

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BOARD OF PARKS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 13, 2023**

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

OTHERS: Tatiana Urena, Parks Department; Police Captain Manuel Cotto, Deputy Police Chief James Baraja; Luann Conine, Recreation; Luis Burgos, Parks Department; James Maye, Associate City Attorney; Chadwick Schroeder, Public Facilities Sustainability Manager; Vincent Mobilio, OPED Assistant Special Projects Manager; Luann Conine, Recreations Department; Bret Caulfield, Tree Warden, Aaron; John Carserino, University of Bridgeport Public Facilities; Bryant Harrell, Susan Schnitzer, Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI); Deborah Sims; Deacon Tyrone Thompson, Messiah Baptist Church, Pam Williams, West Caribbean Indian Jerk Festival; Harold Dimbo, Gun Violence Awareness; Kwamie Dunbar, Carolyn Vermont, West Caribbean Indian Jerk Festival; Milta Feliciano, Puerto Rican Parade of Fairfield County Inc.; Greg Gesswein, Gesswein Company, Erick Wiseman, Bobbie Brown, 100 Girls Leading Inc.; Todd Holloman, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Deacon Tyrone Thompson, Messiah Baptist Church; Bryant Harrell, University of Bridgeport, Beth Santa

This meeting was held via Zoom.

OPENING CEREMONY / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Labrador greeted everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:12 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:

• MAY 9, 2023 (REGULAR MEETING)

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 9, 2023 REGULAR MEETING.**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.
** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 9, 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. Susan Schnitzer, Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI), 670 Clinton Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, is requesting to host a CIRI Refugee and Immigrant Day Picnic at Seaside Park - Grove area on Saturday, June 24, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a set-up time at 10:00 a.m. and clean-up at 4:00 p.m. for approximately 150 people with food trucks and vendors.

Ms. Schnitzer thanked the Commissioners for allowing her to come back to present the application to them. She gave a brief overview of the agency, which is 108 years old and provide services to the immigrants. They work with the Police and Social Services.

World Refugee Day is June 20th and they would like to celebrate it on June 24th. The picnic will be open to those recently arrived refugees, immigrants, families and staff. A number of service providers will be present and the event will be catered rather than having food trucks. The event is not open to the general public, but they would like to have the general public included in the future.

Commissioner Labrador reminded everyone that the attendees would need to have a park parking sticker.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM OB 1. SUSAN SCHNITZER, CONNECTICUT INSTITUTE FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS (CIRI), 670 CLINTON AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, IS REQUESTING TO HOST A CIRI REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT DAY PICNIC AT SEASIDE PARK - GROVE AREA ON SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023 FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP TIME AT 10:00 A.M. AND CLEAN-UP AT 4:00 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 150 PEOPLE WITH FOOD TRUCKS AND VENDORS.**

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. James Maye, Associate City Attorney, City of Bridgeport, CT, submitting a restricted appraisal report for Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course Land along Jefferson Street for use of a pumping station by Aquarion Water Co., Fairfield, CT.

Atty. Maye explained that Aquarion had applied to the Commission for an easement for an additional pumping station along Jefferson Street. They will keep the existing pump station in service. An appraisal was done. The City did not feel that Aquarion's lease offer was sufficient and subsequently had a second appraisal done. The second appraisal came in at \$144,000. Atty. Maye said that the City Attorney's Office wished to keep the Parks Commission informed. Aquarion has agreed to pay \$144,000, and the City Attorney's Office was looking for authorization to proceed. Commissioner Labrador said that he felt that a 60 year lease easement term would be acceptable. The City will not be selling the property. Discussion followed.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE A 60 YEAR LEASE OR LESS FOR AGENDA ITEM 1. JAMES MAYE, ASSOCIATE CITY ATTORNEY, CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, CT, SUBMITTING A RESTRICTED APPRAISAL REPORT FOR FAIRCHILD WHEELER GOLF COURSE LAND ALONG JEFFERSON STREET FOR USE OF A PUMPING STATION BY AQUARION WATER CO., FAIRFIELD, CT.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Chadwick Schroeder, Sustainability Manager, Public Facilities, Bridgeport, CT, requesting approval to accept the donation of the eight pieces of the "Welcome Collection" from CANVUS to install in preliminary locations at Old Mill Green or Seaside Park.

