

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BOARD OF PARKS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2022**

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

**OTHERS:** Tatiana Urena, Parks Department; Louis Burgos, Parks Department; Luann Conine, Recreation; Lee Nastu, Recreation Coordinator; Associate City Attorney Eroll Skyers, Grace Brangwynne, Ned for CT, Christopher Caruso, Council of Italian-American Societies of Greater Bridgeport, Ct.; Barbara L. Geddis, Seaside Gateway Trail Volunteer; Scott Griffin, Cooperative Educational Services, Dr. Shanté T. Hanks, State of Connecticut Department of Housing; Fernando A. Hernandez, Rick Landau, Ash Creek Conservation Association, Brian Lockhart, CT Post; Joseph Perkus, Ned for CT, Rich Pettinelli, WSP; Beth Santa, Seaside Gateway Trail volunteer; Barbara Yaeger, Land Canvas.

**OPENING CEREMONY / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Labrador called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m. He noted that the meeting was being conducted via Zoom.

Commissioner Labrador led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**• August 9, 2022 (Regular Meeting)**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 9, 2022**

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

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 9, 2022 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM:**

Commissioner Labrador then read the following statement into the record:

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.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Shante Hanks, State of Connecticut Department of Housing, providing an update on the refinements of The Resilient Bridgeport Project. In addition, seeking approval to maintain the stormwater park upon completion of the Rebuild by Design project.**

Dr. Hanks greeted the Commissioners and stated she was present to give an update on the Redesign by Design project and said that her team members were also on the call. Mr. Pettinelli then narrated a PowerPoint presentation about Resilient Bridgeport. He indicated the location of where the two projects, RBD (former Marina Village) and RBV project (near Seaside Park) on an aerial photograph.

Mr. Pettinelli also displayed an artistic view of the proposed project design showing the Stormwater Park and the proposed extension of Johnson Street between Columbia Street and Iranistan Avenue. He explained what the Stormwater Park would entail and how it would alleviate the flooding issues in the area. It will be a passive park with walking trails in dry weather, but during a storm event, the park will act as a water retention area and moderate the discharge into the local waterway. The Stormwater Park will be where the former Marina Village buildings were located and have since been demolished. The majority of the construction will be taking place off road.

Mr. Pettinelli displayed views of what the proposed park will look like and noted that the trees that have been selected for the area are both fresh and salt water tolerant. There will be signage explaining the purpose of the park and one of the basins has been designed to collect any soil or debris that washes in. The slopes of the collection areas have been designed to be walkable and the deepest portion of the chambers will be no more than 3 ½ feet during a major storm event. He said that the roadwork would take about a month or two and there would be a detour in place during that time.

Dr. Hanks explained that the State was still in the design phase but needed the approval of the Parks Commission to take on the storm water park and later will be requesting approval for the pump station. This will allow them to complete the design phase. There will also be a request involving right of way with the local property owners. The project has been running on schedule, but there have been some delays regarding the delivery of materials.

Commissioner Labrador asked what maintenance responsibilities would be given to the Parks Department. Dr. Hanks said that it would be mowing the lawn and removing any road debris that collects.

Commissioner Labrador pointed out that as the City acquires more parks, there is more work and they will need more maintenance staff. The new park will eliminate some of the flooding that the area has experienced in the past.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOISER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 1. SHANTE HANKS, STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, PROVIDING AN UPDATE ON THE REFINEMENTS OF THE RESILIENT BRIDGEPORT PROJECT AT THE FORMER MARINA VILLAGE. IN ADDITION, SEEKING APPROVAL TO MAINTAIN THE STORMWATER PARK UPON COMPLETION OF THE REBUILD BY DESIGN PROJECT.**

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

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

**2. Christopher Caruso, Council of Italian-American Societies of Greater Bridgeport, CT, providing an update regarding the Christopher Columbus statue that was removed at Seaside Park.**

Mr. Caruso greeted the Commissioners and said that he was an officer of the Council of Italian-American Societies of Greater Bridgeport. He said that the statue of Columbus that had been in place for over 55 years was removed from Seaside Park in July of 2020 by the Mayor without the permission of the Parks Commission. The statue was locked away in storage for the last two years. A public hearing was held after the statue was removed. The majority of those in attendance at that hearing were in favor of the restoration of the statue. The Board voted to restore the statue. Mr. Caruso explained that he had been asked to reach out to the opposition, but his efforts were to no avail. Mr. Caruso said that since the statue was taken down unexpectedly, those responsible for its removal were emboldened and refused to discuss the issue. The contractor was hired to restore the statue but later was told not to do so.

