

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
VIA TELECONFERENCED  
JANUARY 09, 2023**

This meeting was held via Zoom.

**ATTENDANCE:** Banjed Labrador, President; Cruz Cotto, Vice President; Lee Grisby; John Mark Hosier; Lillian Wade; Denese Taylor Moye (5:27)

**STAFF:** Tatiana Urena, Parks Department; Luis Burgos, Parks Manager, Parks Administration; Lee Nastu, Parks department; Chineka Haye, Recreation Department; Luann Conine, Recreation Superintendent; Aaron Curry, Deputy Director of Public Facilities.

**OTHER:** Donald Wilson, Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse; Margaret Judge & Angie Staltaro Stratfield Historic District Association; Andy Toledo, Director of Community Relations; Milta Feliciano & Lisette Colon, Puerto Rican Parade of Fairfield County; Clayton Tebbetts & James Zarro, Team Mossman Events.

**OPENING CEREMONY / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Labrador greeted everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m.

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

**ROLL CALL**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

● **DECEMBER 12, 2023 - REGULAR MEETING**

The following corrections were made to the minutes of December 12, 2023:

- Craig Nadrizny, Public Works Director was not in attendance at the meeting.
- From the old business, item #2: Denise Taylor Moye seconded the motion to approve a feasibility study to review the concept of an athletic field at seaside park as outlined by the university with no certainty of approval and John Mark Hosier was opposed to the

motion. The motion was passed with five (5) in favor (Labrador, Cotto, Grisby, Wade, and Moye) and one (1) opposed (Hosier).

**\*\*COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

**\*\*COMMISSIONER CRUZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\*MOTION WAS APPROVED 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](mailto:tatiana.urena@bridgeportct.gov) to sign up for Public Speaking.

There was no one from the public who wished to address the commission at this time.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Donald Wilson, Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse, 56 Fairview Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, providing an update to host the Sports for Peace Week 2024 & Middle School Sports League for approximately 2,000 people for the following dates:
  - 6/1/2024 – City Hall Park – National Gun Violence Awareness Teen Summit on the Greens, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. set-up at 11:00 a.m. clean-up at 5:00 p.m.
  - 6/2/2024 – McLevy Green – Youth Gospel Concert and Outreach, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., set-up at 11:00 a.m. clean-up at 5:00 p.m.
  - 6/3/2024 – McLevy Green – Paint for Peace Kick-Off Event, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., set-up at 3:00 p.m. clean-up at 8:00 p.m.
  - 6/8/2024 – Seaside Park Band Shell & Fields – Sports for Peace Day Sports and Music Festival, (@Fields) 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. clean-up at 2:00 p.m.; (@ Band Shell) 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., set-up at 1:00 p.m. and clean up at 7:00 p.m.
  - 6/9/2024 – Seaside Park Fields – Sports Tournament, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., with a set-up at 8:00 a.m. and clean-up at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Labrador asked if the first event date of June 01, 2024 and location was still available. Ms. Urena confirmed the date was still available for the site and added that it was an alternate site since McLevy Green is booked for that day.

Commissioner Wade asked where the event would be held and Commissioner Labrador replied by the city hall on Golden Hill Street.

Commissioner Labrador asked if the second event date of June 02, 2024 and location was still available. Ms. Urena confirmed the date and location had been reserved for the event.

Commissioner Labrador asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding the June 3, 2024 event. No commentary or concerns were expressed.

Commissioner Labrador brought up the June 8, 2024 and June 9, 2024 events held at Seaside park. Ms. Urena confirmed all the dates and locations were available.

Commissioner Hosier asked what field will be used for the two day event. Mr. Wilson responded they have used the fields by Bridgeport Military Academy off of Iranistan Avenue, they will be using the same site for the upcoming event.

Commissioner Labrador added he thought they used the fields by the bandshield and diamond seven (7). Mr. Wilson responded they have used that space for flag football. Commissioner Labrador added they must be talking about the fields off of Waldemere Avenue. Mr. Wilson agreed and described they will use that area for the soccer and baseball field and the area along Iranistan Avenue.

