

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BOARD OF PARKS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

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

OTHERS: Tatiana Urena, Parks Department; Luann Conine, Recreation; Sam, Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course; Craig Nadrizny, Public Facilities; Luis Burgos, Parks Department; Ivette Cabrera, Norma Pfriem Breast Cancer Program; Leslie Caraballo, A.R.C.; Robert DeCrescenzo, University of Bridgeport; Mark S. Fois, Aquarion Water Company Senior Engineer; Milta Feliciano, Puerto Rican Parade of Fairfield County; LaResse Harvey, Ms. Greenberg, Ash Creek Conservation Association; Rebecca Haas, Success Village; Bryan Harrell, University of Bridgeport; Will Grant, Tata and Howard Consulting Engineers; Virginia King, Brooklawn 7th Day Adventist Church; Rick Landau, Ash Creek Conservation Association; David Lombardo, Tata and Howard Consulting Engineers, Atty. James Maye, City of Bridgeport; Kate Spain;

OPENING CEREMONY / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Labrador greeted everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m. He led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Urena called the roll. A quorum was present. She noted that Commissioner Cotto was not able to attend the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF:

• JANUARY 10, 2023 (REGULAR MEETING)

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 10, 2023 REGULAR MEETING.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 10, 2023 REGULAR MEETING AS SUBMITTED 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.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Efrain Colon, Puerto Rican Parade of Fairfield County, Inc., P.O. Box 447, Bridgeport, CT, returning to provide an update on the event layout at Seaside Park Band Shell for the Puerto Rican Day Parade 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.

Ms. Milta Feliciano said that she was present to speak about the Puerto Rican Day Parade. She said that they needed to create a list of vendors and asked if the Commission could accept a draft listing of the vendors. Commissioner Labrador suggested that the group request to appear before the Commission a month or so before the event. Ms. Urena said that the date has been reserved. Discussion followed about the details.

Commissioner Labrador said that last year, when he and Mr. Burgos had visited the site on the day of the event, there was a rock climbing wall that no one had been told about.

**** COMMISSIONER WADE MOVED TO HOLD THE DATE FOR AGENDA ITEM OB-1 EFRAIN COLON, PUERTO RICAN PARADE OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY, INC., P.O. BOX 447, BRIDGEPORT, CT, RETURNING TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE EVENT LAYOUT AT SEASIDE PARK BAND SHELL FOR THE PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE 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.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mark S. Fois, Senior Engineer, Aquarion Water Company, 600 Lindley Street, Bridgeport, CT, requesting that the city considers selling a small tract near the Aquarion Water Company's pump station located at the Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course to build a replacement facility or easement.

Mr. Fois greeted the Commission and said that there were two gentlemen from the consulting firm to give more details. He went on to explain that the current pump station was located adjacent to the tract of land that they were proposing. The pump station is outdated and needs to

be replaced because it no longer is able to provide service to the area. Aquarion tries to expand facilities wherever they can, but this is not possible for this station. They need to replace the building and use the current driveway. Being able to connect the two parcels would be helpful.

Mr. Fois said that he had a PowerPoint slide deck available. They have worked to insure that the project makes sense to both the Water Company and the Golf Course. Mr. Will Grant and Mr. David Lombardo of Tata and Howard narrated the presentation for the Commissioners.

Mr. Grant showed an aerial view of the existing site and also indicated where the easement would be. The area is not being currently utilized. The extent of the easement would be at the fence line and there is a cart path that runs nearby. However, there is no active golf play in that area. Photos of current pump station, which looks like a brick residence, were displayed. The facility currently serves two areas including Easton, Fairfield, Trumbull and Bridgeport. The current equipment can only run one pump and is past its service life. The new facility will allow for two pumps to be in use if necessary along with a generator. He also gave an overview of the security involved. There will be sound mitigation included.

Commissioner Wade asked how much this would cost the residents. She was told that it would be internally funded. At a future point, the regulatory committee may give Aquarion permission to increase their rates.

Commissioner Labrador asked Sam if it would impact the golf course. Sam said that it would not.

Commissioner Hosier asked if the property was in Bridgeport. He was told that it was part of the golf course and did not know if it was part of Fairfield or Trumbull. Discussion followed about the detailed.

Mr. Fois explained that due to State statute, Aquarion is not required to get permit from the Town of Fairfield.

