

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

**ATTENDANCE:** Banjed Labrador, Acting President; Cruz M. Cotto, Lee Grisby, John Mark Hosier, Lillian Wade; Denese Taylor-Moye

**OTHERS:** Angel DePara, Special Project Manager; Tatiana Urena, Parks Department; Craig Nadrizny, Acting Public Facilities Director; Tawanna Newton, Luis Burgos, Parks Department; Tawanna Barnhill, Bridgeport Rescue Mission; Council Member Scott Burns; Mr. Burgess, Matthew Swinton; Howard Saffan, Sound on Sound Music Festival; Pete Spain, Ash Creek Conservation Association; Deborah Sims, East End NRZ Market & Café; Rhozha Pessoa, Well Connected/Kayla Heart Foundation, Jasmine Patrone, Kayla's Heart Foundation CEO; Nancy Barlow, Ridgefield Running Co.; James F. Wiltsie, Vicki Soto Memorial Fund, Inc; Tracy Thomas, MVP TV Network, LLC; Samantha Cheatham, Parents vs. Kids Field Day; Rosa Torres, No Xcetions A.C.; Council Member Jeanette Herron; Toni Lombardi, FaithActs for Education; Deborah A. Caviness, Juneteenth of Fairfield County, Inc.; Pastor Walton Hagins, Senior Pastor and Founder of the Miracle Center International Ministries; Luann Conine, Recreation Department. Steve Hladun, Parks Department

**OPENING CEREMONY / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Labrador called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. He led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF:**

**• JUNE 14, 2022 (REGULAR MEETING)**

Not discussed at this time.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM:**

The public may call the office of Parks and Recreation at 203-576-7234 and speak with Tatiana Urena or email her at [tatiana.urena@bridgeportct.gov](mailto:tatiana.urena@bridgeportct.gov) to sign-up for Public Speaking.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Maria Pereira, Councilwoman 138th District, updates and motion of approval on the Dog park fencing at Success Park for separate areas and access for large and small dogs.

Not discussed at this time.

2. Dylan Gallup, Water Lantern Festival, Inc., 881 West 700 N #102, Logan, UT, requesting to host a Water Festival Lantern Festival at Seaside Park – West Beach on Saturday, October 15, 2022 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. with approximately 2,000 people in attendance.

Not discussed at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Deborah A. Caviness, Juneteenth of Fairfield County, Inc., P.O. Box 5007, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host the 2023 Juneteenth Parade and Festival at Seaside Park Casino Bath House and Band Shell on Saturday, June 10, 2023 with the exact parade logistics as previous years.**

Commissioner Labrador called for Ms. Caviness to speak three times. There was no response.

**\*\* COMMISSION COTTO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 1 – DEBORAH A. CAVINESS, JUNETEENTH OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY, INC., P.O. BOX 5007, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST THE 2023 JUNETEENTH PARADE AND FESTIVAL AT SEASIDE PARK CASINO BATH HOUSE AND BAND SHELL ON SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023 WITH THE EXACT PARADE LOGISTICS AS PREVIOUS YEARS.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**2. Scott Burns, Councilman 130th District, requesting to discuss options to solve constituent's concerns with the overnight activities at St. Mary's by the Sea.**

Council Member Burns greeted the Commissioners and said that he had submitted a letter to Ms. Urena to forward to the Commissioners about this perennial problem. Both Seaside Park and St.

Mary's close at dusk, but there are often cars that come by late at night with loud noise. There are also vehicles parked there without City passes.

Council Member Burns said that he had discussed this with his neighbors and one suggestion was to put up a gate similar to the kind at Seaside Park. Only those with passes could get in to the area. It might help the City revenues. Another suggestion was to make the road a one way only. This issue is both a public safety and security issue.

Commissioner Labrador said that unfortunately, the Parks Commission has no control over the road. This would be more of a police issue rather than a parks issue since it is a public street. He said that this would have to be discussed by the City Engineer, the City Attorney's Office and the Police Department.

Council Member Burns said that there was a suggestion that they have some kind of zigzag barrier to slow people down like Stamford has.

Commissioner Labrador said that the Parks Commission can not close public streets and repeated his earlier suggestion that they speak with the Police Department.

Commissioner Cotto said that this was a problem years ago and has continued to be an issue. He suggested that they ask for more patrol cars to go through the area.

