

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

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

OTHERS: Tatiana Urena, Parks Department; Luis Burgos, Parks Department; Luann Conine, Recreation; Sam, Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course; Craig Nadrizny, Acting Public Facilities Director; Steve Hladun, Parks Department; Atty. Errol Skyers, Associate City Attorney; Charles Carroll, The Barnum Festival; Caroline Vermont, West Indian American Association of Greater Bridgeport; Dr. Kwame Dunbar, West Indian American Association of Greater Bridgeport; Claudette Beamon, West Indian American Association of Greater Bridgeport; Efrain Colon, Puerto Rican Parade of Fairfield County, Inc.; Victor Luna Jr., Luna Entertainment Productions, LLC; Edward Greene, Sacred Heart University; Gary McNamara, Sacred Heart University Public Safety Director; Barbara Geddis, Geddis Architects; Elizabeth Santa, Seaside Gateway Project; Barbara Jaeger, Landscape Architect

This meeting was conducted via Zoom/Teleconference.

OPENING CEREMONY / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Labrador called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. Commissioner Labrador led those on the call in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• NOVEMBER 8, 2022 (REGULAR MEETING)

Ms. Urena said that Debra Devries Dalton had requested that the attendance for the November 8, 2022 meeting be amended to show that she was in attendance.

**** COMMISSIONER HOISER MOVED TO AMEND THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2022 REGULAR MEETING AS FOLLOWS:**

OTHERS: Tatiana Urena, Parks Department; Luann Conine, Recreation; Luis Burgos, Parks Department; Steve Hladun, Parks Department; Craig Nadrizny, Acting Public Facilities Director; Eroll Skyers, Esq. Barbara Geddis, unKlerol, Bishop Theodore T. Plummer, Full Gospel Church; Pastor Gabrielle Beam, Full Gospel Church; Timothy Cooper, March for Education Foundation; Beth Santa, Seaside Gateway Project, Debra

To:

OTHERS: Tatiana Urena, Parks Department; Luann Conine, Recreation; Luis Burgos, Parks Department; Steve Hladun, Parks Department; Craig Nadrizny, Acting Public Facilities Director; Eroll Skyers, Esq. Barbara Geddis, unKlerol, Bishop Theodore T. Plummer, Full Gospel Church; Pastor Gabrielle Beam, Full Gospel Church; Timothy Cooper, March for Education Foundation; Beth Santa, Seaside Gateway Project, Debra Devries Dalton

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.
** THE MOTION TO AMEND THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2022 REGULAR MEETING PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER HOISER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2022 REGULAR MEETING AS AMENDED
** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.
** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2022 REGULAR MEETING AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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 to sign-up for Public Speaking.

There was no one who wished to address the Commission at this time.

**** COMMISSIONER HOISER MOVED TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA UNDER NEW BUSINESS.
** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.
** THE MOTION TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA UNDER NEW BUSINESS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Vermont, Dr. Dunbar and Ms. Beamon of the West Indian American Association of Greater Bridgeport greeted the Commissioners and said that they wished to hold their festival at the

Seaside Park Bandshell on August 19th started at 12 noon to 8 p.m. The group would start set up at 8:00 a.m. with clean-up to be finished by 9:00 p.m.

Commissioner Labrador said that they should submit a diagram showing if there will be fencing along with exits and entrances. Port-a-potties need to be included. Ms. Beamon said that they would be hiring police officers as required and will be seeking approvals from the City Departments. Fencing will be erected.

Commissioner Labrador said that they should bring the additional information to the January meeting. Ms. Vermont said that they had held the event at Seaside Park one other time and it went smoothly.

**** COMMISSIONER HOISER MOVED TO HOLD THE DATE OF SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023 FOR THE WEST INDIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT.**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO HOLD THE DATE OF SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023 FOR THE WEST INDIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

1. Approval of the 2023 Board of Park Commissioners monthly meeting calendar.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2023 BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS MONTHLY MEETING CALENDAR.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Charles Carroll, The Barnum Festival, 277 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host three (3) events:

1a – On Friday, June 30, 2023 the Barnum Festival Fireworks at Seaside Park Band Shell with entertainment and food trucks.