The City administration has ignored the Parks Commission decision and now the Council is asking that the statue be returned to the Council of Italian-American Societies of Greater Bridgeport along with the pedestal and base. He then quoted the minutes from July 19, 1964 when the statue was placed in Seaside Park. Since the Italian-American Council no longer has permission to have the statue there, they wish to have the statue, the pedestal and base returned. The Council would also like to have the Parks Commission establish a more formal process for the placement or removal of a statue. There are no processes, policies or regulations currently in existence.

Mr. Caruso pointed out that history does not exist for people to like or dislike, but to learn from it. If the history offends people, it is even better since that means the people are less likely to repeat it. History is not there to be erased or destroy. Mr. Caruso thanked the Commissioners for their time and attention.

Commissioner Labrador pointed out that the statue was not owned by the City of Bridgeport but by Council of Italian-American Societies of Greater Bridgeport. The statue was removed without the knowledge of the Parks Commission but the Park Commission wished to have the statue restored, which has not happened. The Council of Italian-American Societies of Greater

Bridgeport would like the statue returned. Commissioner Labrador said that he was in favor of returning the statue to the Council.

Commissioner Hosier asked if the Council would be open to working on a compromise. He suggested a meeting with the Mayor. While he would support returning the statue, the Commission had requested a compromise and Commissioner Hosier said that he did not see that happening. He requested to extend the request another 30 days to discuss this with the Mayor. Discussion followed with Associate City Attorney Skyers.

Mr. Caruso said that Bridgeport would be holding the 113th Columbus Day Parade, which actually is the oldest Columbus Day celebration and predates the New York Columbus Day parade. Regardless of how people feel about the statue, it represents the Italian American community. He added that the removal of the statue was disrespectful to the Italian American community. He said that if the Commission would support the return of the statue, he said that the Parks Commission has dealt the fairest with the Italian American community. For the past two years, the statue has been stored in a barn. Mr. Caruso said that having the statue stored in a horse barn was also insulting to their community as it would be to any ethnic community. Since two years have come and gone, the Italian American community would like to have the statue returned. Mr. Caruso suggested the Commission vote to return the statue pending a legal opinion from the City Attorney's Office. The Italian-American Council has petitioned the Mayor regarding this repeatedly along with speaking to the Council President regarding having the statue restored to its former location in Seaside Park. The Italian-American Council would like to the statue returned to Seaside Park. The delays just continue the insult. He repeated that the Parks Commission had dealt with the Italian-American Council fairly and honorably, but letting the issue linger more than a month is disturbing.

Commissioner Hosier proposed the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Bridgeport grant to the Council Of Italian-American Societies Of Greater Bridgeport, Connecticut Inc. The possession of and authority over the Columbus statue and its pedestal.

Be it further resolved that the Parks and Recreation Commission continue to maintain its original desire to reach a compromise in this controversy.

Hereby calling for a meeting with the Mayor, the City Council President, and members of the Park Commission and others to reach an agreement that protects the heritage, the rights and grievances of the citizens of Bridgeport prior to the scheduled meeting of the Parks Commission Board on October 11, 2022.

Commissioner Hosier said that this would give control of the statue back to the Italian American community tonight but also clarify the issues regarding the statue that happened in 2020.

Commissioner Taylor-Moye expressed concerns that the City Attorney might decide the Commissioners' resolution was not valid. She said that she would support Commissioner Hosier's resolution. She also had several questions about the meetings. Commissioner Labrador reminded everyone that in the past, the administration told the Park Commission that they did not have the authority on various matters. Discussion followed.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, GRANT TO THE COUNCIL OF ITALIAN-AMERICAN SOCIETIES OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT INC. THE POSSESSION OF AND AUTHORITY OVER THE COLUMBUS STATUE AND ITS PEDESTAL.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN ITS ORIGINAL DESIRE TO REACH A COMPROMISE IN THIS CONTROVERSY.**

**HEREBY CALLING FOR A MEETING WITH THE MAYOR, THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, AND MEMBERS OF THE PARK COMMISSION AND OTHERS TO REACH AN AGREEMENT THAT PROTECTS THE HERITAGE, THE RIGHTS AND GRIEVANCES OF THE CITIZENS OF BRIDGEPORT PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE PARKS COMMISSION BOARD ON OCTOBER 11, 2022.**

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

Mr. Caruso asked if the City Attorney would be reviewing this item within the 30 days. Atty. Skyers gave a brief summary of the process for a legal review. He said that the Office would be able to review the matter and issue a response. Commissioner Labrador requested that Ms. Urena send out the legal request.

