

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BOARD OF PARKS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 11, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Banjed Labrador, President; Cruz Cotto, Vice Chair; John Mark Hosier, Denese Taylor-Moye, Lillian Wade

OTHERS: Tatiana Urena, Parks Department; Craig Nadrizny, Public Facilities Director; Police Captain Manuel Cotto, Associate City Attorney James Maye, David Daniels III, Sarsfield Ford, Renee Gibson, LaResse Harvey, Ted Thomas, Ted Thomas Dance Foundation, Council Member Matt McCarthy, Joseph Pagan, Bluefish Youth Baseball, Luann Conine, Recreation, Sam Kadi, Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course; Shante Glover, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., Atty. Errol Skyers, Aida Z. Rivera, Latin Expo and Community Outreach, LaResse Harvey, Once Incarcerated Anonymous; Leslie Caraballo, ARC; Ms. Leslie Gibson, ARC; Council Member Alfredo Castillo – 136th District – Bangladesh American Association of CT; Luis Burgos, Parks Department; Chadwick Schroeder, Department of Public Facilities, Zoe Glover, Beardsley Zoo; Des Flemmings, Beardsley Zoo, Kellie Taylor, East Side Neighborhood Revitalization, Rick Landau, Ash Creek Conservation Association Inc., Lee Nastu, Joseph Pagan, Bluefish Youth Baseball, Bret Caulfield, Tree Warden, Pedro

This meeting was held via Zoom.

OPENING CEREMONY / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Labrador greeted everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:45 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:

• MARCH 14, 2023 (REGULAR MEETING)

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 14, 2023 REGULAR MEETING.**

City of Bridgeport
Board of Parks Commissioners
Regular Meeting
April 11, 2023

**** COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.
** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 14, 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 signed up for Public Speaking.

OLD BUSINESS

1. James Maye, City Attorney's Office, Bridgeport, CT, submitting an update on the Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Bridgeport and the City of Bridgeport regarding the Baseball Fields located at Seaside Park.

Atty. Maye said that he had come before the Board previously regarding Diamond 2 and the Commissioners had concerns about the length of time being 10 years. Atty. Maye then explained that the agreement had been amended to allow for termination after five years if so desired. He said that they were looking for authorization for Mr. Nadrizny to sign off on the MOU.

Commissioner Hosier asked if the certificate of liability was up to date. Atty. Maye said that the certificate was up to date and there is an umbrella contract also.

**** COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM OB 1.
JAMES MAYE, CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, SUBMITTING AN
UPDATE ON THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE
UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT AND THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT REGARDING
THE BASEBALL FIELDS LOCATED AT SEASIDE PARK.**

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

2. Helen Limberis, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 4070 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to use the overflow parking of Veteran's Memorial Park for their annual Greek Festival and Fair from Friday, June 2, 2023 to Sunday, June 4, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for approximately 200 people.

There was no one on the call to present the application.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM OB 2 HELEN
LIMBERIS, HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, 4070 PARK AVENUE,**

BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO USE THE OVERFLOW PARKING OF VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK FOR THEIR ANNUAL GREEK FESTIVAL AND FAIR FROM FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2023 TO SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023 FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 10:00 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 200 PEOPLE.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. Aida Z. Rivera, 664 Bishop Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, providing an updated map of Washington Park for a Latin Expo and Community Outreach event on Saturday, June 17, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and a set-up at 8:00 a.m. for approximately 1,000 people.

Ms. Rivera greeted the Commissioners and said that she had submitted the map. Ms. Urena said that the map was include in the packet. Ms. Rivera said that she was just a volunteer. Discussion followed about the details of the map. This is to empower the community for those who are immigrating to Bridgeport. Immigration lawyers will be available to provide information to the community. All the vendors will be all service providers and everything will be free.

Captain Cotto said that he had not received any additional paperwork on this. He said that there was a concern about parking. Discussion followed about the fact that the parking would be in the neighborhood.