Council Member Burns said that there had been a patrol car assigned to the area, but the officer was often called off to other areas.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOISER MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 2. SCOTT BURNS, COUNCILMAN 130TH DISTRICT, REQUESTING TO DISCUSS OPTIONS TO SOLVE CONSTITUENT'S CONCERNS WITH THE OVERNIGHT ACTIVITIES AT ST. MARY'S BY THE SEA AND UNTIL COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS CAN COME BACK WITH MORE INFORMATION.**

Commissioner Taylor-Moye asked if the Commissioners would be speaking with the Police Department or if Council Member Burns would be contacting them. Commissioner Labrador said that Council Member Burns should contact the police and the Commission would support his request on what was needed.

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

**3. Scott Burns, Councilman 130th District, requests a proposal to convert a portion of the West Side II Park from a natural grass surface to an artificial turf surface.**

Council Member Burns said that the area was located over by Saint Steven's, Bostwick and Cove, adjacent to PT. He explained that it was a grassy area that the Bridgeport Soccer League has used for many years.

Commissioner Labrador suggested that some of the vendors who use the area on the week-end could chip in to pay for the project. Council Member Burns said that this was what they were hoping to do. He mentioned that this was included in the letter that Council Member Burns had sent to the Commissioners. The Bridgeport Soccer League is looking to raise the funding as sponsors.

Commission Labrador explained that the infield area of Baseball Diamond #1 cost just over \$1 million dollars. The area they are considering is a large area. Discussion followed about the details.

Council Member Burns said that he was present on behalf of the Bridgeport Soccer League. Commissioner Labrador said that the City Attorney's Office would need to be involved, along with the City Council just like UB did when they partnered with the City to work on Diamond 1.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 3. SCOTT BURNS, COUNCILMAN 130TH DISTRICT, REQUESTS A PROPOSAL TO CONVERT A PORTION OF THE WEST SIDE II PARK FROM A NATURAL GRASS SURFACE TO AN ARTIFICIAL TURF SURFACE.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. Scott Burns, Councilman 130th District, requests to host a Celebratory event for St. Mary's by the Sea 100th year existence in late September or early October of 2022.**

Council Member Burns said that St. Mary's by the Sea was approaching a centennial celebration. He said that they were considering a celebration in late September or early October. He said that he had forwarded an outline to the Commissioners.

The discussion moved to the Gillman section of fencing that needs to be renovated.

Commissioner Taylor-Moye asked where the funding for the event would be taken from. Council Member Burns said that one idea was to apply for some funding from the Marketing Department or potential ask the City for funding for a city event.

Mr. Burgess then addressed the Commissioners about compiling a history of St. Mary's by the Sea and making it available to the public on line and in printed form.

Council Member Burns said that there had been a suggestion that they re-dedicate the park with a plaque. Commissioner Labrador said that the more involved this becomes, the more parties that would be involved.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 4. SCOTT BURNS, COUNCILMAN 130TH DISTRICT, REQUESTS TO HOST A CELEBRATORY EVENT FOR ST. MARY'S BY THE SEA 100TH YEAR EXISTENCE IN LATE SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER OF 2022.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER GRISBY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. Matthew Swinton, 68 Hewitt Street, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host a BBQ with a DJ-on-site at Johnson Oak Park (Gazebo Area) on Sunday, July 31, 2022 from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with approximately 0-50 people.**

Mr. Swinton said that he lives across the street from the park and would like to have a BBQ there. Commissioner Wade said that she would support it.

Commissioner Grisby asked if they would be cleaning up the area afterwards. Mr. Swinton said that he regularly cleans up the park, so they will be cleaning it up after the event.

Mr. Swinton asked if the bathrooms could be opened for that day. Mr. Burgos said that currently there had been an issue with Sonitrol because the bathrooms were on a timer. He said that they could do it manually for this event.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 5. MATTHEW SWINTON, 68 HEWITT STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A BBQ WITH A DJ-ON-SITE AT JOHNSON OAK PARK (GAZEBO AREA) ON SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2022 FROM 2:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. WITH APPROXIMATELY 0-50 PEOPLE.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. Howard Saffan, Sound on Sound Music Festival, 500 Broad Street, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to move its performance dates to September 30, 2023 and October 1, 2023 due to holiday conflicts in 2023 at the Seaside Park Band Shell.**