**3. Don Wilson, 56 Fairview Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host a Bridgeport City-Wide Sports and Anti-Violence Festival a.k.a. "Peace Week" on the following dates and locations:**

- a) McLevy Green: Saturday, June 3 – Sunday, June 4, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with over 150 people in attendance with food trucks, vendors, and a DJ-on site.**
- b) Seaside Park (Bandshell) & to include Fields and Diamonds: Saturday, June 10, 2023 (Juneteenth Parade & Festival) for sporting events beginning at 8:00**

**a.m.**

**c) Seaside Park (Fields): Sunday, June 11, 2023 to host sporting tournaments starting at 8:00 a.m.**

Mr. Wilson was not on the call.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 3. DON WILSON, 56 FAIRVIEW AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A BRIDGEPORT CITY-WIDE SPORTS AND ANTI-VIOLENCE FESTIVAL A.K.A. "PEACE WEEK" ON THE FOLLOWING DATES AND LOCATIONS:**

**A) MCLEVY GREEN: SATURDAY, JUNE 3 – SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023 FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. WITH OVER 150 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE WITH FOOD TRUCKS, VENDORS, AND A DJ-ON SITE.**

**B) SEASIDE PARK (BANDSHELL) & TO INCLUDE FIELDS AND DIAMONDS: SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023 (JUNETEENTH PARADE & FESTIVAL) FOR SPORTING EVENTS BEGINNING AT 8:00 A.M.**

**C) SEASIDE PARK (FIELDS): SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023 TO HOST SPORTING TOURNAMENTS STARTING AT 8:00 A.M.**

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

**4. Beth Santa, 71 Old Post Road, Southport, CT, providing a progress report on the Seaside Gateway Trail at Seaside Park.**

**5. Beth Santa, 71 Old Post Road, Southport, CT, requesting the Parks Department's approval to provide electrical support for the irrigation system in Seaside Park as part of the Seaside Gateway Trail.**

Ms. Santa greeted the Commissioners. She noted that the Old Post Road address was incorrect and that she resides on Lake Avenue in Bridgeport.

Ms. Santa, a Seaside Gateway Trail volunteer, then gave a brief update on the trail status to the Commissioners. She said that this was a landscape design just west of the Arch and including 17 trees and accessible trails. The trees are both wind and water tolerate. The tree canopy will support and replace the current canopy that has deteriorated. The Commission had previously

agreed to provide water to the site, for which the volunteer group is grateful. The Group applied for funding from the Environmental Task Force for Phase I and II of the project. They have continue to meet with a number of organizations for support of this project. Ms. Santa noted that there was a survey done of the site in 2022. A site plan was developed for the planting 17 native trees worth \$25,000 were donated for the project. The trees were planted on May 27th. She thanked the administration and Council for acknowledging Frederick Olmstead, the designer of the park. A water tap was installed and a watering schedule was developed, which allowed the trees to flourish during the drought.

Ms. Santa said that the Environmental Task Force had responded to the group with some questions regarding the amount of funding needed. Due to the funding requirements, the Friends of Seaside Park has been re-instituted and UB has agreed to be fiduciary responsibilities.

Ms. Santa said that they were requesting approval for the back flow irrigation system and noted that there might be the possibility of using solar power for the irrigation system.

Ms. Geddis said that they were thrilled to be so close to completion of the project. The trees have been planted and are protected from the deer.

Commissioner Labrador thanked all the volunteers who have worked to make the park better.

Ms. Geddis said that they would be so pleased to have some benches in the area. Commissioner Labrador asked the group to suggest how to place the benches. Ms. Geddis said that at one time there was a lot of shade in this area, but then it changed. Now the trees are growing again and the shade is coming back. Discussion followed about the possibility of using solar power for the irrigation. Ms. Geddis thanked Mr. Burgos for all his assistance.

Ms. Santa thanked Ms. Melanie Sproll of UB and the UB leadership for stepping up as fiduciary. It is a wonderful collaboration between the Park and UB.

