to sign off on the permit because of the size of the event. All the departments must sign off on the permit.

Mr. Brown said that they will be modeling it on the Hip Hop event that they had done in the past. Commissioner Labrador said that he would like to have the details down on paper to prevent problems and have a successful event.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 13. ERNEST BROWN, 77 HUNTINGTON TPKE., BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO USE THE SEASIDE PARK BAND SHELL ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2022, FROM 12:00 P.M. UNTIL 8:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP TIME OF 8:30 A.M. AND CLEAN-UP UNTIL 8:30 P.M., TO HOLD A TEAM FOCUS SUMMER GROOVE CONCERT WITH APPROXIMATELY 10,000 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE TO THE NEXT MEETING PENDING SUBMISSION OF THE APPROPRIATE, DETAILED DOCUMENTATION.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

14. Efrain Colon, Puerto Rican Parade of Fairfield County Inc., requesting the use of the Seaside Park Band Shell to hold the Puerto Rican Day Parade and Festival on Sunday, July 10, 2022, from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. with a set-up time of 5:00 a.m. and clean-up time of 7:30 p.m. with approximately 15,000 people in attendance.

Mr. Colon greeted the Commissioners. Commissioner Labrador asked Mr. Burgos if there had been any problems in the past.

Mr. Craig Nadrizny, the Acting Public Facilities Director, joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Nadrizny said that in the past few years, the group has been following every plan and held a beautiful event. It has been great working with Mr. Colon. Mr. Burgos said that the parade has been getting better and better over the years and they were looking forward to having them in the park again.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 14. EFRAIN COLON, PUERTO RICAN PARADE OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY INC., REQUESTING THE USE OF THE SEASIDE PARK BAND SHELL TO HOLD THE PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE AND FESTIVAL ON SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2022, FROM 5:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP TIME OF 5:00 A.M. AND CLEAN-UP TIME OF 7:30 P.M. WITH APPROXIMATELY 15,000 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

15. *Carey Hart, Luis Palau Association, requesting to use the Seaside Park Bandshell or Soccer Fields to hold a Festival/Concert to include a Kids area, Action Sports, and Food Vendors on Saturday, August 27, 2022, and Sunday, August 28, 2022. *Note: Inquiring if dates can be changed to Saturday, September 10, 2022, and Sunday, September 11, 2022; the weekend before Sound-on-Sound Festival.

Ms. Hart greeted the Commissioners. Commissioner Labrador asked Ms. Urena to confirm the dates. Ms. Urena said that they were looking to change it to the September 10th and 11th dates.

Commissioner Labrador asked Ms. Hart what part of the park they were interested in using. Ms. Hart said that they would like to use the area around the bandshell. She added that she was just the logistics coordinator, the local churches were the sponsors. Pastor William McCullough was present to address the Commission.

Commissioner Labrador asked if the group was a for profit or non-profit and if they would be enclosing the area in order to charge admission. The food vendors have to be approved by the Health Department.

Ms. Hart said that Commissioner Wade had the Executive Summary in her hand and the supplemental document for the event has the site map, the diagrams, tentative schedules, the

security plan and other details. It is a free family festival sponsored by the local churches. This event was held in the Park in 2001, but they were rained out one of the two days they had scheduled.

A discussion followed about the scheduling of the event. Commissioner Labrador said that he was concerned that the grass might get too trampled.

Mr. Nadrizny said that the Sound on Sound crew will be prepping that area on September 10th, so the bandshell is not available. Discussion followed about the dates. It was agreed that the original August dates would be the best.

Ms. Hart introduced Pastor McCullough, who said this was an family friendly Outreach event. 125 churches have been invited to come together. After two years of COVID, it will be a wonderful event to give people hope. Bishop Plumber said that Bridgeport's clergy was coming together and they want to have an initiative to clean up the streets and foster care for one another. They need this opportunity and the Luis Palau team was ready to come.

Commissioner Wade said that it was important to be good to children.