Mr. Saffan explained that there were two Jewish Holidays during the originally scheduled dates for 2023. Ms. Urena confirmed that the dates had been reserved for him as requested.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 6. HOWARD SAFFAN, SOUND ON SOUND MUSIC FESTIVAL, 500 BROAD STREET,**

**BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO MOVE ITS PERFORMANCE DATES TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 AND OCTOBER 1, 2023 DUE TO HOLIDAY CONFLICTS IN 2023 AT THE SEASIDE PARK BAND SHELL.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**7. Pete Spain, 280 Grovers Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, will provide a brief update on the restoration of the 1.7-acre Preserve at St. Mary's by the Sea which began in 2018 in collaboration with the Ash Creek Conservation Association, the community, the Parks Commission and Parks Department.**

Mr. Spain thanked the Commission for their time. He explained that this was an experiment and that they had raised over \$50,000. Things are going well and they have had over 25 volunteers of all ages. He explained that they have put out cardboard over invasive weeds and covered it with wood chips. Both will decompose and add nutrient to the soil while preventing the invasives from spreading. Last summer, the new plantings were watered and hand weeding continues. A contractor comes in once a month to check on weed control.

Ash Creek Conservation has also used black plastic garbage bags to cover weeds to solarize the invasive weeds. In the fall, a mix of clover and grasses will be planted. This will encourage more native birds and caterpillars for more biodiversity. Ultimately this means less watering, less maintenance and more enjoyment for the residents. He thanked the Parks for the ability to start this program.

Commissioner Labrador said he appreciated Mr. Spain's efforts and asked him to keep up the good work.

**8. Deborah Sims, East End NRZ Market & Café, 1851 Stratford Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host an Anti-Violence event with vendors and a DJ-on-site at West Side II Park on Saturday, August 20, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with approximately 150 people in attendance.**

Ms. Sims explained that they were working with PT Partners for the last three years and they would like to have a simple resource fair including Moms Demanding Action and Project Longevity along with Social Services. The goal is to make the community aware of what is available for families in Bridgeport. They are already talking to families about resources available once a month. They want to provide the community with a fun event.

Commissioner Taylor-Moye said that the East End NRZ has been doing a great job in the City and that they are helping the community. It shows how far the arm of God can reach.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER GRISBY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 8. DEBORAH SIMS, EAST END NRZ MARKET & CAFÉ, 1851 STRATFORD AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST AN ANTI-VIOLENCE EVENT WITH VENDORS AND A DJ-ON-SITE AT WEST SIDE II PARK ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2022 FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M. WITH APPROXIMATELY 150 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**9. Deborah Sims, East End NRZ Market & Café, 1851 Stratford Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host the East End Reunion with a Food Truck and DJ-on-site at Newfield Park on Saturday, August 27, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with approximately 200 people in attendance.**

Ms. Sims said that they did not have their reunion for the last two years because of COVID, so now it's time to gather again. She said they would be holding games and have food available.

Commissioner Wade said that she was a member of the Reunion Committee and the last time they were able to hold it, there was a helicopter there. Everyone had a great time and there were no problems.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 9. DEBORAH SIMS, EAST END NRZ MARKET & CAFÉ, 1851 STRATFORD AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST THE EAST END REUNION WITH A FOOD TRUCK AND DJ-ON-SITE AT NEWFIELD PARK ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2022 FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. WITH APPROXIMATELY 200 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**10. Rhozha Pessoa, Well Connected/Kayla Heart Foundation, 3456 Madison Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host a 5K Suicide Prevention Walk and Wellness Fair at Seaside Park – Casino Bath House on Saturday, September 9, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Mr. Pessoa said that the group realized that the date was incorrect and the actual date was Saturday, September 10th. He added that they would like to go from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for breakdown. Ms. Urena said that the event time was from 11 to 2 and they were adding an hour on each end for breakdown.

Mr. Pessoa said that they do have a slide presentation and his partner, Ms. Jasmine Patrone, the CEO of Kayla's Heart Foundation. The goal is to raise awareness of how suicide affects those

left behind. The wellness fair allows the community to gain access to support resources after the walk. The three mile walk is named “Start Here” which is to encourage people to take steps towards getting help for themselves. He then explained that they were expecting about 100 people.

Mr. Pessoa then outlined the route they would like to take and where the wellness fair would be held.