Ms. Santa said that there would be a lot of activity when the Sound on the Sound event is held and that one of the active areas will be right where the new trees have been planted. She said that she had emailed organizations requesting updated maps about the locations of vendor tents and other activity in the area because the newly planted trees need to be protected from trucks and trash. Commissioner Labrador said that he would check on the area the following day. Photograph will be taken to document how the area looks.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 5. BETH SANTA, 71 OLD POST ROAD, SOUTHPORT, CT, REQUESTING THE PARKS DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL TO PROVIDE ELECTRICAL SUPPORT FOR THE IRRIGATION SYSTEM IN SEASIDE PARK AS PART OF THE SEASIDE GATEWAY TRAIL.**

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

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

**6. Rick Landau, Ash Creek Conservation Association, Inc., 20 Haddon Street, #3, Bridgeport, CT, requesting approval to continue enhancing the overall resiliency efforts of preserving the Ash Creek at St. Mary's by the Sea.**

Mr. Landau greeted the Commissioners and narrated a PowerPoint about the proposed Fall projects for St. Mary's By the Sea. This project includes a request for the City for the removal of Trees of Heaven, which is part of the goal of removing non-native invasive species and adding native plants back in the northeast corner, improving the aesthetics and weed reduction. There will be four native trees planted, along with 14 shrubs. The cost will be covered by a grant funding. He also displayed an aerial of the area of the sand spit where the work would take place.

There will also be work done on the area called "The Preserve", where a number of invasive species have been removed. Mulch has been spread to reduce the mugwort weeds. This project will also be funded with grant monies. Mr. Landau displayed an aerial photograph and indicated where the plantings and bird houses would be placed.

Mr. Landau then spoke about the area at the intersection of Gilman and Balmforth, where two trees had fallen into the creek due to erosion. He stated that the cost of the projects at this site would also be covered by the Ash Creek Conservation Association.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 6. RICK LANDAU, ASH CREEK CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, INC., 20 HADDON STREET, #3, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING APPROVAL TO CONTINUE ENHANCING THE OVERALL RESILIENCY EFFORTS OF PRESERVING THE ASH CREEK AT ST. MARY'S BY THE SEA.**

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

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

**7. Scott Griffin, Cooperative Educational Services, 40 Lindeman Drive, Trumbull, CT, requesting to host a Run/Walk on Saturday, October 29, 2022 at Seaside Park (West Beach) from 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for approximately 120 people in attendance.**

Mr. Griffin greeted the Commissioners and said that he had worked on this run for the last five years and gave the details of the route. Mr. Burgos said that there had not been any issues in the past. Mr. Lee Nastu, from the Recreation Department, confirmed that there were no issues.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER GRISBY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 7. SCOTT GRIFFIN, COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, 40 LINDEMAN DRIVE, TRUMBULL, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A RUN/WALK ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2022 AT SEASIDE PARK (WEST BEACH) FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 10:30 A.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 120 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**



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

**8. David Martin, Garden Bros Circus, 2187 Siesta Drive, Sarasota, FL, requesting to host a Family Fun Circus event at Seaside Park (Bandshell) in 2023. Load-in on Monday, July, 10, 2023; show dates: Thursday, July 13, 2023 thru Sunday, July 16, 2023 from 3:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and a load-out on Monday, July 17, 2023 for approximately 500 people in attendance.**

Ms. Urena said that she had received an email from the Garden Brothers asking that they be redacted from this agenda and moved to the October agenda. Ms. Urena said that this would be the second time they have submitted an application to the Parks Commission.

Commissioner Taylor-Moye said that she had questions about the types of animals that they would be using. Commissioner Labrador said that the new brochure did not mention any animals.

A discussion followed regarding whether they would remove the item and table the next item to October or deny them since this was their second application.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 8. DAVID MARTIN, GARDEN BROS CIRCUS, 2187 SIESTA DRIVE, SARASOTA, FL, REQUESTING TO HOST A FAMILY FUN CIRCUS EVENT AT SEASIDE PARK (BANDSHELL) IN 2023. LOAD-IN ON MONDAY, JULY, 10, 2023; SHOW DATES: THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023 THRU SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023 FROM 3:30 P.M. TO 9:30 P.M. AND A LOAD-OUT ON MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023 FOR APPROXIMATELY 500 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.  
\*\* COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**9. Tammie V. Smith, Praise Worthy Theater Group, 132 Richard Street, New Britain, CT, requesting to host a Vending Fundraising event for Praise Worthy Group on Saturday, October 1, 2022 at McLevy Green with approximately 25 vendors (including food) from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for about 0-50 people.**