Commissioner Grisby asked if the 10 p.m. clean up time would conflict with the closing of the park. Ms. Hart said that they would be bringing in supplemental lights and there will be volunteers to help clean up.

**** COMMISSIONER WADE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 15. CAREY HART, LUIS PALAU ASSOCIATION, REQUESTING TO USE THE SEASIDE PARK BANDSHELL OR SOCCER FIELDS TO HOLD A FESTIVAL/CONCERT TO INCLUDE A KIDS AREA, ACTION SPORTS, AND FOOD VENDORS ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2022, AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2022.**

**** COMMISSIONER GRISBY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

16. *Marcia Neres, Don Raphael LLC, requesting to use the Seaside Park Band Shell to host a Don Raphael Festival on Saturday, May 28, 2022 and Sunday, May 29, 2022 (Memorial Day weekend); Saturday, September 3, 2022 to Sunday, September 4, 2022, and lastly, Friday, September 30, 2022 and Saturday, October 1, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. with a set up time of 7:00 a.m. and clean-up until 8:00 p.m., with approximately 5,000 to 15,000 people in attendance. *Note: 9/30/22 and 10/1/22 dates are a week after the Sound-on-Sound Festival.

Mr. Patrick Mihai, a representative for Don Raphael, LLC, greeted the Commissioners.

Commissioner Labrador said that he was reluctant to schedule all the events for the band shell because he did not want to block out the other applicants who might want to use the band shell. He requested that they focus on the May 28th and 29th dates first.

Mr. Mihai said that he understood and this was a first time request from a Bridgeport resident who was also a restaurant owner in town. The 28th would be the set up and the concert would be broken down by the 29th. It will be a fenced in area and safety is the priority. This is a first time request with the hope of many more to come. The head liners are flying in from Brazil.

Commissioner Labrador said that the plans and photos were very well documented.

Commissioner Hosier asked if there was enough time for the Police and Fire to review the plans. Commissioner Labrador said that the plan approvals were the responsibility of the organization, but he could not allow them to have that many events.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2022 AND SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2022 (MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND) ONLY FOR AGENDA ITEM MARCIA NERES, DON RAPHAEL LLC, REQUESTING TO USE THE SEASIDE PARK BAND SHELL TO HOST A DON RAPHAEL FESTIVAL ON SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2022 AND SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2022 (MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND); SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2022 TO SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2022, AND LASTLY, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 AND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2022 FROM 12:00 P.M. UNTIL 8:00 P.M. WITH A SET UP TIME OF 7:00 A.M. AND CLEAN-UP UNTIL 8:00 P.M., WITH APPROXIMATELY 5,000 TO 15,000 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Commissioner Labrador said that he could not approve all the dates. He cautioned Mr. Mihai to be sure to meet with Mr. Burgos to insure that all the details were confirmed and approved.

17. Katherine Morris, Founder of UCCO, requesting to hold a Seaside Sounds for Environmental Justice event at Seaside Park Band Shell either on Sunday, June 19, 2022, or Friday, July 15, 2022, to raise awareness of environmental justice issues and ecosystem while increasing pride in the community and its culture in an educational, cultural, and fundraising celebration.

Ms. Morris greeted the Commissioners and said that she had been working with Ms. Urena on this. The purpose of Seaside Sounds is to raise awareness of the different environmental issues that impact public health and environmental health overall. It will help people become aware of the various organizations which will be present at the event. Topics would include things like pollution that cause cancer or asthma. She added that they will be celebrating Bridgeport's history and Little Liberia through the music event and creative talent. This will be the first time for her to hold an event at Seaside Park.

Commissioner Labrador said that the music needs to stop at a set time and the area would be open so the general public could attend. Ms. Morris said that it would be free. Commissioner Labrador said that Ms. Morris should contact the Police Department. Ms. Morris said that she

had spoken with Ms. Simms at Project Longevity about this and had also talked to the Health Department. Ms. Morris said they expect about 200 people.