Commissioner Labrador pointed out that the Park Board generally does not sell off park land. He also mentioned that when the walk through of the site was done, the Park Board was not involved. He also asked what the value of that parcel would be.

Mr. Fois said that leasing the land would be acceptable to Aquarion. He said that the plans were drafted so that if they received permission, they could go out to bid quickly. It was never their intent to exclude the Parks Board. Mr. Fois also mentioned that the City Attorney had been advised of it. Mr. Fois explained that he did not know at this point what the value of that parcel would be.

Commissioner Labrador said that he was tired of being the third group in line to be informed about projects like this involving park land. He added that they would also have to know about the finances and where that revenue would go. While he would love to see the project go forward, it is important to have all the information.

The discussion moved to the easement request. Commissioner Hosier said that he would want to see the potential agreement that the City Attorney's Office and Aquarion. He suggested that they table the item until the contract can be reviewed.

Mr. Fois said that he would follow up on the Park Board's concerns. He added that the City Attorneys did not give them any indication that they could approve the project without the Parks Department.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 1. MARK S. FOIS, SENIOR ENGINEER, AQUARION WATER COMPANY, 600 LINDLEY STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING THAT THE CITY CONSIDERS SELLING A SMALL TRACT NEAR THE AQUARION WATER COMPANY'S PUMP STATION LOCATED AT THE FAIRCHILD WHEELER GOLF COURSE TO BUILD A REPLACEMENT FACILITY OR EASEMENT.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. James Maye, City Attorney's Office, providing an update to the First Amendment of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the University of Bridgeport and the City of Bridgeport regarding amending the current license for Diamond #1 to include Diamond #2 at Seaside Park.

Atty. Maye said that the University of Bridgeport's MOU with the City had expired and the University was looking to amend it with two items. They were looking to include Diamond #2 and would like to have it extend to expire at the same time as the agreement involving Diamond #1.

Commissioner Labrador said that the Parks Board had been very accommodating to the University but the University had frequently ignored the rules for the general public.

Mr. Nadrizny said that the University has all new management and that the new management team has reached out to Public Facilities along with the City Attorney's Office. He noted that there were representatives from the University on the call.

Mr. Bryant Harrell greeted the Commissioner and apologized for the issues that the previous University staff had with the Parks Board. He said he appreciated everything Commissioner Labrador said regarding the concerns. Mr. Harrell also apologized for submitting the request so

late. He said that he understood that the fields were shared with other groups also. He said that if there were any issues involving University staff, they should contact him immediately. The University has invested money in the fields in terms of maintenance. They would like to maintain the relationship with the Parks Board and the City. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Hosier displayed a photo of the storage area that the University uses. Mr. Harrell said that he would have it taken care of as soon as possible.

Another photo showed some fencing in need of repair. A University staff member said that he had walked the field last week and noticed the damage. It is in the process of being repaired.

Commissioner Hosier then explained that the next photo showed a portion of the park where cars often parked. However, parking vehicles on the grass is not allowed.

Commissioner Hosier said that he had an issue with the ten year lease agreement and asked the Board about possibly having a five year agreement. Commissioner Labrador asked to meet with Mr. Harrell at the park to talk about this. He also asked if the agreement needed to be for ten years. It was suggested that the Commission renew for five years, with the understanding that they could go forward with the agreement for another five years.

Commissioner Labrador said that the amount of time that Mr. Harrell has spent with the Commission was more than any of the time University staff had spent with them. Mr. Harrell said that he was willing to come to the Board once a year to make sure everything was as it should be. Commissioner Hosier said that he could agree with a ten year lease with the specification.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO AGENDA ITEM 2. JAMES MAYE, CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, PROVIDING AN UPDATE TO THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT AND THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT REGARDING AMENDING THE CURRENT LICENSE FOR DIAMOND #1 TO INCLUDE DIAMOND #2 AT SEASIDE PARK WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ISSUES REGARDING THE CLEAN UP AND REPAIR OF THE AREAS DISCUSSED AND A REVIEW OF THE MOU AFTER FIVE YEARS.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Atty. Maye reminded everyone that if this agreement was approved, it would have to commence by March 15, 2023. Commissioner Labrador said that he did not think this would be a problem.

3. Ivette Cabrera, Norma Pfriem Breast Cancer, 267 Grant Street, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host a Walk/Stroll event on Saturday, October 7, 2023 starting from

Captain's Cove to St. Mary's by the Sea and back to Captain's Cove from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. for approximately 250 people. Rain date on Sunday, October 8, 2023.