2a – On Saturday, July 1, 2023 the Drums Corps use fields at Seaside Park and Kennedy Stadium. The competition at Kennedy Stadium is to end by 9:30 p.m.

3a – On Sunday, July 2, 2023 the Barnum Parade with a new parade route will end at Seaside Park Band Shell with food trucks and entertainment to follow.

Ms. Conine requested that those in attendance take a moment in memory of Mr. Carroll family who recently lost his son and his nephew last month.

Mr. Carroll said that it was the 75th anniversary of the Barnum Festival. Mr. George Estrada has been selected as Ring Master. He then reviewed the dates and events with the Commissioners. The parade route has been changed and start at Capital Avenue and will end at the band shell.

**** COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 2 -- CHARLES CARROLL, THE BARNUM FESTIVAL, 277 FAIRFIELD AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST THREE (3) EVENTS:**

1A – ON FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2023 THE BARNUM FESTIVAL FIREWORKS AT SEASIDE PARK BAND SHELL WITH ENTERTAINMENT AND FOOD TRUCKS.

2A – ON SATURDAY, JULY 1, 2023 THE DRUMS CORPS USE FIELDS AT SEASIDE PARK AND KENNEDY STADIUM. THE COMPETITION AT KENNEDY STADIUM IS TO END BY 9:30 P.M.

3A – ON SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2023 THE BARNUM PARADE WITH A NEW PARADE ROUTE WILL END AT SEASIDE PARK BAND SHELL WITH FOOD TRUCKS AND ENTERTAINMENT TO FOLLOW.

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

3. Efrain Colon, Puerto Rican Parade of Fairfield County, Inc., P.O. Box 447, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host the Puerto Rican Day Parade from Central High School to Seaside Park with a Festival to follow at Seaside Band Shell on Sunday, July 9, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. with a set-up at 5:00 a.m. for approximately 10,000 people in attendance.

Mr. Colon greeted the Commissioners. He said this would be their 30th anniversary. This will be the same route they have used in the past and described the various landmarks. He requested that they have more garbage cans available.

Commissioner Labrador, said that they needed to review the planned events to make sure everyone was on the same page. Mr. Colon said that the parade route had not been approved by the Police Department until two days before the event. Commissioner Labrador repeated that they need to have the site plan with everything marked on it. Mr. Colon said that he would provide that plan.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 3. EFRAIN COLON, PUERTO RICAN PARADE OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY, INC., P.O. BOX 447, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST THE PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE FROM CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL TO SEASIDE PARK WITH A FESTIVAL TO FOLLOW AT SEASIDE BAND SHELL ON SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2023 FROM 11:00 A.M.**

TO 8:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP AT 5:00 A.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 10,000 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE WITH THE STIPULATION THAT THEY RECEIVE A COMPLETE SITE PLAN WITH ALL THE ACTIVITIES SHOWN ON THE PLAN IN ADVANCE.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Colon thanked the Commissioners and invited everyone to attend the event.

4. Victor Luna Jr., Luna Entertainment Productions, LLC, 17 Chapin Place, Hartford, requesting to host a Pop-Up Latino Festival at McLevy Green with street closure of Bank Street on Saturday, September 16, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for approximately 1,000 people with food vendors and entertainment.

Mr. Luna greeted the Commissioners and explained that he was also a Commissioner for the City of Hartford Police Review Board.

Commissioner Labrador asked Mr. Luna if this was his first event. Mr. Luna confirmed that it would be his first event in Bridgeport. Commissioner Labrador explained that The Parks Department has no jurisdiction on the street closures. Those would have to be approved by the Police Department.

Commissioner Labrador asked if this was a for profit event. Mr. Luna said that they have both a for profit and non-profit branch. This event will be handled through their non-profit branch.