Mr. Schroeder said that he had been approached by a company that does upcycling of items that have finished their purpose. He displayed a photo on screen of some of the potential installations. Wind turbines from the ocean installations have a life cycle of about 10 years. The company CANVUS, recycles the turbine pieces into a variety of items including benches, bus shelters and other items. The items are made of a mixed composite material. The turbine pieces are made of fiberglass and basically graffiti proof. Any marking can be removed by power washing. This particular collection would not cost the City any money at all.

Mr. Schroeder said that after conversation with the Parks Staff, they had decided that Old Mill Green would not be an appropriate location and that B. J. Brown Park would be a better location along with Seaside Park. He gave a number of details and noted that the products have a retail value of \$38,000 and have an average life expectancy of about 20 to 30 years. The City Attorney's Office has told Mr. Schroeder he would need to obtain the approval of the Parks Commission.

Mr. Schroeder said there would be a small plaque on the bench with a QR scannable code that would link the individual to the story of the bench. He also pointed out that since the original structure was in the open ocean, they are salt water tolerant. The company selected Bridgeport because the City has many of the same goals the company is looking for and the company would be willing to donate 8 benches to the City. There is one that would be more for wayfinding and the Parks Commission would determine what would be on the signage.

Commissioner Cotto asked if there would be any maintenance involved. Mr. Schroeder replied that any graffiti would simply require a power wash. Commissioner Labrador asked who would be maintaining the planting if they chose a design with a planter. Mr. Schroeder said that they were opting not to include a design with a planter.

Commissioner Hosier asked if they could consider putting two planters in four of the City's Districts. Mr. Schroeder explained that he was reluctant to do so because if they become isolated, then they look out of place. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Taylor-Moye asked what would happen if the City decided they wanted more benches. Mr. Schroeder displayed another screen showing a variety of bench types and said that the "Welcome Collection" was the least expensive collection for the company. He reviewed the details of the other pieces. The bench prices are comparable to ones that the City might purchase except for the ones with canopies. Discussion followed.

**** COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 2. CHADWICK SCHROEDER, SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER, PUBLIC FACILITIES, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF THE EIGHT PIECES OF THE "WELCOME COLLECTION" FROM CANVUS TO INSTALL IN PRELIMINARY LOCATIONS TO BE APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION.**

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. Vincent Mobilio, Assistant Special Projects Manager, Office of Planning & Economic Development, requesting approval for the installation of bicycle parking stations at four city parks: Seaside Park, Beardsley Park, Beechwood Park, and Puglio/North End Library.

Mr. Mobilio greeted the Commissioners and said that this project was part of the State of Connecticut Transportation Connectivity grant and had previously received approval for the installation of 12 bicycle stations. Eight of those stations have been installed at this time. This proposal was for the remaining four stations. Mr. Mobilio displayed a photo of the park along with an aerial view. He said that Madison Avenue had a number of bike riders.

Commissioner Labrador expressed some concerns about security. Commissioner Labrador said that the racks generally hold between 4 and 6. Mr. Mobilio displayed a photo of what the covered racks look like at B.J. Brown Park.

Commissioner Labrador asked who would be responsible for maintenance. Mr. Mobilio said that Public Facilities or Parks and Rec. He also displayed a photo of the other sides. He noted that the racks were located near bike paths.

The discussion moved to the issues regarding the potential of having a homeless individual occupying one of the shelters. Mr. Mobilio said that the pads had already been installed at the other sites and the City is waiting for the shelters to be delivered.