**** COMMISSIONER WADE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM OB 3. AIDA Z. RIVERA, 664 BISHOP AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, PROVIDING AN UPDATED MAP OF WASHINGTON PARK FOR A LATIN EXPO AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT ON SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M. AND A SET-UP AT 8:00 A.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 1,000 PEOPLE PENDING APPROVAL FROM THE BRIDGEPORT POLICE REGARDING THE PARKING.**

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

Commissioner Cotto said that there was no mention of security on the form. Commissioner Labrador said that Ms. Rivera would have to discuss that with Captain Cotto and also mentioned she should check into port-a-potties.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. LaResse Harvey, 161 Howe Street, Bridgeport, CT, providing an updated map layout of Seaside Park Bandshell for a Community Outreach event 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, and Ms. Leslie Caraballo and Ms. Leslie Gibson, of ARC (Accomplishing Real Change) greeted the Commissioners. Ms. Harvey explained that they were working on Justice Impacted Community Housing Rights and Development. This

project is focused on the children of those who are currently or formerly incarcerated. Most of the vendors are service providers.

An aerial photo of the area inside the track was displayed, showing the location of the vendors and the entrances, the port-a-potties and the picnic tables. Backpacks will be give out to the students at check-in. There will be music and a talent show. Discussion followed about the details. No one is allowed to park on the grass.

The discussion moved to security. Ms. Harvey said that their security would be volunteers. Several of the Commissioners suggested that she have a few Police Officers there. She will contact the Police Department.

**** COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM OB 4. LARESSE HARVEY, 161 HOWE STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CT, PROVIDING AN UPDATED MAP LAYOUT OF SEASIDE PARK BANDSHELL FOR A COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT 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.**
**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Alfredo Castillo, Councilman 136th District, 1737 Noble Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host a BBQ event for the Bangladesh American Association of CT at Seaside Park – Left to the Arches on Saturday, June 10, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. with a set-up at 8:00 a.m. for approximately 500 people.

Council Member Castillo greeted the Commissioners. He said that this was his eighth year holding a picnic for the Bangladesh American Association of CT.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 1. ALFREDO CASTILLO, COUNCILMAN 136TH DISTRICT, 1737 NOBLE AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A BBQ EVENT FOR THE BANGLADESH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CT AT SEASIDE PARK – LEFT TO THE ARCHES ON SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP AT 8:00 A.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 500 PEOPLE.**
**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Chadwick Schroeder, Department of Public Facilities, Bridgeport, CT, requesting approval to install two (2) pollinator gardens at the entrance of Beardsley Park.

Mr. Schroeder greeted the Commissioners and said that he had two Beardsley Zoo staff members with him, Zoe Glover and Des Flemmings. Mr. Flemmings and Ms. Glover explained that she was an Zoo educator. Mr. Schroeder spoke about the pollinator garden and the pollinator bees do not sting. He then spoke where the gardens would be located on the information packet map. Ms. Glover said that this was a climate change improvement plan. The Pollinator garden is part of a grant funded initiative. This helps with not only the flowers, but the garden crops. The garden will be maintained by a coordinated effort between the zoo staff and other outside groups such as the Green Initiative, Groundworks Bridgeport and some of the community garden groups. The majority of the insects that the garden will attract will be monarch butterflies.

Mr. Nadrizny said that he was for this and he said that the educators will be there to help.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 2.
CHADWICK SCHROEDER, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC FACILITIES,
BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING APPROVAL TO INSTALL TWO (2)
POLLINATOR GARDENS AT THE ENTRANCE OF BEARDSLEY PARK.**

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

3. Chadwick Schroeder, Department of Public Facilities, Bridgeport, CT, providing an update on Svirha Park's Stormwater Management Project and requesting permission to proceed with the final design and construction.

Mr. Schroeder said that the Nature Conservancy had started this project in 2013. The details on the project is in the Commissioners' information packet. It involves stormwater management and green infrastructure by using pervious surfaces. They need a temporary easement to move forward with this project and the City Attorney's Office requested that they get the Parks Commission approval since it is near a school. The project will not have any impact on the school, however, there will be a discussion with the school principal and the BOE before the final scoping of the design.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 3.
CHADWICK SCHROEDER, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC FACILITIES,
BRIDGEPORT, CT, PROVIDING AN UPDATE ON SVIRHA PARK'S STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT PROJECT AND REQUESTING PERMISSION TO PROCEED WITH
THE FINAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION.**

**** COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. Fred Garrity, Executive Director of CT United Ride, 4112 Avalon Gates, Trumbull, CT, requesting approval for the 23rd annual CT United Ride at Seaside Park Casino Bath

House on Sunday, September 10, 2023 from 8:45 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for approximately 1,500 – 2,000 people.