Mr. Nastu added last year they only used the area between diamond six and diamond seven with this upcoming event they are requesting more space which is possible but they would have to move or displace a few programs who will be using the fields that day. Commissioner Labrador asked what kind of displacement would it be, what groups are involved, and severity of the relocation. Mr. Nastu added a few years ago, Mr. Wilson requested for more space which was doable but to take up the entire area would be an inconvenience. If Mr. Wilson is targeting diamond eleven (11) which is on Iranistan Avenue, right by the bathrooms, it is doable for those two days.

Commissioner Labrador asked if Mr. Wilson will be confined to the space in diamond eleven (11) and no access to diamond ten (10) and diamond fifty (50) on the event dates. Mr. Nastu replied that is correct, they would have the space from the bandshell, diamond eleven (11) and diamond seven (7).

Commissioner Labrador confirms the event will hold the space from the bandshell to the old diamond nine (9) and possibly the usage of diamond eleven (11). Mr. Nastu confirmed that is correct from the Parks department understanding.

Commissioner Labrador clarified to Mr. Wilson if they needed to use diamond eleven (11) it would be completely fine but that would be the space they are limited to. It wouldn't include the surrounding diamonds.

Commissioner Labrador reminded Mr. Wilsons if he needs additional land he must reach out to Mr. Nastu to move the other programs around for space.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Nastu if they would be able to use the soccer field in that area for the soccer, flag football and kickball tournament. Mr. Nastu said the areas they always use will be available to them.

Commissioner Labrador adds in so nothing much has changed from the previous site proposals except the addition to possibly using diamond eleven (11). Mr. Nastu agrees.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE EVENT DATES AND LOCATIONS DESIGNATED FOR THE SPORTS OF PEACE WEEK 2024 AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS LEAGUE.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

2. Rosa Torres, 879 Elm Street, New Haven, CT, requesting to host a car show and music competition to raise funds for Mental Health Awareness on Saturday, May 11, 2024 at **Seaside Park Casino Bath House parking lot** from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a set-up at 7:00 a.m. and clean-up at 6:00 p.m. for approximately 75 to 100 people.

Commissioner Labrador asked if Ms. Torres was in attendance. No response was made from Ms. Torres or anyone speaking on her behalf. She was not present to the meeting.

Commissioner Labrador asked if this is the second or third time they have tabled this item. Commissioner Wade responded this is the second time they have tabled the item. Ms. Urena confirmed this is the second time they have tabled the item.

**\*\*COMMISSIONER COTTO MOTIONED TO DENY THE ITEM OF THE CAR SHOW EVENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS ON SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024.**

**\*\*COMMISSIONER GRISBY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

3. Rosa Torres, 879 Elm Street, New Haven, CT, requesting to host a car show and music competition to raise funds for Cancer Awareness on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at **Seaside Park Casino Bath House parking lot** from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a set-up at 8:00 a.m. and clean-up at 6:00 p.m. for approximately 75 to 100 people.

Ms. Urena asked a new guest who dialed in to introduce themselves if they are a presenter for tonight's meeting. No response was made.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COTTO MOTIONED TO DENY THE ITEM OF THE CAR SHOW EVENT FOR CANCER AWARENESS ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

**\*\*DENISE TAYLOR MOYE JOINED THE MEETING AT 5:27 P.M.\*\***

4. Margaret Judge, Stratfield Historic District Association, 51 Brooklawn Place, Bridgeport, CT, requesting approval to place signage on the corner of Brooklawn and North Avenue at **Clinton Park**. (Parks Board approved December 8, 2020 meeting.)

Ms. Judge shared she is in attendance with a board member who has been working on the project, Angie Staltaro. Since proposing the idea to the commission back in December of 2020 and due to everything getting put on pause, they would like to complete the project of putting the welcome to Stratfield Historic District sign up at Clinton park. Since the initial proposal they continue to clean the area once a month except during the winter, have grown in their association size and host more events for the community. They have been working with Andy Toledo for the design and measurements of the sign to be in compliance.

Commissioner Labrador asked since the last time they came to the commission, have they met with anyone from the Parks departments to for a second look at the signage and share exactly where it would be going. Ms. Judge replied she has met with Andy Toledo virtually and Brett Caulfield was included in all the email messages as well.