Commissioner Labrador explained that Police presence was not something they handled. Mr. Burgos said that this was his first time he was hearing about this. Commissioner Labrador said that he was not sure if the baseball field would be available.

Commissioner Wade said she felt this was a good idea since the number of people who are committing suicide has been increasing. She said that he would have to contact Ms. Conine about the baseball field.

Mr. Pessoa said that he was hoping to be able to be approved so they can start the marketing. He said that they would have to move forward with the other groups.

Commissioner Labrador said that all the t’s have to be crossed and the I’s dotted and he hopes that they can get this all arranged so they can

**\*\* COMMISSIONER WADE MOVED TO RESERVE THE DATE PENDING APPROVALS FOR AGENDA ITEM 10. RHOZHA PESSOA, WELL CONNECTED/KAYLA HEART FOUNDATION, 3456 MADISON AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A 5K SUICIDE PREVENTION WALK AND WELLNESS FAIR AT SEASIDE PARK – CASINO BATH HOUSE ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2022 FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Patrone thanked the Commissioners for their time.

**11. Tawanna Barnhill, Bridgeport Rescue Mission, 725 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host a Free Community Outreach event with a Food Truck and a DJ-on-site at Wentfield Park on Saturday, August 6, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with approximately 100 people in attendance.**

Ms. Barnhill said that they had held this event three years ago. She said that they would have stations to give away toiletries, clothing and kitchen tools. They will be bringing their food truck out and also having tattoo making for kids. This will be free to attendees. She said that they would like to have it on the grass area.



Commissioner Labrador said that Ms. Conine schedules the baseball diamonds and there will be games scheduled there. Ms. Barnhill said that they would be out by the basketball court.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 11. TAWANNA BARNHILL, BRIDGEPORT RESCUE MISSION, 725 PARK AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A FREE COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT WITH A FOOD TRUCK AND A DJ-ON-SITE AT WENTFIELD PARK ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2022 FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M. WITH APPROXIMATELY 100 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**12. Nancy Barlow, Ridgefield Running Co., 423 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT, requesting to host a Run/Walk at Seaside Park on Saturday, August 20, 2022 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with approximately 200 people in attendance.**

Ms. Barlow greeted the Commissioners. She explained that her group had been working with the Bassick Track Coach for over a year on developing a cross country and track and field teams going. Last year, they had provided equipment for track and field participants. This walk is very doable. This will also be an opportunity for the students to volunteer.

Commissioner Labrador asked if they would be running on the sidewalk or the road. Ms. Barlow said that they would like to be on the road. She described the proposed route. She explained that most people will complete the mile in 20 minutes or less.

Commissioner Labrador reviewed some of the various permissions and arrangements that would be needed. Ms. Barlow said that they had done a number of events in other locations with groups as large as 1,000 runners, so they will be able to get liability insurance without a problem and have had experience working with Police Departments.

Commissioner Wade asked if they would be providing water. Ms. Barlow said that they would provide water.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 12. NANCY BARLOW, RIDGEFIELD RUNNING CO., 423 MAIN STREET, RIDGEFIELD, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A RUN/WALK AT SEASIDE PARK ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2022 FROM 6:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. WITH APPROXIMATELY 200 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**13. James F. Wiltsie, Vicki Soto Memorial Fund, Inc., 158 Knowlton Street, Stratford, CT, requesting to host the Vicki Soto 5K Walk/Run from Amphitheater to Seaside Park and back to Amphitheater on Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. with approximately 3,500 people in attendance.**

Mr. Wiltsie greeted the Commissioners and explained that Ms. Soto was one of the Sandy Hook School shooting victims. This run has been held in Stratford for the last nine years but the ACOE will be working on the site where they had previously hosted the event. The Amphitheater has offered to allow the run from the Amphitheater and terminate at the Amphitheater. The route through Seaside Park will follow the previous route used by Bridgeport Hospital. The group gives out educational scholarships in Ms. Soto's honor and is focused on family fun rather than a competitive event. He then outlined the route for the Commissioners.

Commissioner Labrador said that they have no control over the race where it is on city streets outside the park. Discussion followed regarding the details.

Mr. Hladun said that he had done the Soto Walk/Run in the past when it was held in Stratford and felt it was a very good organization. The event was well run.