Mr. Nadrizny said that Mr. Garrity was having difficulty with his phone. He said that they have had this event for a number of years and there have been no problems in the past.

**** COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 4. FRED GARRITY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CT UNITED RIDE, 4112 AVALON GATES, TRUMBULL, CT, REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR THE 23RD ANNUAL CT UNITED RIDE AT SEASIDE PARK CASINO BATH HOUSE ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 FROM 8:45 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 1,500 – 2,000 PEOPLE.**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. Tracy Nerkowski, Recovery Network of Programs, 2 Trap Falls Road, Suite 405, Shelton, CT, requesting to host their Agencies’ annual picnic “Summerfest” at Seaside Park Casino Bath House on Friday, June 16, 2023 with a Rain Date of Friday, June 23, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a set-up at 8:30 a.m. for approximately 190 people.

Ms. Audrey Bauer of Recovery Network Programs greeted the Commissioners and said that she was there in Ms. Nerkowski’s place. She gave an general overview of the annual staff picnic and explained that the staff rotates in and out based on their schedules. They keep the music low and clean up. Ms. Bauer said that they had waived the fees previously.

Mr. Nadrizny said that Mr. Burgos would have to comment about the entrance fees.

Commissioner Labrador said that the Board does not have the authority to waive the entrance fees.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 5. TRACY NERKOWSKI, RECOVERY NETWORK OF PROGRAMS, 2 TRAP FALLS ROAD, SUITE 405, SHELTON, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST THEIR AGENCIES’ ANNUAL PICNIC “SUMMERFEST” AT SEASIDE PARK CASINO BATH HOUSE ON FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2023 WITH A RAIN DATE OF FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023 FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP AT 8:30 A.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 190 PEOPLE.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. Kellie Taylor, East Side Neighborhood Revitalization, 581 Waterview Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host an East Side Day Parade and Festival at Washington Park on Saturday, July 29, 2023 with a Rain Date on Sunday, July 30, 2023 beginning at 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and a set-up at 8:00 p.m. for approximately 500 people.

Ms. Taylor said that they are trying to unite the community and promote entrepreneurs along with develop community engagement. She gave an overview of the nine block parade route and have permission from St. Charles Church to use their parking lot. They would like to have local food vendors. She outlined where the various vendors and picnic tables would be located. There will be a DJ and live performances. This will be the first time for the event.

Commissioner Labrador said that the Police Department is the only one that can close streets and they will also have to clear the food vendor trucks also.

Commissioner Labrador said that they have stopped using rain days because if the event goes on the original date, the second date is block off for other people using it.

Commissioner Cotto said that having a parade involves street closures and this could mean an added cost.

Commissioner Labrador said that there were some factors that had to be addressed: Fire, Health, Police and Security. He encouraged her to get the approvals completed as quickly as possible.

A discussion followed about the rain date. Commissioner Labrador said that if it rains, she would have to get approval in advance for the rain date.

**** COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 6. KELLIE TAYLOR, EAST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION, 581 WATERVIEW AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST AN EAST SIDE DAY PARADE AND FESTIVAL AT WASHINGTON PARK ON SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023 WITH A RAIN DATE ON SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023 BEGINNING AT 12:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M. AND A SET-UP AT 8:00 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 500 PEOPLE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE APPLICANT WOULD HAVE TO REAPPLY FOR A SECOND DATE IN THE EVENT OF RAIN.**

Concerns were expressed that if they reserve the park for a rain date, they have to do it for everyone.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) IN FAVOR (HOSIER, TAYLOR-MOYE) ONE (1) OPPOSED (COTTO) AND ONE ABSTENTION (WADE).**

7. Rick Landau, Ash Creek Conservation Association Inc., 146 Grovers Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, providing an update on improvements and issues with damage to mudflats and vegetation at St. Mary's by the Sea barrier spit.

Mr. Landau greeted the Commissioners. He explained that the Commissioner had asked him to come back to show them what the improvements were. Mr. Landau said that there had been a problem with people digging in the mud flats. He then displayed a slide show that showed the new split rail fence that prevent the new planting from being trampled by visitors. He also displayed an area where they had removed invasive mugwort. Rosa Carolina will be planted to help to control erosion. Inkberry shrubs have also been planted. He said that residents dig in the mudflats for worms and shellfish. The salt meadow cordgrass is being damaged. Staff from DEEP came in to inspect the area and informed them that the holes were causing damage to the tidal wetlands and this type of activity is in violations of CGS Section 22a-32. He explained that shellfish in this area was prohibited because of the presence of fecal coliform. Ash Creek Conservation Association is a partner with Save the Sound and are working towards a shovel ready restoration plan.