Commissioner Labrador asked about the timeline moving forward, which Mr. Mobilio reviewed with him. Commissioner Labrador noted that this project has been working on this for the last four years. He went on to say that he would like a deadline for this project to be completed. Mr. Mobilio suggested that they should have the project completed by September of 2024.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 3. VINCENT MOBILIO, ASSISTANT SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER, OFFICE OF PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR THE INSTALLATION OF BICYCLE PARKING STATIONS AT FOUR CITY PARKS: SEASIDE PARK, BEARDSLEY PARK, BEECHWOOD PARK, AND PUGLIO/NORTH END LIBRARY BUT IF IT IS NOT COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER OF 2024, THE PARK COMMISSION REVISIT THE PROJECT.**

Commissioner Labrador asked Mr. Mobilio to contact them if there is another delay. Mr. Mobilio agreed to do so.

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

4. Claudette Beaman, West Caribbean Indian Jerk Festival, 15 Heather Road, Hamden, CT, returning to request approval for the sale of alcohol at the Seaside Park Bandshell for the Caribbean Jerk Festival on Saturday, August 13, 2023. (Event approved: 1/10/2023)

Ms. Pam Williams greeted the Commissioner and said that the festival was scheduled for August 19th, not the 13th. Ms. Urena confirmed that the event was scheduled for the 19th. Mr. Kwamie Dunbar also greeted the Commissioners and said that he and Ms. Williams were present because Ms. Besman was not able to attend the meeting. Mr. Dunbar said that he was the President of the West Indian American Association of Greater Bridgeport organization. He said that they had been before the Commission in January for approval of the Festival and the staff had gone to the

various other permitting agencies for approval. They realized that they would like to serve wine and beer with the meals. This is what brought them back before the Commissioners.

Commissioner Labrador said that in the past, they had not issued permission for selling alcohol in the park and pointed out that there would be other food trucks in the park at that time. He pointed out that they would need a permit from another group and would have to fence the area where the alcohol was being served. Mr. Dunbar said that they had done this at their previous events, but not at Seaside Park. Ms. Vermont spoke about how they had gone to the State in the past to get a permit and gotten a letter from the Mayor when the event was held at another park. She said that she had been told recently that they needed to get the Park Commissioners' approval. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Labrador said that the Parks Commission could not give them permission to sell alcohol in the park. He explained that if the Mayor's Office had given them a permission waiver in the past, then it was the responsibility of the Mayor's Office. Ms. Vermont said that the approval was always contingent on them getting the permit and the group would go back to the State. She said that she thought they may have been given incorrect information.

Ms. Besman joined the meeting and explained that they had been told that the Parks and Recreation Commission had to be informed of this. There was no record on file that the group had informed the Commission about this. She said that the purpose of this meeting was to inform the Commissioner about this. Ms. Besman said that she believed that it was the City Zoning Department that had said they needed to inform the Parks Commission about the alcohol sales.

Commissioner Taylor-Moye said that while she loved everyone involved in the event, she felt that they should follow the path they had previously taken because she would be forced to vote against the measure. Ms. Vermont agreed and said that they would go back to the State.

Commissioner Labrador stated that they were aware that the group would be holding the event based on approval from the State and the Mayor's Office. Ms. Vermont thanked everyone for their time. No action was taken on this application at this time.

5. Milta Feliciano, Puerto Rican Parade of Fairfield County Inc., P.O. Box447, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host the 30th year anniversary of the Puerto Rican Day Parade along with Bomba Radio at Seaside Park Band Shell on Sunday, July 9, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with a set-up at 5:00 a.m. and a clean-up at 6:30 p.m. for approximately 7,000 – 10,000 people with music entertainment, food trucks and vendors.

Ms. Feliciano said that there was a major change in the event and she was resubmitting the application for the festival. They are only running the festival from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clean up will start at 4:30 and they want to be out of the park by 6:30 p.m., but she wrote down 8 so that she can check with the park staff to make sure everything is clean and done correctly.