Commissioner Labrador said that there were a number of approvals signed and said that she would need to be back on the agenda as soon as she could.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 17. KATHERINE MORRIS, FOUNDER OF UCCO, REQUESTING TO HOLD A SEASIDE SOUNDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE EVENT AT SEASIDE PARK BAND SHELL EITHER ON SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2022, OR FRIDAY, JULY 15, 20 22, TO RAISE AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES AND ECOSYSTEM WHILE INCREASING PRIDE IN THE COMMUNITY AND ITS CULTURE IN AN EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, AND FUNDRAISING CELEBRATION.**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

18. Ivette Cabrera, Norma Pfriem Breast Center, requesting the use of Seaside Park Band Shell for a Mental Health Walk on Sunday, May 15, 2022; a Zumba in the Park on Saturday, June 18, 2022; and Stroll for Strength on Sunday, October 2, 2022.

Ms. Cabrera said that they will not be able to hold the Mental Health Walk, but they would love to have the Zumba event on Saturday, June 25th. Discussion followed about the open dates. It was determined that June 18th was available. Ms. Cabrera said that the class runs about 1 hour and is at 8:30 a.m.

Ms. Cabrera said that the Stroll for Strength on Sunday was requested for October 2, 2022. Ms. Cabrera said that was the Cancer Walk and this was the fourth year. The focus will be the P.T. Barnum statute. They did it there last year and all the donations will benefit the local cancer patients. Mr. Burgos said that there were no problems.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE THE EVENTS FOR THE JUNE 18TH AND OCTOBER 2ND ONLY FOR AGENDA ITEM 18. IVETTE CABRERA, NORMA PFRIEM BREAST CENTER, REQUESTING THE USE OF SEASIDE PARK BAND SHELL FOR A MENTAL HEALTH WALK ON SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022; A ZUMBA IN THE PARK ON SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2022; AND STROLL FOR STRENGTH ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2022.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

19. Laura Pennock, Black Rock Pilates Studio, 2889 Fairfield Ave., requesting the use of St. Mary's by the Sea to hold their annual Early Morning Pilates Class every Saturday beginning May 7, 2022 through October 1, 2022, from 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. with a max of 50 people in attendance.

Ms. Pennock greeted the Commissioners and explained that she had gotten a permit for this event last year, so they had gotten permission to hold the class at St. Mary's by the Sea because her studio was shut down due to the pandemic. Their clients run from ages 15 to 89 and they offer the most affordable program in the area. It brought the community together outside. The class is early in the morning and people bring their own mats. They are right by the flag pole.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGNEDA ITEM 19. LAURA PENNOCK, BLACK ROCK PILATES STUDIO, 2889 FAIRFIELD AVE., REQUESTING THE USE OF ST. MARY'S BY THE SEA TO HOLD THEIR ANNUAL EARLY MORNING PILATES CLASS EVERY SATURDAY BEGINNING MAY 7, 2022 THROUGH OCTOBER 1, 2022, FROM 7:30 A.M. TO 8:15 A.M. WITH A MAX OF 50 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

20. Patrick Dickson, CEO of 16 Root Entertainment, requesting the use of the Seaside Park Band Shell for a four (4) day Cultural Music Festival from Wednesday, July 27, 2022, through Saturday, July 30, 2022. Gates to open at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday; and 2:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Requesting approval and permits for the sale of alcohol and food of the West Indian Culture and others.

There was no one in attendance to present the request.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 20. PATRICK DICKSON, CEO OF 16 ROOT ENTERTAINMENT, REQUESTING THE USE OF THE SEASIDE PARK BAND SHELL FOR A FOUR (4) DAY CULTURAL MUSIC FESTIVAL FROM WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2022, THROUGH SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2022. GATES TO OPEN AT 4:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY; AND 2:00 P.M. ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY. REQUESTING APPROVAL AND PERMITS FOR THE SALE OF ALCOHOL AND FOOD OF THE WEST INDIAN CULTURE AND OTHERS.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

21. Daniel Vieira, President, LivFree, requesting to host the 4th annual LivFree baseball tournament from teams all over Connecticut to play games at Seaside Park at Diamonds 1, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15. Starting Friday, September 30, 2022, from 3:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday, October 1, 2022, and Sunday, October 2, 2022, from 7:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. with a start-up time of 8:00 a.m. and clean-up time of 10 p.m.