Ms. Smith was not present on the call.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER GRISBY MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 9. TAMMIE V. SMITH, PRAISE WORTHY THEATER GROUP, 132 RICHARD STREET, NEW BRITAIN, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A VENDING FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR PRAISE WORTHY GROUP ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2022 AT MCLEVY GREEN WITH APPROXIMATELY 25 VENDORS (INCLUDING FOOD) FROM 1:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M. FOR ABOUT 0-50 PEOPLE.**

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

**10. Amanda Richards, 186 N State Street, Ansonia, CT, requesting to host a Community Outreach / Walk event for Mental Health Awareness on Saturday, October 15, 2022 at McLevy Green from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for approximately 80-100 people.**

Ms. Richards was not present on the call.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 10. AMANDA RICHARDS, 186 N STATE STREET, ANSONIA, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A COMMUNITY OUTREACH / WALK EVENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022 AT MCLEVY GREEN FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 80-100 PEOPLE.  
\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**11. Fernando A. Hernandez, 2 Grenelle Street, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host a BBQ on Saturday, September 17, 2022 at BJ Brown Park from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. with live music: DJ and band for approximately 100 people.**

Mr. Hernandez greeted the Commissioners and said that he would like to host a picnic with Mexican music for his local community. Commissioner Labrador reminded Mr. Hernandez that there were residents in the nearby area. Mr. Hernandez said that the band would not be using speakers. Commissioner Labrador pointed out that there was a basketball court there.

Commissioner Hosier said that the band could not play all the way up to 10 p.m. Commissioner Labrador said that the music would have to end at 8 p.m. and the remaining two hours would be for clean-up.

Commissioner Labrador asked the other Commissioners if it would be okay if he would review these details with Mr. Hernandez in Spanish. This was agreeable to all.

Mr. Hernandez said that the music would have to end at 8 p.m. and the remaining two hours would be for clean-up.

Commissioner Labrador asked if there would be enough garbage cans. Mr. Burgos said that he would make sure there would be enough garbage cans. The discussion then moved to whether there was a port-a-potty on site. Mr. Nastu said that there was a port-a-potty on site. Discussion followed about the fact that there was no lighting in that area.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 11. FERNANDO A. HERNANDEZ, 2 GRENELLE STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CT,**

**REQUESTING TO HOST A BBQ ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2022 AT BJ BROWN PARK FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 10:00 P.M. WITH LIVE MUSIC: DJ AND BAND FOR APPROXIMATELY 100 PEOPLE.**

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

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

Commissioner Labrador explained in Spanish that Mr. Hernandez would have to pick up a permit from Ms. Urena for the event.

**12. Grace Brangwynne, Ned for CT, 58 State Street, Hartford, CT, requesting to host a Rally for Ned Lamont on Saturday, October 22, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Beardsley Park with approximately 300-500 people in attendance.**

Commissioner Labrador asked Mr. Burgos to confirm that they could accommodate 300 to 500 people at the park at one time. Mr. Burgos said that this was so.

Ms. Brangwynne said that Mr. Joseph Perkus would give the Commission the details of the event. Mr. Perkus said that this would be a rally for Governor Lamont. He said that the campaign recognizes the importance of Bridgeport and said that the campaign understands that Beardsley would be able to accommodate the attendees. He said that there would be about four food trucks and would remain in contact with the Park Commission about this event. There will be some tables set up for organizations.

Commissioner Labrador said that they would like to have the information and details in print form. He asked Mr. Burgos whether they needed to close the park for the event. Commissioner Labrador said that the Commission and the Parks Department needed to know exactly where the planned on hosting the event. Mr. Perkus said that if they can host the event at the park, they would work with the Parks Department regarding location for a successful event. Commissioner Labrador said that if the Commission approve the item, it would be contingent on the fact that Mr. Perkus would have to work closely with Mr. Burgos regarding the location of the event. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Hosier expressed concerns about hosting a political event in a City Park and felt they should look for a venue not in the public domain.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO DENY AGENDA ITEM 12. GRACE BRANGWYNNE, NED FOR CT, 58 STATE STREET, HARTFORD, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A RALLY FOR NED LAMONT ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022 FROM 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. AT BEARDSLEY PARK WITH APPROXIMATELY 300-500 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

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

**\*\* THE MOTION TO DENY PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Perkus asked if he could appeal this because he thought that there had been political rallies in the park in the past. Commissioner Labrador said that he would look into this and encouraged Mr. Perkus to look into this on his end.