Ms. Urena explained that the group had resubmitted their application and the date and location on the agenda had changed.

**** COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA FOR THE NORMA PFRIEM BREAST CANCER APPLICATION AS FOLLOWS:**

FROM 3. IVETTE CABRERA, NORMA PFRIEM BREAST CANCER, 267 GRANT STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A WALK/STROLL EVENT ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023 STARTING FROM CAPTAIN'S COVE TO ST. MARY'S BY THE SEA AND BACK TO CAPTAIN'S COVE FROM 8:30 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 250 PEOPLE. RAIN DATE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023.

TO: IVETTE CABRERA, NORMA PFRIEM BREAST CANCER, 267 GRANT STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A WALK/STROLL EVENT ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023 STARTING FROM AND ENDING AT BLACK ROCK YACHT CLUB VIA ST. MARY'S BY THE SEA FROM 8:30 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 250 PEOPLE.

**** COMMISSIONER GRISBY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Cabrera reviewed the changes in location. Commissioner Labrador said that they needed to figure out if they needed to close off public streets even though much of it would be on sidewalks. Ms. Cabrera outlined the route and said that they would be accompanied by a police car. Mr. Nadrizny said that the group would have to get a permit from the Police Department. Commissioner Labrador said that it would be important to have the participants remain on the sidewalks wherever possible.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 3. IVETTE CABRERA, NORMA PFRIEM BREAST CANCER, 267 GRANT STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A WALK/STROLL EVENT ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023 STARTING FROM AND ENDING AT BLACK ROCK YACHT CLUB VIA ST. MARY'S BY THE SEA FROM 8:30 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 250 PEOPLE WITH THE STIPULATION THAT THEY OBTAIN A PERMIT FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

**** COMMISSIONER GRISBY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. LaResse Harvey, 161 Howe Street, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host a Community Outreach event at Seaside Park Band Shell on Saturday, August 26, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with a setup time of 8:00 a.m. for approximately 200 people.

Ms. Harvey, of Once Incarcerated Anonymous, said that they would like to do a Back To School Backpack for the impacted community members of formerly incarcerated people. She introduced her project partner, Ms. Leslie Carballo, of A.R.C. [Accomplishing Real Change].

Ms. Harvey said that that she would like to correct the number of expected attendees to 200+ since they realized it was most likely that each family would be at least three people. They will have 100 backpacks to give away promised by sponsors. They also want to educate the community about financial literacy. Ms. Harvey reviewed their plans including vendors, registration, speakers and poetry competitions.

Ms. Caraballo said that it was important to give encouragement to the children of formerly incarcerated individuals. It is impactful when the children see and hear individuals who are working to prevent the children from walking the same path. She spoke about the programs that she has been partnering with to reach out to incarcerated individuals.

Commissioner Labrador asked about the type of music they would be playing. It needs to have clean lyrics. Ms. Harvey said that she would not play questionable music. He added they would have to bring their own sound equipment and there was only limited power at the bandshell.

The discussion moved to the vendors. Commissioner Labrador said that they needed to have a layout for the area where the vendors will be. He asked the organizers to come back next month with the plan.

Commissioner Taylor-Moye asked if they had done advertising yet. Ms. Harvey said that they had not advertised because they need the approval first. Discussion followed about the involvement of religious communities.

**** COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO RESERVE THE REQUESTED DATES FOR AGENDA ITEM 4. LARESSE HARVEY, 161 HOWE STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT AT SEASIDE PARK BAND SHELL ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M. WITH A SETUP TIME OF 8:00 A.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 200 PEOPLE WITH THE STIPULATION THAT THE ORGANIZERS PROVIDE THE COMMISSION WITH A SITE PLAN LAYOUT.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. Rebecca Haas, Success Village, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host a meeting at Success

Park's Parking Lot regarding the Success Village Association on Saturday, March 4, 2023 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Haas requested that the date be changed to March 11th. She said that Success Village had a number of buildings and over 900 units. The current Board is not serving the community well, and a petition has been created. The group now needs to hold a special meeting and need a venue. Ms. Haas said that she had access to a 20' by 40' tent. She said that she is anticipating a large turnout. Ms. Nadrizny said that he was aware of the area and his concern was that the parking lot was very small. Ms. Haas said that one of the reasons the site was selected was because most of the residents could walk there. Also, a nearby temple has agreed that the residents could use their parking lot if needed. Discussion followed about the use of portable propane heaters.