Mr. Vieira said that this was the fourth year for the tournament and they have been able to raise money for children with cancer both in the State and the U.S. Commissioner Labrador asked Mr. Burgos about the field conditions. Mr. Burgos said that there had not been a problem and it was a well-organized event. Mr. Vieira said that Mr. Burgos helped save last year's event

because there was a major rain storm the day before the tournament. The crew was down there and got the field ready for the tournament.

Commissioner Cotto asked if Diamond 1 would be available for this. Discussion followed about the scheduling of the diamonds. Ms. Urena said that the Sound on the Sound will be tearing down near Diamond 1. Discussion followed.

**** COMMISSIONER WADE MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 21. DANIEL VIEIRA, PRESIDENT, LIVFREE, REQUESTING TO HOST THE 4TH ANNUAL LIVFREE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT FROM TEAMS ALL OVER CONNECTICUT TO PLAY GAMES AT SEASIDE PARK AT DIAMONDS 1, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15. STARTING FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, FROM 3:00 P.M. TO 10 P.M. AND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2022, AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2022, FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 10 P.M. WITH A START-UP TIME OF 8:00 A.M. AND CLEAN-UP TIME OF 10 P.M. WITH THE STIPULATIONS THAT DIAMONDS 6,7,10,11, 14, AND 15 ARE APPROVED WHILE APPROVAL FOR DIAMOND 1 IS PENDING BASED ON CONFIRMATION FROM THE FIELD MANAGER.**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

22. Ted Thomas, Ted Thomas Dance Foundation, requesting to hold a Fairfield County Dance Festival at McLevy Green on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, and Thursday, July 14, 2022, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., with a set-up time of 1:00 p.m. and clean-up time of 8:30 p.m. with approximately 150 people in attendance.

Mr. Thomas greeted the Commissioners. This is a mobile dance group and they would like to set up in McLevy Park on a Thursday night. The aim of this free event is to bring some arts and culture to the residents along with a dance class or two. He has his own dance stage if necessary.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 22. TED THOMAS, TED THOMAS DANCE FOUNDATION, REQUESTING TO HOLD A FAIRFIELD COUNTY DANCE FESTIVAL AT MCLEVY GREEN ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2022, AND THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022, FROM 5:30 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M., WITH A SET-UP TIME OF 1:00 P.M. AND CLEAN-UP TIME OF 8:30 P.M. WITH APPROXIMATELY 150 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

Mr. Thomas said that he would be following up with Ms. Urena and there would be no food served but they would have water available for free.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

23. Benjamin Saldana, GBAPP INC., requesting to host a Community Rally at McLevy Green on Friday, June 24, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a set-up at 10:00 a.m.

and a clean-up time at 4:00 p.m. Approximately 50-100 people in attendance for Pride Month. Also requesting the street closure of Bank Street.

Mr. Saldana greeted the Commissioners. This will be one of the first official Pride events hosted by the Greater Bridgeport Area Prevention Program. Ms. Brown was also on the call. The event is focused on the youth who need to build a sense of community with Pride Month. They provide a number of services and hope to help people understand the LGBT+ community.

There will be live entertainment with performers, guest speakers and a drag show. They are collaborating with several organizations about health care. Mr. Saldana said that there were concerns about parking. This event will be the close out event for a week-long celebration of Pride Month.