Ms. Judge asked if Ms. Urena received an email with the rendering of the sign and Ms. Urena replied she received an email with no attachments.

Mr. Toledo confirmed himself and Mr. Caulfield has been working with the association on the project. They recently went to the site two weeks ago to measure for accuracy and Mr. Caulfield recommended the signage be 60 inches across at 48 inches tall. They have submitted the signage request to the vendor and once it is approved they will get pricing.

Commission Hosier asked if that location will be across from Clinton park. Mr. Toledo replied yes.

Commission Labrador asked a series of questions. Who would be in charge of the sign, the wear and tear, who would maintain the surrounding grounds and materials used to create the signage.

Mr. Burgos replied the Parks department will take care of the site grounds. Commissioner Labrador asked to confirm if the department would be in charge of grass maintenance, planting of flowers, etc. Mr. Burgos confirmed to his recollection there are small bushes and flowers around the area.

Commissioner Labrador asked in regards to the signage itself and wear and tear, who would be responsible for that. Ms. Judge replied the association would be happy to maintain the sign and make any necessary repairs. The sign would be made out of wood painted green with white lettering.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE SIGNAGE ON THE CORNER OF BROOKLAWN AND NORTH AVENUE AT CLINTON PARK.**

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

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

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of the 2024 Board of Park Commissioners monthly meeting calendar.

Commissioner Hosier asked if there was discussion to change the start time for meetings to 6p.m. Commissioner Labrador replied as time goes on, he has noticed some commissioners enter the call a little late for whatever reason being. He believes adjusting the time will allow them to start on time with everyone present.

Commissioner Hosier asked Ms. Urena how would the time change affect her schedule. Ms. Urena said if they start at. 5:30 p.m., she would still be at the office so that's fine with her.

Commissioner Hosier added he was considering how Commissioner Grisby gets out of work at 5 p.m.

Commissioner Labrador added when the meeting started later they would be bothered or tired by the time all the items were addressed but he believes they have gotten a handle on how the meetings are held and how many items go on each agenda. It would be up to the board to vote on what works best for them.

Commissioner Grisby commented that 5:30 p.m. works perfectly for him.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE ITEM AS AMENDED WITH THE NEW 5:30 P.M. START TIME WITH THE SAME CALENDAR MEETING DATES.**

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

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

2. Milta Feliciano, Puerto Rican Parade of Fairfield County, Inc., P.O. Box 447, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host the Annual Puerto Rican Parade and Festival on Sunday, July 14, 2024 at **Seaside Park Band Shell** from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with a set-up at 5:00 a.m. and clean-up to begin at 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Live music, food trucks, and approval for Marina Village parking area. Approximately 3,000 people in attendance.

Ms. Feliciano introduced herself as the president of the Puerto Rican Parade of Fairfield County and noted Lisa Colon, the Vice president to the organization, was also on the call. This would be their 31st annual event, comparing this proposal to the last event, they are looking to go back to their 8 p.m. end time for the event. They are looking to start the set-up time at 5am to allow the electricians time to put up the flag, open the electrical box with the organization staff to be allowed onto the premises to help with any troubleshoots that might come up during set-up time.

Commissioner Labrador asked so the start time is to allow the electrician to set up. Ms. Feliciano responded yes, and this will allow a staff member from the organization - most likely herself to be there to answer any questions from the technician.

Commissioner Labrador asked if the event is still free. Ms. Feliciano replied yes. Commissioner Labrador reminded her would need to go through the same application process as last year with permits and hope the event turns out better than last year's. From the Parks commission they will try to help as much as they can. He believes the event is great for bringing the community and city together, even people from different towns. He enjoys seeing the event being hosted.

Commissioner Labrador asked Mr. Burgos how did last year's event go for the Park's crew. Mr. Burgos responded they just need to make sure all the small details are tied up to allow another successful event. They would just need to meet again to confirm all the details. The 5 a.m. set-up time should not be a problem, the Parks department usually arrives at 6 a.m. but that can be moved up without a problem.

Commissioner Labrador asked was the parking an issue, especially by the gates as he personally found issues with who was let into the park and who was able to park in that area. They will make it specific to who can go in and who can park in specific areas. This is something he will sit down with Mr. Burgos and Lisa or Milta to come up with how many cars can go into the park. Vendors is something that also has to be discussed with Mr. Burgos as well.