Commissioner Labrador explained that there would be food trucks in the park and her group will have to check with the Health Department about who has permits for selling. Ms. Feliciano said that some of the food truck vendors that they were in touch with already have permits to sell in the park. She named the locations and said that there is one that won't be inside the park. Discussion followed.

Captain Cotto and Deputy Chief Baraja said that he was sorry to say that the Police Department was not able to confirm that the Police would be able to make this a safe event due to a number of recent retirements. He said that he had met with the group and explained that if they had the parade inside the park, it might work. He also had a number of other suggestions. He added that Captain Cotto had provided security in the past, but the Department will not be able to provide the level of service they have in the past. Discussion followed.

Ms. Feliciano noted that there was a major festival parade the previous week and it would follow the basic route. She asked why they would be able to cover the first parade, but not theirs.

Commissioner Labrador said that the Parks Commission only can give permission for the event contingent upon other departments giving their approval. If the group decides to go forward without the police security, the group would be responsible for anything that happened. He added that if the Police Department cannot provide coverage, he would be careful about taking on that level of liability. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Labrador said that they could approve this with the stipulation that the group obtain sign offs from the other agencies. He cautioned them if they weren't able to do this, then in all probability, they would not be able to hold the event.

Ms. Feliciano said that they do employ private security for the stage area. Discussion followed about what groups were going to perform and there has never been any problems with the stage area.

Commissioner Labrador said that if Ms. Feliciano is not able to obtain the signatures for the permits, then she will have to seriously consider the situation. He added that the Parks Commission does not have any authority over the parade route. Commissioner Hosier said that it was his understanding that if the Police Department denies a permit, the event does not take place. He reminded everyone that the application was for the bandshell area. Commissioner Hosier said that he wanted clarification on the process regarding if the Police Department does not sign the permit, the event at the bandshell in the Park does not take place. Commissioner Labrador said that this was so.

**** COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 5.
MILTA FELICIANO, PUERTO RICAN PARADE OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY INC., P.O.**

BOX447, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST THE 30TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE ALONG WITH BOMBA RADIO AT SEASIDE PARK BAND SHELL ON SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2023 FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP AT 5:00 A.M. AND A CLEAN-UP AT 6:30 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 7,000 – 10,000 PEOPLE WITH MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD TRUCKS AND VENDORS WITH THE STIPULATION THAT ALL THE PROPER PERMITS HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED.

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

Commissioner Hosier said that he wanted to be clear that if the Police Department does not sign the permit, the event at the bandshell in the Park does not take place.

Ms. Feliciano said that the Police Department had told her they do not have the coverage available for the parade even though they were able to cover the parade scheduled for the week before the event. She said that if they are not able to get the signed approvals for the event, the event will not take place at the bandshell. She thanked the Commissioners but said that there were a number of events taking place this summer and that the Police Department had not cancelled any of the other events.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. Greg Gesswein, Gesswein Company, 201 Hancock Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host a BBQ at Beardsley Park by Aaron's Way on Friday, August 11, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a set-up time of 10:00 a.m. and a clean-up at 5:00 p.m. to include a DJ, bounce house, food trucks and games for 50 people.

Mr. Gesswein said that he runs his family business and they are looking to have a family fun day for their employees. He said that they would be getting a generator for the bouncy houses and would be getting insurance. He also mentioned having an ice cream truck for the children and a DJ. Commissioner Labrador cautioned Mr. Gesswein about the level of music sound. Any one that is attending will need a park sticker to get into the park.