Mr. Nadrizny said that if PD does not approve the street closing, they will not be able to hold the event.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 23. BENJAMIN SALDANA, GBAPP INC., REQUESTING TO HOST A COMMUNITY RALLY AT MCLEVY GREEN ON FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2022, FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP AT 10:00 A.M. AND A CLEAN-UP TIME AT 4:00 P.M. APPROXIMATELY 50-100 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE FOR PRIDE MONTH. ALSO REQUESTING THE STREET CLOSURE OF BANK STREET.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

24. Nina Gibson, of BRCC, requesting to host Black Rock Day at Ellsworth Park on Sunday, June 12, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The event will consist of their annual Road Race, Parade and Festival with approximately 500 people in attendance.

Ms. Gibson said that the last time they had presented an application to the Parks Commission, the event was cancelled due to COVID. She updated the Commissioners on the applications that had already been submitted to the Police and Health Departments. They have held this event for at least the last 20 years. Mr. Nadrizny said that they have held this in the past and it was a well-organized event and up to par.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 24. NINA GIBSON, OF BRCC, REQUESTING TO HOST BLACK ROCK DAY AT ELLSWORTH PARK ON SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022, FROM 1:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M. THE EVENT WILL CONSIST OF THEIR ANNUAL ROAD RACE, PARADE AND FESTIVAL WITH APPROXIMATELY 500 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

25. Tracey Nerkowski, Recovery Network of Programs, requesting to hold an Agency Annual Picnic “Summerfest” at Seaside Park by the Bathhouse & surrounding area on Friday, June 10, 2022, and a rain date of Friday, June 17, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a set-up time of 8:30 a.m. and clean-up at 3:00 p.m. with approximately 200 people in attendance.

Ms. Bauer greeted the Commissioner and said that Ms. Nerkowski was not available to attend the meeting. She said that Recovery Network has been having their annual staff picnic at Seaside Park. They have held it there for 20 years and this is the organization’s 50th year in operation. She also asked that the fee be waived as they are a non-profit. An insurance certificate is available. There will be a DJ, who has been doing this with them in the past. Vazzi’s food truck will be there as well.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 25. TRACEY NERKOWSKI, RECOVERY NETWORK OF PROGRAMS, REQUESTING TO HOLD AN AGENCY ANNUAL PICNIC “SUMMERFEST” AT SEASIDE PARK BY THE BATHHOUSE & SURROUNDING AREA ON FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2022, AND A RAIN DATE OF FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2022, FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP TIME OF 8:30 A.M. AND CLEAN-UP AT 3:00 P.M. WITH APPROXIMATELY 200 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

26. Keith Jackson, Downtown Thursday and Bridgeport Arts and Culture Council, requesting to hold consecutive events at McLevy Green Park every Thursday beginning July 21, 2022, through August 18, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with a set-up time of 3:00 p.m. and clean-up of 8:30 p.m. with approximately 2,000 people in attendance.

Mr. Razul Branch introduced himself and explained that he was filling in for Mr. Jackson. He said that this was the 11th year that they had been holding the event at the park. Mr. Nadrizny said that with events this large, they have to coordinate with the Police Department because the Amphitheater is right there, also. Commissioner Labrador said that they would have to get all the permits approved and signed. If the Police Department can’t cover it, then they can’t have the event. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Wade said that this event had been held for years and she felt that they should be able to hold it. Mr. Nadrizny said that the concern was really safety. Mr. Branch said that they had done this process before. Commissioner Labrador said that the Amphitheater was not there before.

**** COMMISSIONER WADE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 26. KEITH JACKSON, DOWNTOWN THURSDAY AND BRIDGEPORT ARTS AND CULTURE COUNCIL, REQUESTING TO HOLD CONSECUTIVE EVENTS AT MCLEVY GREEN**

PARK EVERY THURSDAY BEGINNING JULY 21, 2022, THROUGH AUGUST 18, 2022, FROM 5:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP TIME OF 3:00 P.M. AND CLEAN-UP OF 8:30 P.M. WITH APPROXIMATELY 2,000 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

27. David Daniels III, Bridgeport Jazz Fest Partners, requesting to hold a concert at McLevy Green Park on Saturday, August 27, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with an approximately 500 people in attendance.