Commissioner Hosier said that his heart goes out to Mr. Wiltsie and the others who lost loved ones in the tragedy. He felt that it would be an honor to have the race take place in the park.

Ms. Conine said that she agreed with Mr. Hladun and was acquainted with others who knew Ms. Soto's mother. She also felt it would be an honor to have this run in the park.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 13. JAMES F. WILTSIE, VICKI SOTO MEMORIAL FUND, INC., 158 KNOWLTON STREET, STRATFORD, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST THE VICKI SOTO 5K WALK/RUN FROM AMPHITHEATER TO SEASIDE PARK AND BACK TO AMPHITHEATER ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2022 FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M. WITH APPROXIMATELY 3,500 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER GRISBY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**14. Tracy Thomas, MVP TV Network, LLC, 8486 Campbellton Road, Douglasville, GA, requesting to host a Musical Concert at Seaside Park Band Shell on Saturday, September 3, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. with a set-up a day before on Friday, September 2, 2022 and a tentative clean-up day on Sunday, September 4, 2022 for approximately 3,500 to 5,000 people in attendance.**

Mr. Thomas greeted the Commissioners and said that he appreciated the time the Commission was taking for this application. He explained that he was a Bridgeport native and after he

graduated from Bassick, he started in the entertainment business. While he lives in the Atlanta, Georgia area, he would like to bring some nostalgic old school artists to Bridgeport for a show. He feels that this is a way to give back to Bridgeport. The show is family orientated and he will be partnering with a group called RV Food Banks in an effort to feed 200 families for a month. He said that he had sponsored Kool and the Gang at the bandshell about 25 years ago. They will be charging for the event but will be keeping the tickets in the affordable range.

Commissioner Labrador said that he did not have a diagram of the layout or the stats. Mr. Thomas said that he had sent a document earlier in the day and the Commissioners had not received it. He said that if the September 3rd date was too aggressive, he could suggest another date. Discussion followed about alternative dates. It was determined that the week-end of October 15th might be possible.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO HOLD THE DATES OF OCTOBER 14-16, 2022 FOR TRACY THOMAS, MVP TV NETWORK, LLC, 8486 CAMPBELLTON ROAD, DOUGLASVILLE, GA, REQUESTING TO HOST A MUSICAL CONCERT AT SEASIDE PARK BAND SHELL ON OCTOBER 15, 2022 FOR APPROXIMATELY 3,500 TO 5,000 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER GRISBY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**15. Samantha Cheatham, 60-C Terrace Circle, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host a Parents vs. Kids Field Day with Bounce-House and DJ-on-site at Seaside Park by Soccer Fields on Saturday, September 17, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with approximately 250 in attendance.**

Ms. Cheatham greeted the Commissioners and explained she would like to sponsor a city wide Parent vs. kids field day with the goal of bringing as many resources as possible to the event and to encourage parents to be involved in their children's schools.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 15. SAMANTHA CHEATHAM, 60-C TERRACE CIRCLE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A PARENTS VS. KIDS FIELD DAY WITH BOUNCE-HOUSE AND DJ-ON-SITE AT SEASIDE PARK BY SOCCER FIELDS ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2022 FROM 1:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M. WITH APPROXIMATELY 250 IN ATTENDANCE.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**16. Rosa Torres, No Xcetions A.C., 58 Balsam Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host a Domestic Violence Awareness Fundraising event at Seaside Park (backside of the Casino**

**Bath House) on Saturday, October 15, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with approximately 75-100 people.**

Ms. Torres greeted the Commissioners. She said her group works on fund raising for local entities that provide services. Last year's project was focused on mental illness. She gave a brief overview of the event which will include a musical competition. The previous year, they had participation awards, along with a motivational speaker. They hope to donate the proceeds from this to an organization working with domestic violence and those children left behind due to domestic violence.

Council Member Jeanette Herron said she had attended the event last year for the entire day since she was supporting and sponsoring them. There were no issues. Mr. Burgos said that there were no issues.