Mr. Wilson was now present on the call. Commissioner Labrador said that Mr. Wilson has served the City and had not heard of any complaints from the Parks staff.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER GRISBY MOVED TO PUT AGENDA ITEM 3. DON WILSON, 56 FAIRVIEW AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A BRIDGEPORT CITY-WIDE SPORTS AND ANTI-VIOLENCE FESTIVAL A.K.A. "PEACE WEEK" ON THE FOLLOWING DATES AND LOCATIONS:**

**A) MCLEVY GREEN: SATURDAY, JUNE 3 – SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023 FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 8:00**

**P.M. WITH OVER 150 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE WITH FOOD TRUCKS, VENDORS, AND A DJ-ON SITE.**

**B) SEASIDE PARK (BANDSHELL) & TO INCLUDE FIELDS AND DIAMONDS: SATURDAY, JUNE 10,**

**2023 (JUNETEENTH PARADE & FESTIVAL) FOR SPORTING EVENTS BEGINNING AT 8:00**

**A.M.**

**C) SEASIDE PARK (FIELDS): SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023 TO HOST SPORTING TOURNAMENTS**

**STARTING AT 8:00 A.M.**

**BACK ON THE AGENDA.**

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

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

**3. Don Wilson, 56 Fairview Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host a Bridgeport City-Wide Sports and Anti-Violence Festival a.k.a. "Peace Week" on the following dates and locations:**

**a) McLevy Green: Saturday, June 3 – Sunday, June 4, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with over 150 people in attendance with food trucks, vendors, and a DJ-on site.**

**b) Seaside Park (Bandshell) & to include Fields and Diamonds: Saturday, June 10, 2023 (Juneteenth Parade & Festival) for sporting events beginning at 8:00 a.m.**

**c) Seaside Park (Fields): Sunday, June 11, 2023 to host sporting tournaments starting at 8:00 a.m.**

Commissioner Labrador noted that on the June 11, 2023 submission for the event at Seaside Park, there was no conclusion time. Mr. Wilson said that they would be out by 4 p.m. Commissioner Labrador made a note that they would be out by 5 p.m.

Commissioner Labrador asked Mr. Nastu about the fields that might be available. Mr. Nastu said that they had worked with Mr. Wilson this past year and there were no problems. Mr. Nastu had a clear idea of what the event would require in terms of space and location.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 3. DON WILSON, 56 FAIRVIEW AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A BRIDGEPORT CITY-WIDE SPORTS AND ANTI-VIOLENCE FESTIVAL A.K.A. "PEACE WEEK" ON THE FOLLOWING DATES AND LOCATIONS:**

**A) MCLEVY GREEN: SATURDAY, JUNE 3 – SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023 FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. WITH OVER 150 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE WITH FOOD TRUCKS, VENDORS, AND A DJ-ON SITE.**

**B) SEASIDE PARK (BANDSHELL) & TO INCLUDE FIELDS AND DIAMONDS: SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023 (JUNETEENTH PARADE & FESTIVAL) FOR SPORTING EVENTS BEGINNING AT 8:00 A.M.**

**C) SEASIDE PARK (FIELDS): SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023 TO HOST SPORTING TOURNAMENTS STARTING AT 8:00 A.M.**

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

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

**REPORTS**

• **Commissioner's Report** – No report.

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

Commissioner Labrador said that Mr. Hladun was not able to attend the meeting. Ms. Conine said that earlier Mr. Hladun had submitted a Director's Report to Ms. Urena. Commissioner Hosier said that the first item had to do with approving the Sound on the Sound Festival event requesting temporary access to the concession stand as part of the event.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM THE SOUND ON THE SOUND FESTIVAL EVENT REQUESTING TEMPORARY ACCESS TO THE CONCESSION STAND AS PART OF THE EVENT.**

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

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

Ms. Conine said that Mr. Hladun had reviewed the report with Mr. Nadrizny on Wednesday.

Ms. Urena said that she would send out another copy. She gave a brief overview of the document. Commissioner Hosier said that he had read through it and the bullet points were listed.

Commissioner Labrador said that last week end had started off well, but did not end well. He said that they would revamp things for next year. He said that he was tired of people wanting to use Seaside Park but then complaining about it.

Ms. Conine said that the week before Labor Day, the lifeguards did a stellar job. She said that there were nine guards. When it was extremely hot, the guards sweat it out and did their jobs. She said that the administration should come down to see how well the Department is working.

Commissioner Labrador said that the Commissioners and the administration should be visiting the parks to see what great job the staff was doing. Commissioner Labrador asked how much the spot checkers had generated for the City. Ms. Conine said that they would know soon. Commissioner Labrador thanked everyone for all their hard work.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services