Mr. Daniels said that they had held this free event last year and it went well. Free vaccinations were available at the event and they were hoping to continue holding the event.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 27. DAVID DANIELS III, BRIDGEPORT JAZZ FEST PARTNERS, REQUESTING TO HOLD A CONCERT AT MCLEVY GREEN PARK ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2022, FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. WITH AN APPROXIMATELY 500 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

28. Ramona Santelises, The Dominican-American Coalition of Connecticut (DACCT) Non-Profit, requesting to hold a Children's Day Community event at Seaside Park Diamond #15 on Sunday, June 5, 2022, from 12 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a set-up and clean up time of 2 hours before and after the event with approximately 150 people in attendance.

Ms. Santelises greeted the Commissioners and introduced Ms. Lucy Bijiri, the secretary of the organization. Ms. Santelises said that they had planned to do this event previously, but it had been cancelled because of COVID.

Commissioner Labrador said that they would be confined to the area where the lights were at Diamond 15. Ms. Santelises said that was exactly what they wanted. They were looking to do something for the kids. Commissioner Labrador said that he was not sure if Caribe was using the field Ms. Santelises said that they were in touch with Mr. Torres and he was not using the field that night. Ms. Urena confirmed that this was so.

**** COMMISSIONER WADE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 28. RAMONA SANTELISES, THE DOMINICAN-AMERICAN COALITION OF CONNECTICUT (DACCT) NON-PROFIT, REQUESTING TO HOLD A CHILDREN'S DAY COMMUNITY EVENT AT SEASIDE PARK DIAMOND #15 ON SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2022, FROM 12 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP AND CLEAN UP TIME OF 2 HOURS BEFORE AND AFTER THE EVENT WITH APPROXIMATELY 150 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

29. Tristan M. Haller, Connoisseur Media CT, requesting to present two (2) golf tournaments at the Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course. The “Star 99.9 Anna and Raven Open” on Friday, July 15,2022; and the “991 PLR Mike Lapitino Golf Tournament” on Friday, August 12, 2022.

Mr. Haller greeted the Commissioners and said that this would be the third year for the Mike Lapitino Golf Tournament and the first year for the Star 99.9 Anna and Raven Open. He gave a brief description of the tournaments, which are both charity events.

Mr. Nadrizny said that he was aware of the events and they had a good event last year.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 29. TRISTAN M. HALLER, CONNOISSEUR MEDIA CT, REQUESTING TO PRESENT TWO (2) GOLF TOURNAMENTS AT THE FAIRCHILD WHEELER GOLF COURSE. THE “STAR 99.9 ANNA AND RAVEN OPEN” ON FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2022; AND THE “991 PLR MIKE LAPITINO GOLF TOURNAMENT” ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2022.
** COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

30. Leon Kennedy, requesting the use of Seaside Park (Section 4) on Saturday, April 16, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with a set-up time of 12:00 p.m. and clean-up time of 6:00 pm for a family BBQ with a DJ onsite for approximately 75 people in attendance.

Mr. Kennedy was not present on the call.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 30. LEON KENNEDY, REQUESTING THE USE OF SEASIDE PARK (SECTION 4) ON SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022, FROM 1:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP TIME OF 12:00 P.M. AND CLEAN-UP TIME OF 6:00 PM FOR A FAMILY BBQ WITH A DJ ONSITE FOR APPROXIMATELY 75 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.
** COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

31. Christina Smith, Groundwork Bridgeport, requesting a 5K Walk and Run event at Seaside Park on Saturday, May 21, 2022 with a set-up time of 7:00 a.m. and a clean-up time of 11:30 a.m. There will be approximately 150 people in attendance.

Mr. Henry Vehslage from Groundworks Bridgeport, greeted the Commissioners. He thanked the Commissioners and Ms. Urena for their help. Groundworks is known for their plantings but they are also about social revitalization. The point is to get people out and enjoy the park. Since they haven't hosted this event before, they are working with Mr. Marty Shavone of MS Running

Productions, who is a very experienced and accomplished race organizer. Mr. Shavone organized the Habitat for Humanity 5K event that was in Seaside Park for a few years.