Commissioner Wade asked if there was an admission charge. Ms. Torres said that there will be a charge, but the proceeds will be given to the families. She noted that the grounds would be sprayed with disinfectant.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 16. ROSA TORRES, NO XCETIONS A.C., 58 BALSAM AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS FUNDRAISING EVENT AT SEASIDE PARK (BACKSIDE OF THE CASINO BATH HOUSE) ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022 AT 10:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M. WITH APPROXIMATELY 75-100 PEOPLE.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**17. David Usedo, Bridgeport Spanish Seventh Day Adventist Church, 980 Sylvan Avenue, requesting to host a Community Outreach "Outdoor Musical" event at Seaside Park Bandshell on Saturday, August 20, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with approximately 0-50 people in attendance.**

Mr. Usedo was not on the call.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 17. DAVID USED0, BRIDGEPORT SPANISH SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, 980 SYLVAN AVENUE, REQUESTING TO HOST A COMMUNITY OUTREACH "OUTDOOR MUSICAL" EVENT AT SEASIDE PARK BANDSHELL ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2022 FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. WITH APPROXIMATELY 0-50 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER GRISBY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**18. Toni Lombardi & Celina Fernandez-Ayala, FaithActs for Education, 857 Post Road, Suite 310, Fairfield, CT, requesting to host a Community Event to Kick-Off Voting Campaign at Beardsley Park with Food Trucks and Vendors at Beardsley Park on Sunday, July 17, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. with approximately 100 people in attendance.**

Ms. Urena said that she had received an email that they were going to change the date. She added that Ms. Lombardi was on the call.

Ms. Lombardi said that they were looking to postpone the event and asked if there would be a way to reserve the park for a different date. They are looking to host an open event to invite the candidates to address the public. Discussion followed about the availability of the park.

Ms. Lombardi said that they were open to other locations such as McLevy Green. There are times when food vendors park along the street. Ms. Lombardi said that their next staff meeting was scheduled for Thursday. She will contact Ms. Urena with the information. Ms. Urena said the next scheduled meeting was August 9th, which is the primary.

Commissioner Taylor-Moye suggested that they focus on the General Election rather than the primary. She asked what would be the determining factor between a large event and a small event. Ms. Urena said that the food vendors would be the determining factor.

Mr. Nadrizny suggested that they might be able to hold it on a grassy area on the upper end where the open field is. The food trucks could park along the edge of the field. However, the park admission could be an issue. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Labrador recommended that Ms. Lombardi apply for the August 9th Agenda with a different date for the event. This was agreeable to all.

**19. Carmen Castro, 1457 North Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting Free-of-Charge Entry for a Birthday Party at Beardsley Park on Saturday, July 30, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for approximately 0-50 people.**

Ms. Castro was not on the call.

Ms. Urena explained that Ms. Castro already had the permit for the birthday party but had some out of town relatives that were going to attend. She was asking for a park fee waiver. Commissioner Labrador said that the Commissioners could not authorize an entry waiver.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 19. CARMEN CASTRO, 1457 NORTH AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING FREE-OF-CHARGE ENTRY FOR A BIRTHDAY PARTY AT BEARDSLEY PARK ON**

**SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2022 FROM 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 0-50 PEOPLE.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**20. Yolanda Carmon, Miracle Center Ministries, 528 East Main Street, Bridgeport, CT, requesting Free-of-Charge Entry for a Baptism at Seaside Park on Saturday, August 6, 2022 (Rain Date: Saturday, August 27, 2022) from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with 50 people in attendance.)**

Pastor Walton Hagins greeted the Commissioners and explained that he was a lifelong Bridgeport resident and currently the Senior Pastor and Founder of the Miracle Center International Ministries that has been in Bridgeport for the last 14 years. This will be their first baptism due to the fact that he lives in Stratford and there are other congregates that live in the surrounding communities. He said that he understood from the earlier discussions that waiving fees would not be possible.

Commissioner Labrador said that the Commissioners do not have that authority. Pastor Hagins asked how they might be able to obtain passes. Commissioner Labrador said that he did not know who was giving out free passes. Pastor Hagins said that they had held services at the bandshell in 2011 after their building was destroyed by a tornado.