The discussion moved to where the ice cream truck would be located.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 6. GREG GESSWEIN, GESSWEIN COMPANY, 201 HANCOCK AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A BBQ AT BEARDSLEY PARK BY AARON'S WAY ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2023 FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP TIME OF 10:00 A.M. AND A CLEAN-UP AT 5:00 P.M. TO INCLUDE A DJ, BOUNCE HOUSE, FOOD TRUCKS AND GAMES FOR 50 PEOPLE.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. Geralda Moise, Faith Acts for Education, 3217 Bruner Avenue, Bronx, NY, requesting to host a Community Outreach event at McLevy Green on Saturday, July 1, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a set-up time at 9:00 a.m. and clean-up at 4:00 p.m. for approximately 300 people. Including a DJ, food trucks, a bounce house, family-friendly activities, and more.

The applicant did not appear to be on the call.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 7. GERALDA MOISE, FAITH ACTS FOR EDUCATION, 3217 BRUNER AVENUE, BRONX, NY, REQUESTING TO HOST A COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT AT MCLEVY GREEN ON SATURDAY, JULY 1, 2023 FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP TIME AT 9:00 A.M. AND CLEAN-UP AT 4:00 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 300 PEOPLE. INCLUDING A DJ, FOOD TRUCKS, A BOUNCE HOUSE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES, AND MORE.**

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. Erick Wiseman, 77 Sixth Street, Bridgeport, CT, requesting approval to shoot a music video at Seaside Park Casino Bath House and to involve closing off the parking lot area and having a speaker propped on the roof of a car for the video shoot on Sunday, June 18, 2023 from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with a set-up at 3:00 p.m. and clean-up at 7:00 p.m. for approximately 50 people.

Mr. Wiseman said that he wanted to create a music video at Seaside Park on Father's Day. Commissioner Labrador said that this was too close to the date to facilitate and they wanted a vehicle with a speaker on top of it. Commissioner Labrador said that he was going to explain the issues to Mr. Wiseman in Spanish to make sure that the Mr. Wiseman understands his concerns. The Commissioners agreed this would be acceptable. A discussion in Spanish followed.

Commissioner Labrador said that he had explained to Mr. Wiseman that they would need to have a police presence and it was also a holiday. The breakdown would be too close to closing for the staff. He said that he would like to discuss this event with Mr. Wiseman for another date when they have more time.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 8. ERICK WISEMAN, 77 SIXTH STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING APPROVAL TO SHOOT A MUSIC VIDEO AT SEASIDE PARK CASINO BATH HOUSE AND TO INVOLVE CLOSING OFF THE PARKING LOT AREA AND HAVING A SPEAKER PROPPED ON THE ROOF OF A CAR FOR THE VIDEO SHOOT ON SUNDAY, JUNE**

18, 2023 FROM 3:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M. WITH A SET- UP AT 3:00 P.M. AND CLEAN-UP AT 7:00 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 50 PEOPLE.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. Tina Preston,120 Pennsylvania Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host a Baby Shower at Johnson Oak Park on August 26, 2023 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and a set-up at 12:00 p.m. and clean up at 7:00 p.m. to include a DJ for approximately 60 – 70 people.

Ms. Preston did not appear to be on the call.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 9. TINA PRESTON,120 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A BABY SHOWER AT JOHNSON OAK PARK ON AUGUST 26, 2023 FROM 2:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M. AND A SET-UP AT 12:00 P.M. AND CLEAN UP AT 7:00 P.M. TO INCLUDE A DJ FOR APPROXIMATELY 60 – 70 PEOPLE.**

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. Harold Dimbo, 1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host a Gun Violence Awareness event at Beardsley Park after Aaron’s Way on Saturday, June 17, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with a set-up time at 9:00 a.m. and a clean-up at 4:00 p.m. to include a DJ and Jazz band for approximately 150 people.

Mr. Dimbo greeted the Commissioner and said that this was an event that they had held for the last eight years after there were a number of shootings by individuals from different parts of town. The group has been working on bringing people together. Last year, they gave away 60 bikes to the children and this year they will be giving bikes away also. The event is free. The Police Department is also involved so that they can meet the community members and get to know them.