Commissioner Hosier asked didn't they have V.I.P tickets for people to allow individuals to park inside the park.

Commissioner Labrador replied they were given a set amount of passes to allow those certain people inside the park but copies were duplicated. The need to make something more customized.

Commissioner Hosier besides all the concerns, the event was great and thanked the organization for hosting.

Ms. Feliciano apologizes for the inconveniences and embarrassment, she agrees with the commission on the parking stickers and making them unique. Also welcoming a meeting to further discuss all the matters into the event.

Commissioner Labrador invited Ms. Colon to join

Commissioner Wade asked if any duplicates were made. Commissioner Labrador replied that is what they will discuss when they meet again. Commissioner Cotto asked if they used a seal, something notaries would use. Ms. Feliciano replied yes. Commissioner Cotto added if it's like a notary seal, that cannot be reduplicated or run through a copy machine.

Commissioner Labrador suggested there should also be a special number attached to the pass as well.

Ms. Feliciano replied the organization is willing to meet and do whatever it takes to allow the event to be successful and run smoothly.

Ms. Urena added the copy of the parade map is attached to the package, each commission can see the diagram at the end of their package.

Commissioner Labrador asked if the dates would still be available. Ms. Urena replied the event date has been reserved.

Ms. Colon added she is will to

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COTTO MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE ITEM FOR THE EVENT ON JULY 14, 2024 AT THE SEASIDE BANDSHELL.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER GRISBY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

3. Clayton Tebbetts, Team Mossman Events, 109 Sanford Street Unit G, Hamden, CT, requesting to host the Park City Triathlon (Swim, Bike, Run) on Sunday, August 11, 2024 at **Seaside Park** from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. with set-up at 5:00 a.m. and clean-up at 9:30 a.m. for approximately 200 people.

Mr. Tebbetts introduced himself and added his partner James Zarro is also present for the call. They used to host the race at Seaside park in the past and would like to bring it back in a different format to the park.

Commissioner Labrador asked when the time they hosted the event.

Mr. Tebbetts replied, 2014 was the time they hosted the event. They started in 2004 and the last event was in 2014. Commissioner Labrador asked why they stopped for ten (10) years and now want to bring the event back. Mr. Tebbetts replied the last time they held the event, Mr. Carol had them move the transition area down to the corner making things more complicated. They wanted to go back in 2015 but it wouldn't have been a great experience for the athletes with the new arrangements. In 2016, Mr. Tebbetts was involved in an accident putting a pause to hosting big events but he has hosted 5k runs in the area of New Haven. The race at Seaside is a fundraiser for Swim across the sound.

Commissioner Labrador asked Mr. Burgos if he was involved in the events. Mr. Burgos replied no, he joined in 2017. He suggested just going over the logistics over everything and we can make it happen.

Commissioner Labrador asked if there was ever an issue with the times that materials or equipment were said to be removed at the park from the time they were actually removed. Mr. Tebbetts replied not for their race, one of the issues they had which was solved by adjusting the distance of the race was the gates being closed while people were riding their bikes on road. Originally it was a 5 loop course and the gates were allowed to start closed until about 9:24 a.m. for the safety of the bikers. Which caused issues for the beachgoers, now they will start earlier and have the gates open as soon as the last biker gets off their bike.

Commissioner Labrador asked Mr. Burgos if he's gotten a chance to see the diagram for the event. Mr. Burgo replied not yet, we do have to go over the logistics to the event and having the gates closed for the event won't be an issue as they have done it for prior events.

Commissioner Labrador asked if Mr. Nastu or Ms. Conine can add to how the event will impact beachgoers that may use that area.

**\*\* THE DIAGRAM WAS PULLED UP TO BE DISCUSSED\*\***

Mr. Tebbetts said the transition area is where the bike rack and bikes will be posted at. The red lines would swim course Commissioner Labrador asked where parking area would be and Mr. Tebbetts replied in the grass area.