Pastor Hagins said that he would like to know who to contact because he was concerned about the elderly attending this event.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER WADE MOVED TO DENY AGENDA ITEM 20. YOLANDA CARMON, MIRACLE CENTER MINISTRIES, 528 EAST MAIN STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING FREE-OF-CHARGE ENTRY FOR A BAPTISM AT SEASIDE PARK ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2022 (RAIN DATE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2022) FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M. WITH 50 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.)**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Urena announced that Ms. Caviness was now on the call.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO RECONSIDER THE PREVIOUSLY TABLED AGENDA ITEM 1. DEBORAH A. CAVINESS, JUNETEENTH OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY, INC., P.O. BOX 5007, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST THE 2023 JUNETEENTH PARADE AND FESTIVAL AT SEASIDE PARK CASINO BATH HOUSE AND BAND SHELL ON SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023 WITH THE EXACT PARADE LOGISTICS AS PREVIOUS YEARS.**

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

**1. Deborah A. Caviness, Juneteenth of Fairfield County, Inc., P.O. Box 5007, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host the 2023 Juneteenth Parade and Festival at Seaside Park Casino Bath House and Band Shell on Saturday, June 10, 2023 with the exact parade logistics as previous years.**

Ms. Caviness greeted the Commissioners and explained that she was the President of the Juneteenth of Fairfield County organization. She was requesting June 10, 2023 for the 31st Juneteenth Annual Parade and community festival at Seaside Park. The parade was just held and went off very well. She thanked both Steve and Louis for all their assistance.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 1. DEBORAH A. CAVINESS, JUNETEENTH OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY, INC., P.O. BOX 5007, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST THE 2023 JUNETEENTH PARADE AND FESTIVAL AT SEASIDE PARK CASINO BATH HOUSE AND BAND SHELL ON SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023 WITH THE EXACT PARADE LOGISTICS AS PREVIOUS YEARS.**

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

Ms. Caviness also thanked Ms. Urena for her assistance through the lengthy process.

## **REPORTS**

### **• Commissioner's Report**

There was no report presented at this time.

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

Mr. Hladun then gave a brief overview of the recent events.

The Commissioner had requested some budgetary information and Mr. Hladun confirmed that he had sent out copies of the budget information including the capital budget allocations for the new fiscal year and an update on the Charter and Ordinances that relate to the Parks Board.

The splash pads are being turned on and now running. He mentioned one of the buildings had been damaged in an accident during the winter and has been stabilized.

The golf course has submitted requests for some sand bunker reconstruction. They are also moving forward with the paving project around the cart barn.

The Kennedy Stadium roof repairs are almost complete and they are reviewing the back area of the stadium for safety and security due to recent vandalism.

Pleasure Beach is now open as of July 4th. There has been tick spraying around the buildings and the picnic areas. The water taxi work boat has two new engines which allows them to transport equipment back and forth more efficiently.

Seaside Park Food Truck Pilot program now has 9 trucks signed up and they are working on making this as successful as possible.

The Department is looking to rebid the Grove Concession. He explained that they may be including an item about this concession stand in the August Agenda for the Sound on Sound event.

The West Beach Concession Stand opened in the second half of June and the staff will monitor that. Tick spraying has been done in the area along the landfill.

New concrete benches will be installed for dug out benches at Diamond 7.

Curbing, apron and sidewalk repairs continue in the park.

Discussions are underway regarding new Section signs and LED signs will be installed like the ones at Beardsley. Research is underway regarding potential grant funding for this project.

Mr. Hladun said that there had been some difficulty regarding a recent night game and there has been some discussions with the police regarding making the events as safe as possible.

The Wayne Street project is nearing completion and they are looking to bring that online within the next month or so.

Ms. Conine presented her Recreation Report.

The Seaside Camp will start on July 18th. There are great trips planned and the lifeguards are on duty since the 4th of July.

Commissioner Labrador thanked the young people who were working the checkpoint along with the lifeguards who have been providing safety coverage. He included Steve, Luann, Luis and



others who have been working so hard under pressure to make sure that the parks are open, clean and safe.

Commissioner Labrador said that there had been a small problem which involved the police. He said that the issue was handled appropriately and he would be speaking with Mr. Nadrizny, Mr. Burgos and Mr. Hladun about this. The Police Department did a great job controlling the traffic but he reminded everyone that there are somethings that the officers cannot control.

He thanked Ms. Urena for providing the Commissioners their information packets.

Commissioner Hosier said for the record regarding the resolution in July of 2020 regarding the determination of restoring the Columbus statue. He noted that at the August 2020 Special Meeting, they had committed to putting the statue up and that the Commission was still committed to this and would like to see it restored as per the Charter and their decree.

Council Member Matthew McCarthy greeted the Commissioners and stated that he was the new Council Liaison to the Parks Commission. He encouraged the Commissioner to reach out to him if they need anything.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

S.L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services