Mr. Landau said that while the existing park rules prohibit damaging park property, he would suggest that they consider adding a new rule and some signage prohibiting the shellfishing since many people do not consider clamming damaging to the park. He suggested that he come back to another meeting with a sign for this. He asked the Commission if he could add their name to the list of supporters.

Commissioner Labrador said that they would have to check with the City Attorney's Office about amending the rules and that the group should check with the City Attorney's Office about the language on the sign and where they can be located. Mr. Nadrizny said that they would have to provide the exact language before they can even discuss the approval of the sign. Mr. Landau will come back next month with more information.

8. Daniel Viera, President of Liv Free, P.O. Box 2512, Shelton, CT, requesting to host a Men's softball event at Seaside Park on Saturday, May 13, 2023.

Mr. Lee Nastu greeted the Commissioners and said that he had spoken with Mr. Viera who said that this event would be much smaller than previous events. Therefore, this event is being treated as a regular sports event and a field had been reserved for him. It will be an in-house event.

9. Joseph Pagan, Bluefish Youth Baseball, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to approve the proposal of the Bluefish Youth Baseball Program to place a storage container at Central High School.

Commissioner Labrador asked for the location and the size of the container. Mr. Pagan said that they had submitted a Google map with the container and the question was about the color. Mr. Nastu said that they had looked at the site and it would be a benefit for the team to have the container located there. Commissioner Labrador asked if the group was aware that they might

have to remove it if the Parks Commission or the Department asked them to do so. Mr. Nastu said that they had agreed to this.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 9. JOSEPH PAGAN, BLUEFISH YOUTH BASEBALL, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL OF THE BLUEFISH YOUTH BASEBALL PROGRAM TO PLACE A STORAGE CONTAINER AT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL.**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. Ted Thomas, Ted Thomas Dance Foundation, 11 Meeting Grove Lane, Norwalk, CT requesting to host a Concert at McLevy Green on Wednesday, July 26, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with a set-up at 1:00 p.m. for approximately for 150 people.

Mr. Thomas greeted the Commissioners and said that last year they had held this event at McLevy Green and had a great turn out. Mr. Burgos said that there were no issues with the previous event. He presented a short PowerPoint slide deck. He added that they will also be having an event at Calf Pasture Beach in Norwalk.

**** COMMISSIONER WADE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 10. TED THOMAS, TED THOMAS DANCE FOUNDATION, 11 MEETING GROVE LANE, NORWALK, CT REQUESTING TO HOST A CONCERT AT MCLEVY GREEN ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023 FROM 5:30 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M. WITH A SET-UP AT 1:00 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY FOR 150 PEOPLE.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

11. Sarsfield Ford, 28 Lakeside Drive, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host a baseball event with supporting activities from Thursday, June 1, 2023 to Friday, August 4, 2023 at Seaside Park Diamond #1 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. for approximately 50 -100 people.

Mr. Ford greeted the Commissioners. He said that this was a new baseball program for the Bridgeport Barnum League. It will be similar to the Cape Cod League. He said that he had been working with Mr. Nastu on the schedule, so they don't have the exact dates. They would like to have a PA system for the games and hope to be broadcasting it on the radio. They would also like to sell their apparel at the games and put signs up on the fencing along Diamond 1.

Commissioner Labrador said that signage can be put up, but must be done on a daily basis.

Mr. Ford said that they would like to have a food vendor at the games. Mr. Nadrizny said that the City had advertised for vendors, but had not selected anyone at this time. He said that last year

they had allowed food trucks at West Beach. Discussion followed. Mr. Nadrizny updated the Commissioners regarding the food vendor.

Commissioner Labrador said that the University of Bridgeport broadcasts their games and there has been no problem. If any music is broadcasted, it has to be clean music. No signage promoting cigars, cigarettes or alcohol are allowed.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 11. SARSFIELD FORD, 28 LAKESIDE DRIVE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A BASEBALL EVENT WITH SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES FROM THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023 TO FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 2023 AT SEASIDE PARK DIAMOND #1 FROM 4:30 P.M. TO 7:45 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 50 -100 PEOPLE. WITH THE STIPULATES AS CODIFIED.**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

12. D. Troy Shipp, G.R.O.U.P. INT., P.O. Box 5037, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host a Free Father's Day BBQ event on Sunday, June 18, 2023 at Seaside Park Band Shell with live music, DJ, Bounce House, Track activities, Food Trucks and Vendors from 2:00 p.m. to 8 p.m. with a set-up at 12:00 p.m. for approximately 100 people.