Mr. Burgos said that he was familiar with Groundworks. Mr. Nadrizny said that it was a one hour event, so he felt it would work out.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 31.
CHRISTINA SMITH, GROUNDWORK BRIDGEPORT, REQUESTING A 5K WALK
AND RUN EVENT AT SEASIDE PARK ON SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022 WITH A SET-
UP TIME OF 7:00 A.M. AND A CLEAN-UP TIME OF 11:30 A.M. THERE WILL BE
APPROXIMATELY 150 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

Mr. Hladun from the Parks Department had a question about whether there would be other events in the park at that time. Mr. Vehslage said that they would be blocking off portions of the road, but they would be leaving the entire West Beach area open for Public use.

Commissioner Cotto noted that the application states that they will need a Police detail. Mr. Vehslage said that he had called the Police Department and they told him to get the approval of the Parks Commission first.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**32. Lauren Beth “LB” Stein, LB Spinners Artz, requesting the use of Baldwin Plaza for a
Community Spinjam on multiple dates, every Thursday from April 28th to September
29th, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. with a set-up time of 4:30 p.m. and clean-up time
of 10:30 p.m.**

Ms. Stein greeted the Commissioners and she said that she had hosted the New Haven Fairfield County Spin jam. She said that there had been a spin jam in Baldwin Plaza that she used to attend. The previous host moved out of state. She said that this was a gathering of people with a variety of toys like hula hoops, darts, giant staffs and other similar flow arts items. It is a free open air event. She said that she was a licensed fire performer with the New York City Fire Department. She has been performing for 20 years.

Ms. Stein said she was looking to host a fire spin jam. It is great for mental health. Every one brings their skills and they share it with others. She gave an overview of the details. She added that she was an environmental educator and believes in leaving no trace behind. She said that Albany does it year round, but she did not expect more than 50 people. There are no vendors.

Commissioner Labrador said that they were going to need something from the Fire Department about this and the exact layout and the safety factor.

Commissioner Wade asked about Ms. Stein’s hair when she spins fire. Ms. Stein said that they have many safety protocols such as fire safe clothes and training.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO DENY AGENDA ITEM 32. LAUREN BETH “LB” STEIN, LB SPINNERS ARTZ, REQUESTING THE USE OF BALDWIN PLAZA FOR A COMMUNITY SPINJAM ON MULTIPLE DATES, EVERY THURSDAY FROM APRIL 28TH TO SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2022, FROM 5:00 P.M. TO 10:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP TIME OF 4:30 P.M. AND CLEAN-UP TIME OF 10:30 P.M.**

**** THE MOTION FAILED DUE TO LACK OF A SECOND.**

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 32. LAUREN BETH “LB” STEIN, LB SPINNERS ARTZ, REQUESTING THE USE OF BALDWIN PLAZA FOR A COMMUNITY SPINJAM ON MULTIPLE DATES, EVERY THURSDAY FROM APRIL 28TH TO SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2022, FROM 5:00 P.M. TO 10:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP TIME OF 4:30 P.M. AND CLEAN-UP TIME OF 10:30 P.M.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REPORTS

Commissioner’s Report

Director’s Report – Craig A. Nadrizny, Acting Public Facilities Director

Mr. Hladun said that there was a request for a motion to approve the following memorial bench requests (Parks Dept. stand bench is purchased directly from the manufacturer with custom plaque by the individual and delivered to the Park Maintenance Division The City assembles and installs the bench.)

- Daniel L Nalven request for approve for a memorial bench for partner at St. Mary’s north of flagpole. (Exhibit 1).
- Thomas Errichetti request for approval for a memorial bench for Friends of Seaside Park co-founder at Seaside Park West Beach Bathhouse (Exhibit 2).

