

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

This meeting was held via Zoom.

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

OTHERS: Tatiana Urena, Parks Department; Luann Conine, Recreation Department; Luis Burgos, Parks Department; Brett Caulfield, Superintendent of Parks; Lee Nastu, Parks; Council Member Alfredo Castillo, Brian Turcos, Port 5 National Association of Naval Veterans; Ivette Cabrera, Norma Pfriem Breast Center; Fred Garrity Jr., The UPFFA of CT dba/ The CT United Ride; Tristan M. Haller, Connoisseur Media CT; Atty. Bevon McLean, McLean Law PLLC; Daniel Viera, Liv Free; 203-895-3289, 203-543-8878

OPENING CEREMONY / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Labrador called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. He then led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

There was a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• JANUARY 9, 2024 (REGULAR MEETING)

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2024 REGULAR MEETING.**

The following correction was noted:

Page 1, **Header:** Please change the date from January 9, 2023 to January 9, 2024.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2024 MEETING AS AMENDED.**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2024 MEETING AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM:

The public may call the Office of Parks and Recreation at 203-576-7234 and speak with Tatiana Urena or email her at tatiana.urena@bridgeportct.gov to sign up for Public Speaking.

OLD BUSINESS

1. William R. Battaglia, Port 5 National Association of Naval Veterans, 69 Brewster Street, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host The Wall That Heals event with a load-in date of Tuesday, September 24, 2024, Opening day/ceremony on Thursday, September 26, 2024, and closing ceremony with load-out on Sunday, September 29, 2024 at Veteran’s Park or Puglio Park (as backup). Time depends on the arrival of the delivery escort of the Wall. Approximately 150 people in attendance.

Commissioner Labrador noted that Mr. Battaglia was not on the call. Ms. Urena explained that Mr. Turcos was present to speak about the application because Mr. Battaglia was not available. She added that Mr. Turcos had been involved in the event, but the application was filed by Mr. Battaglia. Commissioner Labrador requested this be included in the minutes.

Mr. Turcos gave a brief overview of the event and said that they were asking to have it at Veteran’s Park. Commissioner Wade said that her application listed Seaside Park as the venue. Mr. Turcos said that they had originally applied for Seaside, but Sound on Sound will be at Seaside, so they asked for Veteran’s Park.

Commissioner Hosier suggested that they look into having a volunteer police officer on site for the overnight period. Mr. Caulfield said that they were working on the details but need to secure the dates first. Commissioner Hosier said that he was concerned about the safety and the parking. Mr. Caulfield reviewed the details.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM OB-1 WILLIAM R. BATTAGLIA, PORT 5 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NAVAL VETERANS, 69 BREWSTER STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST THE WALL THAT HEALS EVENT WITH A LOAD-IN DATE OF TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024, OPENING DAY/CEREMONY ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024, AND CLOSING CEREMONY WITH LOAD-OUT ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024 AT VETERAN’S PARK OR PUGLIO PARK (AS BACKUP). TIME DEPENDS ON THE ARRIVAL OF THE DELIVERY ESCORT OF THE WALL. APPROXIMATELY 150 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.
** COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Brian Turco, Port 5 National Association of Naval Veterans, 11 Knoll Avenue, Milford, CT, requesting to host the Tunnel to Towers 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, October 19, 2024

at Ellsworth Park from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with a set-up time of 7:00 a.m. and clean-up time at 11:00 a.m. for approximately 200 people.

Mr. Turco said that it would be a busy fall season and one of the biggest fund raisers for Tunnel to Towers is the 5K events. He said that they wanted to use Ellsworth Park as the opening staging area for the runners.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 1. BRIAN TURCO, PORT 5 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NAVAL VETERANS, 11 KNOLL AVENUE, MILFORD, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST THE TUNNEL TO TOWERS 5K RUN/WALK ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024 AT ELLSWORTH PARK FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M. WITH A SET-UP TIME OF 7:00 A.M. AND CLEAN-UP TIME AT 11:00 A.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 200 PEOPLE.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Ivette Cabrera, Norma Pfriem Breast Center – Bridgeport Hospital, 267 Grant Street, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host the 2024 annual Stroll for Strength Run/Walk on Saturday, October 5, 2024 with a rain date of Sunday, October 6, 2024 at Seaside Park – P.T. Barnum Statue from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. with a set-up time at 7:15 a.m. and clean-up time at 10:15 a.m. for approximately 200 people.

Ms. Cabrera greeted the Commissioners and said that they had held this event before. Commissioner Labrador noted that the Commission had instituted a policy about no longer allowing rain dates. However, since Ms. Cabrera was not informed of this, he would allow it this time.

Ms. Cabrera gave a brief overview of the event, which they have held at Seaside Park for a number of years.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 2. IVETTE CABRERA, NORMA PFRIEM BREAST CENTER – BRIDGEPORT HOSPITAL, 267 GRANT STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST THE 2024 ANNUAL STROLL FOR STRENGTH RUN/WALK ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024 WITH A RAIN DATE OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2024 AT SEASIDE PARK – P.T. BARNUM STATUE FROM 8:30 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. WITH A SET-UP TIME AT 7:15 A.M. AND CLEAN-UP TIME AT 10:15 A.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 200 PEOPLE.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. Fred Garrity Jr., The UPFFA of CT dba/ The CT United Ride, 7 Stonewall Lane, Trumbull, CT, requesting to host the 2024 annual 9/11 Tribute Ceremony on Sunday, September 8, 2024 at Seaside Park – Casino Bath House beginning at 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. with a set-up time at 11:00 a.m. and clean-up at 4:00 p.m. for approximately 2,000 people.