Mr. Shipp was not present on the call.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO DENY AGENDA ITEM 12. D. TROY SHIPP, G.R.O.U.P. INT., P.O. BOX 5037, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A FREE FATHER'S DAY BBQ EVENT ON SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2023 AT SEASIDE PARK BAND SHELL WITH LIVE MUSIC, DJ, BOUNCE HOUSE, TRACK ACTIVITIES, FOOD TRUCKS AND VENDORS FROM 2:00 P.M. TO 8 P.M. WITH A SET-UP AT 12:00 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 100 PEOPLE.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

13. Shante Glover, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., 925 Oronoke Road Unit 24G, Waterbury, CT, requesting to host a Walk for Men's Mental Health in observance of Mental Health Awareness Month on Sunday, May 21, 2023 at Seaside Park from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for approximately 50 people.

Ms. Glover greeted the Commissioners and said that she also had the Vice President of the Sorority on the call. She said that last year, the group held the walk in Shelton on a trail. However Ms. Glover thought it would be good to host an event for mental health in an area where they would impact the community. She said they would like to have a speaker come to address the group for approximately 15 to 30 minutes before beginning the walk. They would get

there early and have a sanitizing station. The sorority also has an annual project called “The Big Bookbag” and donated to a school in Hamden.

The group will be on the sidewalk or the walking track and there will be no streets that need to be blocked off. Mr. Burgos said that he felt that this would not be a problem. There will be some signage to direct people. Men’s Mental Health is often overlooked. They will have resources available for anyone.

**** COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 13. SHANTE GLOVER, SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY INC., 925 ORONOKE ROAD UNIT 24G, WATERBURY, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A WALK FOR MEN’S MENTAL HEALTH IN OBSERVANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH ON SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023 AT SEASIDE PARK FROM 1:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 50 PEOPLE.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Commissioner Labrador said that there was one additional item regarding Mr. David Daniels who hosts the Bridgeport Jazz Fest.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA REGARDING THE BRIDGEPORT JAZZ FEST.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Daniels greeted the Commissioners. He said that he would like to do the Third Annual Bridgeport Jazz Fest on Saturday August 19, 2023, which is a free family event. There will be both vendors and service providers present. They will have a national headliner. There will be no street closures and no alcohol.

**** COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE THE BRIDGEPORT JAZZ FEST ON SATURDAY AUGUST 19, 2023 AT MCLEVY GREEN FROM 12 NOON TO 8 P.M. WITH SET UP AT 9 A.M. AND BREAKDOWN AT 9 P.M.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Daniels said that this is a legacy events and hope to hold it for many years.

REPORTS

1. Commissioner’s Report

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Commissioner Labrador said that he had sent some photos of some things that had become an eyesore at the entrance to West Beach. He said that there appears to be a dumping site to the right of the new sign. It needs to be covered up or removed.

Mr. Nadrizny said that the Fire Department had used that area as a training facility. The bus and the car are used for training exercises. He said that he would speak to the Chief about putting something on the fence or have the vehicles moved.

Commissioner Labrador said that there was a giant yellow monument on top of a embankment. Mr. Nadrizny said that it was the bulldozer that the staff uses to move the piles and he will ask them to move it. Discussion followed about the timeframe.

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

Mr. Nadrizny said that the dog park work has been started, which should be finished by the end of next week. He then gave a quick overview of the Wentfield Park Improvements along with the Nanny Goat Basketball Court Construction; the Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course, Ellsworth Park Field Improvements, the McGovern Park Playground Improvements, the LED Message Board Signage, the Perry Memorial Arches, West Beach Bathhouse Shower Pergolas, Seaside Park West Park Playground Replacement, Citywide Tree Planting along with the Park Maintenance Division projects.

Ms. Conine presented her report including updates on the Middle School Basketball League, Night Recreation, Summer Camp.

Mr. Nadrizny introduced Mr. Bret Caulfield, who will be replacing Mr. Hladun.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COMMISSION TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services.

City of Bridgeport
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