Ms. Conine added her biggest concern from the last event was the bike set-up being completed the day before at midday causing a lot of disturbance to the beach goers. Mr. Tebbetts replied that was the set-up before 2014, they moved the transition area down to the end of Barnum Road and started setting up overnight when no one was at the park.

Ms. Conine asked to Mr. Tebbetts recollection of the prior event, how many beachgoers were entering the park as they were finishing the event. Mr. Tebbetts said he doesn't quite remember but for this upcoming event they will be done by 9 a.m., the last event would be the runners and the bikers should be off the road by 8 a.m.

Mr. Nastu added this event seems to be scaled down from their prior events, the end time between 8am and 9am is more manageable than something closer to 10 am.

Commissioner Labrador asked Mr. Tebbetts to get together with Mr. Burgos to go over the map of the events, the times for set-up and take down when it gets closer to the time of the event.

Commissioner Labrador added he wasn't aware they would stay overnight to set-up. He asked who secured them inside the park. Mr. Tebbetts responded they would let the police officers know when they do the closing sweeping of the park.

Commissioner Labrador said he understood that, as it is a normal routine but who checks up on them once the gates are closed overnight. Mr. Tebbetts replied they just communicate with the police who close the park. It is usually 3-4 crew members who stay overnight in their cars once the set-up is completed.

Commissioner Hosier asked if they would stay overnight, not being able to leave the park. For their safety, who is there to protect them? Mr. Tebbetts replied there is no one usually there to protect them at a security level.

Commissioner Labrador said he understands that but as a park board they have a responsibility to make sure whoever is staying in the park, especially after hours, that there is some kind of protection set up. In the past things could have gone smoothly but once the gates are closed, you would be there alone and people can just walk into the park.

Mr. Tebbetts replied the crew can try to set up earlier to get out of the park at the same time as the public before the gates are closed.

Commissioner Wade clarified there is no issue with your team staying overnight. The board is just concerned about security and safety for themselves.

Commission Labrador added that regardless if they set-up and leave or decide to stay overnight, they would need to submit a contract stating they have security in place to protect the equipment and/or the crew during overnight hours. The issue is that someone can walk into the park and decide to move or damage their set-up and equipment.

Commissioner Hosier said they just want to see some type of measure of security to protect everyone.

Commissioner Cotto added to the expense of having security, if a police were to stay overnight with their lights on then it wouldn't be a great cost.

Mr. Curry said he agrees with the commission, safety is a big factor and believes they would have some type of security there during their overnight stay.

Mr. Tebbetts said that won't be a problem. They usually hire police officers for the event but they can find more security for the set-up time.

Commissioner Labrador said to get together with Mr. Burgos to go over the plans and come back to the commission with the insurance or security contract to confirm to the board there is some kind of blanket of security set-up for every party involved.

Mr. Tebbetts agrees to hold the event dates and will reach out the board once he obtains the security contracts.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO HOLD THE DATES AND TIME FOR THE EVENT.**

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

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

## **REPORTS**

### 1. Commissioner's Report

Report was not available at this time.

## 2. Director's Report – Designee Speaker of Public Facilities

Mr. Curry acknowledged his team and the parks commission for all the great work they do to maintain and bring people into the parks.

He went on to give updates on the park projects.

- Westfield Park improvements have been completed, they are waiting on the weather to improve to schedule the ribbon cutting event.
- Ellsworth Park Field improvements have a delay due to supply issues. Hopefully they can start back up in Spring 2024.
- Seaside Park Perry Memorial Area project is currently out to bid with an estimated date of completion for Fall 2024.
- Seaside Park West Beach Playground is at 75% completion with a few things to be completed. They anticipate a ribbon cutting event for Spring 2024.
- B.J. Brown Park project is currently looking for funding to assist with the ADA playground proposals for the area. They will present it in next year's capital budget to get some funding for the project and they are working with the Wakemen's Boys and Girls club for this project.

Mr. Burgos went over the Parks Maintenance report.

- All city park restrooms and splash pads have been winterized, Porto-Johns have been placed on Seaside Park and Beardsley Park for the use of the Public.
- Fields are closed for the season.
- Leaf pick up/Leave mulching has been completed for all parks. They will clean up any leaves on command.
- Winter equipment has been serviced and used for the first snowstorm of the year.
- The Beardsley Park Baseball diamond fence was completed and will be revisited to fix errors.
- Winfield Park wood safety fibers have been completed.
- Seaside Park West Beach playground equipment has been installed, working on final details.
- Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course will undertake the Black Rock sand bunker project this spring.