Commissioner Labrador said that he had not received any complaints. He asked Mr. Burgos if there were any problems with the event. Mr. Burgos said that there had not been any issues.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 10. HAROLD DIMBO, 1000 LAFAYETTE BOULEVARD, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS EVENT AT BEARDSLEY PARK AFTER AARON’S WAY ON SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023 FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M. WITH A SET-UP TIME AT 9:00 A.M. AND A CLEAN-UP AT 4:00 P.M. TO INCLUDE A DJ AND JAZZ BAND FOR APPROXIMATELY 150 PEOPLE.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

11. Bobbie Brown, 100 Girls Leading Inc., 285 Hollister Avenue, Bridgeport, CT requesting to host a Mentorship Event for Girls of Color on Saturday, June 1, 2024 at McLevy Green from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a set-up at 11:00 a.m. and clean-up at 6:00 p.m. to include a stage, music and activities for approximately 100 people.

Ms. Brown greeted the Commissioners. She then displayed a short PowerPoint slide of the past events and noted that they were not able to hold one during the pandemic. This is a mentorship program. There are guest speakers that speak to the girls. There are resource tables for the girls. They double check the trash cans and make sure the area is clean. She reviewed the safety plan and the Police Department has been very supportive. She also displayed their marketing plan and the sponsors, along with the parking plan.

Commissioner Taylor-Moye thanked Ms. Brown for all her hard work. Commissioner Labrador and Wade agreed.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 11. BOBBIE BROWN, 100 GIRLS LEADING INC., 285 HOLLISTER AVENUE, BRIDGEPORT, CT REQUESTING TO HOST A MENTORSHIP EVENT FOR GIRLS OF COLOR ON SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 AT MCLEVY GREEN FROM 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP AT 11:00 A.M. AND CLEAN-UP AT 6:00 P.M. TO INCLUDE A STAGE, MUSIC AND ACTIVITIES FOR APPROXIMATELY 100 PEOPLE.**

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

12. Todd Holloman, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., 325 Myrtle Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host a BBQ with a DJ at Seaside Park left of the Arches on Saturday, June 24, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with a set-up at 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for approximately 70 people.

Mr. Holloman greeted the Commissioners. Commissioner Labrador asked Mr. Holloman if this was his first event. Mr. Holloman explained that they had come before the Board last year, but had to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances. They are looking to inspire young men in Grades 6 through high school. While their chapter is small, they are making an impact in the schools. The end of the year brings the families of the boys together. Last year, they gave out \$20,000 in scholarships.

Commissioner Labrador said that all the attendees need to have a park pass to get in and the water needs to be pointed towards the water.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 12. TODD HOLLOMAN, KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY, INC., 325 MYRTLE AVENUE,**

BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A BBQ WITH A DJ AT SEASIDE PARK LEFT OF THE ARCHES ON SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023 FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP AT 10:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 70 PEOPLE.

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

13. Deacon Tyrone Thompson, Messiah Baptist Church, 210 Congress Street, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host their 135th Church Anniversary and 10th Pastoral Anniversary at Majestic Park on Saturday, August 26, 2023 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with a set-up time at 2:00 p.m. and clean-up at 6:00 p.m. to include DJ, Jazz band, food vendor, tent (20x30), tables and chairs for seating 150 people.

Deacon Thompson greeted the Commissioners. He gave a brief overview of the event and noted that they would be including port-a-potties and securities. It will be a ticketed event and limited to about 100 attendees. The music will not be loud or outrageous.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE**

AGENDA ITEM 13. DEACON TYRONE THOMPSON, MESSIAH BAPTIST CHURCH, 210 CONGRESS STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST THEIR 135TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY AND 10TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY AT MAJESTIC PARK ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023 FROM 3:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP TIME AT 2:00 P.M. AND CLEAN-UP AT 6:00 P.M. TO INCLUDE DJ, JAZZ BAND, FOOD VENDOR, TENT (20X30), TABLES AND CHAIRS FOR SEATING 150 PEOPLE.