He gave an overview of the locations and said that the individuals purchase the benches from the manufacturer.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING BENCH REQUESTS:**

- **DANIEL L NALVEN REQUEST FOR APPROVE FOR A MEMORIAL BENCH FOR PARTNER AT ST. MARY’S NORTH OF FLAGPOLE. (EXHIBIT 1).**
- **THOMAS ERRICHETTI REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FOR A MEMORIAL**

BENCH FOR FRIENDS OF SEASIDE PARK CO-FOUNDER AT SEASIDE PARK WEST BEACH BATHHOUSE (EXHIBIT 2).

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Hladun said that the Seaside concession stand license had been extended. The concessionaire said that he was not able to open the stand because of staffing issues. The last RFP for this concession was done in 2016, so it is time for a new RFP and license agreement.

Mr. Hladun said that they were looking for a motion to issue an RFP for the Seaside Concession Stand and also for the Commission to designate a member as part of the selection committee. He said that at the previous evening's Council meeting, there had been a discussion about having a designated area for food trucks. He said that they would like a motion regarding Seaside Park Grove in West Beach to be put out for the RFP. They would also like up to three Commissioners to participate in the selection of the food trucks.

Discussion followed about the details.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE THE DESIGNATION OF FOOD TRUCK PARKING WITHIN SEASIDE PARK AND CONSIDER LICENSE/PERMIT FEE STRUCTURE APPLICABLE FOR CITY CONCESSIONS TO BE MORE DIVERSE FOOD OPTIONS TO THE PARK SYSTEM, INCLUDING AS APPLICABLE TO PARKS BOARD APPROVED EVENT PERMITS.
** COMMISSION GRISBY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

There is a request to make a motion to approve the issuance of a new solicitation for Concessionaire License for Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ISSUANCE OF A NEW SOLICITATION FOR CONCESSIONAIRE LICENSE FOR FAIRCHILD WHEELER GOLF COURSE.
** COMMISSION COTTO SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Formal Request to make a motion to approve a Memorial Project and Community Awareness effort in partnership with YANA.

Mr. Hladun gave a brief overview of the project that would include memorial bricks and displayed a master plan for Majestic Park.

**** COMMISSIONER WADE MOVED TO APPROVE TO APPROVE A MEMORIAL PROJECT AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS EFFORT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YANA.**

**** COMMISSION HOSIER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Hladun then reviewed a request for improvements at McGovern Park.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE IMPROVING MCGOVERN PARK AT THE REQUEST OF COUNCIL MEMBER MARCUS BROWN TO ENHANCE THE PLAYGROUND AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PARK TO MAKE IT MORE ENJOYABLE AND SAFER FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY TO ENJOY.**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Hladun then gave a brief overview of the various parks projects. He said that they had met with the Budget and Appropriations Committee for the upcoming 2022-2023. While the parks system has grown over the past 10 to 15 years, the staff has not kept pace.

Mr. Hladun then reviewed the upcoming Citywide Celebrations including the Beardsley Zoo, and the 200th birthday of Frederick Law Olmstead.

Mr. Nadrizny then updated the Commissioners on the repairs on the various basketball, tennis and pickleball courts have been resurfaced.

Mr. Hladun said that they were working on another phase of bunker refurbishing.

The City Engineer will be giving an update on the Rooster River Flooding project.

Mr. Hladun then updated everyone on the work at Kennedy Stadium, Seaside Park, St. Mary's by the Sea, Ash Creek, and the Tree Plantings as shown in his report. He added that Ms. Conine was present to talk about the Bridgeport Parks and Recreation BOE Middle School Basketball League.

Ms. Conine updated the Commissioners about the swimming lessons and the basketball leagues.

Commissioner Labrador thanked everyone for their patience.

Ms. Conine said that Mr. Nadrizny and Ms. Urena had both lost their mothers recently.

Mr. Burgos thanked the Commissioners for having the meeting online.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER WADE MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** COMMISSION COTTO SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services