Mr. Nadrizny said that the organization would have to provide their own port-a-potties.

Discussion followed about the details regarding the street vendors and the entertainment acts.

Commissioner Wade noted that there was no set up time noted. Mr. Luna said that they would be setting up at 8 a.m. Clean up will start by 6:30 p.m. and they will be done by 8:00 p.m.

Commissioner Labrador said that Mr. Luna must have all his permits signed off before the event or they cannot hold it.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 4. VICTOR LUNA JR., LUNA ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTIONS, LLC, 17 CHAPIN PLACE, HARTFORD, REQUESTING TO HOST A POP-UP LATINO FESTIVAL AT MCLEVY GREEN WITH STREET CLOSURE OF BANK STREET ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023 FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 1,000 PEOPLE WITH FOOD VENDORS AND ENTERTAINMENT.**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Commissioner Labrador asked Mr. Luna to bring him a site plan layout showing the vendor locations. Mr. Luna said that he would and thanked Ms. Urena for her help. He added that there was a website that showed videos and photos of past events the group had held.

5. Edward Greene, Sacred Heart University, 5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, CT, is requesting the use of the Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course parking lot on Saturday, January 14, 2023 and Tuesday, February 7, 2023 for two arena events against Boston College.

Mr. Greene greeted the Commissioners. He noted that Mr. Gary McNamara, the head of Sacred Heart Public Safety Department, was also on the call.

Commissioner Labrador said that the group was looking for overflow parking for the event. He asked who would be liable if a vehicle was damaged and also wished to know if they had checked with the restaurant to see if there was any events scheduled.

Mr. Greene said that the new wing would be completed on the West Campus and the grand opening would be on the January 14th date. They expect a sell-out crowd and will be utilizing their on campus parking. This lot would be for satellite parking. They do not want to have vehicles parking on the neighborhood streets. The golf course lot would be staffed with security personnel and they will work with their Risk Management Department. The risk would be assumed by the University, not by the City. Mr. Greene said that he would check with the restaurant about potential events.

Commissioner Labrador said that they could hold the dates pending the verification that there are no events at the restaurant.

Mr. Sam from the golf course had a number of questions pertaining to snow removal, opening the gates, slips and falls and ice melt material distributed as needed. Discussion about the details followed.

Mr. McNamara explained that the University leases parking from the Trumbull Mall for student overflow parking on the Madison Avenue side. The University provides insurance, a shuttle and security for that area. The University does not want to incur any liability on the City because they want to work with the city. He said that it looks like these two games may be heavily attended and they are looking at the Yale parking garage in Trumbull also. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Grisby asked who would be providing security. Mr. Greene said that the University would be providing the security for the events.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 5. EDWARD GREENE, SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY, 5151 PARK AVENUE, FAIRFIELD, CT, IS REQUESTING THE USE OF THE FAIRCHILD WHEELER GOLF COURSE PARKING LOT ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2023 AND TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7,**

2023 FOR TWO ARENA EVENTS AGAINST BOSTON COLLEGE WITH THE STIPULATION THAT THE CONTRACT IS APPROVED BY BOTH THE PARKS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AND THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

**** COMMISSIONER GRISBY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. Barbara Geddis, Geddis Architects, 71 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT, providing an update on the Seaside Gateway Project at Seaside Park.

Ms. Geddis said that they were presenting an update on the Seaside Gateway Trail project. The drawings were completed in mid-November and the plans have been forwarded to the City Engineer. The plan was to try to start construction in November, but the weather will prevent the pouring of concrete. They are hoping to start in the spring when the weather is more reliable.

Ms. Santa thanked Mr. Hladun and Mr. Nadrizny for their support. Once they have all the approvals, they will be able to get the ETF to release the funding.

Commissioner Labrador thanked both Ms. Geddis and Ms. Santa along with their volunteers for their work on beautifying the park. Ms. Geddis thanked the Commissioners for their support of the project. Commissioner Hosier thanked the group for their work. Commissioner Grisby said that he had seen the project site and felt it was going to be beautiful once it is completed.