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

14. Genevieve Speer, Speerit Fitness, 111 West Parkway, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host Yoga classes at St. Mary's by the Sea on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning in June through September 1, 2023 to start at 6:00 a.m. and evenings for 1 hour with a set-up of 20 minutes before class for approximately 10- 15 people. Will charge a fee per class.

Ms. Speer did not appear to be on the call.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 14. GENEVIEVE SPEER, SPEERIT FITNESS, 111 WEST PARKWAY, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST YOGA CLASSES AT ST. MARY'S BY THE SEA ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS BEGINNING IN JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 TO START AT 6:00 A.M. AND EVENINGS FOR 1 HOUR WITH A SET-UP OF 20**

MINUTES BEFORE CLASS FOR APPROXIMATELY 10- 15 PEOPLE. WILL CHARGE A FEE PER CLASs.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

15. Lisa Bifolck, Executive Assistant, University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT, providing an update on the maintenance and projects at Seaside Park performed by the University of Bridgeport.

Mr. Bryant Harrell said that he was there to present the applicant. He then displayed a short PowerPoint. He thanked the Commissioners for their time. He then narrated a slide deck showing the areas that they cleaned up and restored since they last spoke in March. He explained that the field tarp had been removed the day before and the person who was supposed to pick it up was delayed by two weeks. Next year, they will coordinate the removal of the tarp from the field with the actual pick up. He also displayed the fence screening, which they discovered only covered about three quarters of the fencing. The new fence covering will cover it complete.

Commissioner Hosier said that there were concerns about people parking on the grass. Mr. Harrell said that they have security guards patrolling the area and asking people not to park on the grass. He said that he had some ideas of how to prevent parking on the grass, but will discuss it with the Commissioner in the future.

Mr. Carserino said they were working on getting privacy slats for the storage areas also.

Mr. Harrell also displayed the maintenance for the baseball and softball fields from March 1st through November 30th. They are continuing to work on tandem batting cages, a scoreboard for Diamond 1 and a potential Grandstand for Diamonds 1 and 2.

A discussion followed about an aluminum bleacher stand that could potentially be moved.

Mr. Harrell said that he just wanted to be sure that there were no issues. No actions were necessary at this time.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO ADD AN ITEM FROM MS. BETH SANTA TO THE AGENDA.**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Santa greeted the Commissioners and said that the Seaside Gateway Trail is now open and two additional trees have been planted, which brings the total trees up to 19. Fund raising for benches will start soon. Commissioner Labrador thanked Ms. Santa for her hard work on this project.

REPORTS

1. Commissioner's Report – No report at this time.

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

• Parks Maintenance.

Mr. Caulfield greet the Commissioners and said that he would like to have the Commissioners consider closing the entry gates at the Arches at 7:30 p.m. starting on June 21st. Usually there are not many people coming in at that time and it will help reduce chaos. There are other municipalities that are doing the same thing.

Commissioner Labrador said that he had no problem with closing the entry gates at 7:30 for safety reasons. Commissioner Hosier said that it would make it easier for the police to close the park. The consensus of the Commission was that it would be acceptable to close the two entry gates by the Arches at 7:30 p.m. starting on June 21st.

Mr. Caulfield said that there were many great things included in the report. He displayed a copy of the written report on the screen and gave a brief summary of the highlights.

• Recreation Updates

Ms. Conine said that there was a life guard shortage nationally and in California, they are offering \$3,000 bonuses. Every life guard from last year is coming back and Ms. Conine has been able to hire seven more. The Checkpoints are now open.

Ms. Conine said that they had a great Memorial Day opening.

One of the staff members spoke about the summer day camp and said it was going well.

Commissioner Labrador said that he would like to thank all the staff for their support. He welcomed Bret to the team. He also expressed his appreciation to the Police Officers who have gone to the park and worked with the public.

Aaron said that the park staff was amazing and thanked the Parks Board for all that they have done.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COMMISSION HOSIER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services.