**** COMMISSIONER GRISBY MOVED TO AMEND THE APPLICATION TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:**

- **AN ADJUSTED DATE OF MARCH 11, 2023,**
- **THE TIME OF EVENT CHANGED FROM 1 P.M. TP 5 P.M.**
- **INCLUDE THE CHANGE USE OF A 20' X 40' TENT AND**
- **THE USE OF PROPANE HEATERS**

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A discussion followed regarding the potential need for electrical use.

**** COMMISSIONER GRISBY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 5. REBECCA HAAS, SUCCESS VILLAGE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A MEETING AT SUCCESS PARK'S PARKING LOT REGARDING THE SUCCESS VILLAGE ASSOCIATION WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:**

- **AN ADJUSTED DATE OF MARCH 11, 2023,**
- **THE TIME OF EVENT CHANGED FROM 1 P.M. TP 5 P.M.**
- **INCLUDE THE CHANGE USE OF A 20' X 40' TENT AND**
- **THE USE OF PROPANE HEATERS**

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. Virginia King, Brooklawn 7th Day Adventist Church, 169 Harmony Street, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host a Community Outreach event at Seaside Park Bandshell on Sunday,

August 6, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a setup at 7:00 a.m. for approximately 150 people.

Ms. King said that they wished to hold a Health Expo with Impact Bridgeport. She said that along with the health services, they will also have a bouncy house. Commissioner Labrador said that they would need to have insurance for the bouncy house. They will also provide port-a-potties.

**** COMMISSIONER WADE MOVED TO AGENDA ITEM 6. VIRGINIA KING, BROOKLAWN 7TH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, 169 HARMONY STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT AT SEASIDE PARK BANDSHELL ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M. WITH A SETUP AT 7:00 A.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 150 PEOPLE.
** COMMISSIONER GRISBY SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. Rick Landau, Ash Creek Conservation Association, 146 Grovers Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting approval to install a sand spit at St. Mary's by-the-Sea for a split rail fence and to temporarily rope off two sections; to protect nesting animals and vegetation.

Mr. Landau explained that there was a typo on the agenda. It should read "to install at the sand spit" rather than "to install a sand spit". Mr. Landau then presented a PowerPoint slide deck regarding the project. They are requesting permission to install a temporary fence for diamond back terrapins and horseshoe crabs nests. He indicated where the restricted area would be on an aerial photo of the sand spit.

Commissioner Labrador said that a split rail fence would blend in with the area. He said that he felt this would be an improvement to the area.

**** COMMISSIONER GRISBY MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 7. RICK LANDAU, ASH CREEK CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, 146 GROVERS AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING APPROVAL TO INSTALL AT THE SAND SPIT AT ST. MARY'S BY-THE-SEA FOR A SPLIT RAIL FENCE AND TO TEMPORARILY ROPE OFF TWO SECTIONS; TO PROTECT NESTING ANIMALS AND VEGETATION.
** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REPORTS

1. Commissioner's Report

City of Bridgeport
Board of Parks Commissioners
Regular Meeting
February 14, 2023

Commissioner Hosier asked why they were not holding meetings in person. Mr. Nadrizny said that they would have to find a location for that meeting.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO HOLD THE MARCH OR APRIL MEETING IN PERSON.**

Mr. Nadrizny cautioned the Commission that they would have to identify a location. The Newfield Library was suggested as a potential location.

Ms. Urena pointed out that some of their applicants were from out of state. Ms. Urena also pointed out that the recording secretary might not be able to attend in person.

Commissioner Grisby asked if the meeting times would change. Commissioner Labrador said that they might change the time to 6:00 p.m.

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

Mr. Nadrizny then displayed a copy of the various park projects that was included in the Commissioners' information packets.

Commissioner Labrador asked about Lind Park because it does not appear to be very visible. Mr. Nadrizny said that the Police Department had concerns about illegal activities in the park. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Labrador said that Bridgeport has the most beautiful parks and that they should be very proud of them. He noted that the Parks Department works very hard to make these parks beautiful. There are numerous recreation programs that help the youth and adults with positive activities.

Ms. Conine said that Commissioner Labrador had presented her report.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER WADE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

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

**** THE MOTION TO ADJOURN PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

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