REPORTS

Commissioner's Report – John M. Hosier

Commissioner Hosier said that this was a formality regarding discussions held in the past.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER THEN MOVED THE FOLLOWING MOTION:**

TO ANALYZE, ASSESS AND REVIEW ALL APPLICABLE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT PERMIT FEES, WITH SPECIFIC ATTENTION TO ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS HELD IN PARKS AND THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH FACILITATING SUCH EVENTS; AND TO REPORT TO THE BOARD ITS FINDINGS SO THAT ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS MAY CONSIDER TO MAKE A MOTION ON TO EITHER KEEP THE SAME, MODIFY OR EXPAND UPON. (CITY CHARTER AND ORDINANCE, 2.50.040, 12.28.030, 5.48.150, 12.28.80, 12.28.180.)

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

Mr. Hladun presented the Director's Report, which was included in the information packet.

Mr. Hladun said that they would like a formal motion on the McGovern Park Playground Improvements. There are a few existing playground structures and the Department would like to add to that. They will share the final installation plans with the Committee. The Contract is being finalized by the City Attorney's Office and funding had been identified.

**** COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED MCGOVERN PARK PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS AS PRESENTED.**

**** COMMISSIONER GRISBY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Hladun said that they would like to have approval of a small memorial stone located in Seaside Park at the base of a tree reading "Joyce Nastu, 'Butch', Forever in our hearts." This is located in an area where there are already memorial benches.

Commissioner Taylor-Moye asked if this would become a regular practice. Mr. Hladun said that right now, they don't have a formal process, but present the requests to the Parks Commission. He said that memorial benches are quite popular

**** COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A SMALL MEMORIAL STONE AT THE BASE OF A TREE READING "JOYCE NASTU, 'BUTCH', FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS."**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Hladun said that there had been a request for a memorial bench at Seaside Park to be installed near the main beach by the bath houses. This bench would honor Jeanette Nadrizny, who was born and raised in Bridgeport and worked for the City of Bridgeport for over 30 years.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A MEMORIAL BENCH IN HONOR OF JEANETTE NADRIZNY, WHO WAS BORN AND RAISED IN BRIDGEPORT AND WORKED FOR THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT FOR OVER 30 YEARS.**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Hladun said that they had to remove a playground structure that was in poor condition from West Beach. He said that he had just received a site plan for the area and he gave the details. A consultant has submitted plans, which was displayed on the screen for the Commissioners. He assured the Commissioners that the Department will keep them informed every step of the way.

City of Bridgeport

Board of Parks Commissioners

Regular Meeting

December 13, 2022

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED REPLACEMENT SITE PLAN FOR THE PLAYGROUND AREA AT WEST BEACH AS PRESENTED.**

**** COMMISSIONER GRISBY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Hladun said that there were some updates about Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course and they were looking to open some bids for reconstructing one of the bunkers on the Black Course. There are also upgrades for the First Tee program.

Mr. Hladun gave a brief overview of the additional work being done at other parks including Knowlton, Majestic and the LED message sign board. Leaf collection and stump grinding are wrapping up. The tree lighting and concert at McLevy Green went off well.

An application for a Historical Restoration Grant for the Seaside Park Arch project has been submitted. The Department hopes to hear by February about repairing the roof and repairing the plumbing. The West Beach Bath House permit process is continuing along with the steel cable guard rail project at St. Mary's and a number of other projects.

Ms. Conine presented her report to the Commission. She said that they were starting their Saturday leagues soon. The two City pools are closed down, so they are working with the Sheehan Center to use that pool.

Commissioner Labrador thanked Mr. Hladun, Ms. Conine and the rest of the staff for everything they have done to promote and care for the parks.

The Commissioners wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone. Commissioner Labrador expressed his sympathy to the Carroll family in their recent loss.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services.

City of Bridgeport
Board of Parks Commissioners
Regular Meeting
December 13, 2022