Ms. Conine went over the Recreation division report.

- Middle school Basketball leagues will begin Saturday, January 13, 2024. Games will be held at Central, Bassick and Harding from 9am to 3pm.
- The swim program has been completed and the second session will resume in February with a waiting list that has doubled.
- The indoor track was a success so they will be creating another session.

Commissioner Labrador asked if the department can add another fencing company to their list as the current company doesn't make the projects a priority. Mr. Curry replied they cannot look for a new company. The contracts bids have terms. Some are annual and up to 5 terms with extensions. He understands the concerns of the new fence that was put up in Beardsley park and they are addressing those concerns.

Commissioner Labrador also mentioned he has brought up concerns before like the Central Baseball field, which has been known for two or three years now and there's always some kind of delay. Mr. Curry replied they can add that to next year's budget request.

Commissioner Labrador asked where are the capital improvements funds that the commission has put aside. Mr. Curry replied they have roughly \$161,000 dollars in a special account. They can reach out to Nestor for exact information.

Commissioner Labrador replied, after all these years of not touching those accounts at all, they only have one hundred and something thousand dollars. Commissioner Wade added someone is cyphing the money.

Commissioner Labrador replied that the account needs for the commission to sign off any money used. He wants to know why it is so hard for the commission to access the account and why there is so little money in the account.

Commissioner Hosier asked if this is the park improvement fund they are referring to. Mr. Curry responded that is correct. Commissioner Hosier added so there is \$161,000 dollars, does that include the \$50,000 dollars from last year and the \$50,000 from this year? Mr. Curry replied he isn't certain to answer that question but Nestor will be able to give you the correct answer.

Commissioner Labrador added this has nothing to with Mr. Curry exactly but the concerns are they generate so much money during the summer and from the account it doesn't seem so. Then to get access to the account they have to get approval from so many people. The running around of approval only makes the initial proposal grow due to inflation.

Commissioner Cotto asked why the commission doesn't get a financial report, not even month to month. We should know what's available in the accounts and how the money is being used.

Commissioner Hosier replied when there are budget and appropriation committee meetings to determine budgets, it is the commission's responsibility to go fourth to the committee to request or just voice their opinions. Everything starts with the council and ends with the Mayor's recommendations but it starts with the commission members to be there to request and advocate for the Parks department.

Commissioner Labrador added because some of them don't work for the city, they wouldn't know of that process and those who do know may have to hear it from city employees or council members about their request and be questioned for sharing their opinions. If they were to go in front of the committee with proposals and estimates they will question their request.

Mr. Curry replied he goes to the front line workers and discusses their needs on a daily basis, they always put the request in the capital request but usually only half gets awarded.

Commissioner Labrador commented he knows it's not the department's fault and they do a great job spreading the little butter on all the bread they have to serve. But it's not fair for a committee member to just disagree one day and reject a proposal then the Park department gets blamed for things not being done. Why is it they lease land and the Parks department doesn't get any funds from that deal but they would have to maintain the upkeep.

Mr. Curry agreed with every point being made, when land is leased it goes into the general operating budget according to the ordinance and when it is sold then it goes into the Park's account. He suggested setting up a meeting with Nestor to get all his concerns raised or solved and he would love to be there because he stands with all those points.

Commissioner Hosier suggested they can set up a special meeting with Nestor so everyone is in attendance and everything can be discussed.

Commissioner Labrador added it's just that a lot of questions have been swept under the rug and now they have people in place who are standing firm and want answers.

Mr. Curry added if they ever have any questions or concern, they can always reach out to him to help get things resolved.

Commissioner Hosier added Mr. Burns and Mr. Newtown from the common council can be added to the special meeting as well.

Commissioner Labrador closed the meeting by thanking everyone in attendance and will be following up with setting up the special meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vianca Rivera,

Telesco Secretarial Services.

City of Bridgeport  
Board of Park Commissioners  
January 09, 2023