Mr. Garrity said that he had been doing this for 23 of the 24 years of the event. He said that last year they had to cancel for the first time due to the weather. However, he noted that the cooperation from the City of Bridgeport, Public Facilities, and Parks was phenomenal.

Commissioner Cotto said that he had participated in the ride for many years and he would be greatly honored to be the one to move to approve the item.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 3. FRED GARRITY JR., THE UPFFA OF CT DBA/ THE CT UNITED RIDE, 7 STONEWALL LANE, TRUMBULL, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST THE 2024 ANNUAL 9/11 TRIBUTE CEREMONY ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 AT SEASIDE PARK – CASINO BATH HOUSE BEGINNING AT 1:00 P.M. TO 3:30 P.M. WITH A SET-UP TIME AT 11:00 A.M. AND CLEAN-UP AT 4:00 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 2,000 PEOPLE.**

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Commissioner Labrador said that if there was anything that the Parks Commissioners could do to assist Mr. Garrity, he would like to know.

4. Tristan M. Haller, Connoisseur Media CT, 440 Wheelers Farms Rd. Suite 302, Milford, CT, requesting to host the 2024 annual 991 PLR Mike Lapitino Golf Tournaments on Friday, July 26, 2024 at the Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course – Red Course from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with a set-up time at 8:00 a.m. and clean-up at 6:00 p.m. for approximately 200 people.

Mr. Haller greeted the Commissioners and said that they had done this a number of times before and that the Golf Pro had been very cooperative. Commissioner Labrador said that the golf tournament had done well and there had not been any complaints.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 4. TRISTAN M. HALLER, CONNOISSEUR MEDIA CT, 440 WHEELERS FARMS RD. SUITE 302, MILFORD, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST THE 2024 ANNUAL 991 PLR MIKE LAPITINO GOLF TOURNAMENTS ON FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2024 AT THE FAIRCHILD WHEELER GOLF COURSE – RED COURSE FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP TIME AT 8:00 A.M. AND CLEAN-UP AT 6:00 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 200 PEOPLE.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. Nural Alam, CT Bangladesh Community, 69-4th Street, Bridgeport, CT, requesting to host the annual Bangladesh Picnic on Saturday, June 1, 2024 at Seaside Park – Left of the Arches across from the University of Bridgeport from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with a set-up time of 8:00 a.m. and clean-up at 7:00 p.m. for approximately 500 people in attendance.

Council Member Castillo said that this was his eighth year working with the Bangladesh picnic. Mr. Burgos said that there had not been any problems in the past and Council Member Castillo had been coordinating the event for a number of years. A discussion followed about the attendees entering through the arches.

Commissioner Taylor-Moye said that with Council Member Castillo being involved, the group knows the requirements and follows them.

**** COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-MOYE MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 5. NURAL ALAM, CT BANGLADESH COMMUNITY, 69-4TH STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST THE ANNUAL BANGLADESH PICNIC ON SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024 AT SEASIDE PARK – LEFT OF THE ARCHES ACROSS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP TIME OF 8:00 A.M. AND CLEAN-UP AT 7:00 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 500 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. Michelle L. Brooks, 336 Bradley Street, Bridgeport, CT requesting to host the 10th annual Bridgeport Community Festival on Saturday, July 20, 2024 at McLevy Green from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. with a set-up at 8:00 a.m. and clean-up at 9:00 p.m. for approximately 150 people. (Same day as the Jerk Fest at Seaside Park)

Ms. Brooks was not present on the call.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 6. MICHELLE L. BROOKS, 336 BRADLEY STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CT REQUESTING TO HOST THE 10TH ANNUAL BRIDGEPORT COMMUNITY FESTIVAL ON SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2024 AT MCLEVY GREEN FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 9:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP AT 8:00 A.M. AND CLEAN-UP AT 9:00 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 150 PEOPLE.**

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. Bevon McLean, Esquire, McLean Law PLLC acting on behalf of LTE Management LLC, 2 Trap Falls Road, Suite 508, Shelton, CT, requesting to host the LUST – All White Gala – Caribbean Festival on Sunday, July 7, 2024 at Seaside Park – Band Shell from 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. with a set-up at 8:00 p.m. and clean-up at 12:00 a.m. for approximately 1,500 people. (This is the 4th of July holiday weekend)

Atty. McLean greeted the Commissioners. This is the group's first time hosting the event at Seaside. Mr. Labrador said that usually they do not schedule any major events for Seaside on the 4th of July week-end. They reserve that week-end for the Bridgeport residents.

Ms. Conine, the Recreation Superintendent, said that it was the busiest week-end at Seaside and it is usually fully occupied. The parking attendants have to supervise the number of cars coming in and leaving to make sure there is parking available.

Mr. Caulfield, the Superintendent of Parks, said that it would not be fair to the event attendees or the residents since the park is so busy that week-end.

Commissioner Cotto said that all the years when he worked as a police officer on that week-end, it is very congested at the park. He was concerned about the safety and overcrowding.

Commissioner Wade agreed with Commissioner Cotto, Mr. Caulfield, and Ms. Conine.

Commissioner Taylor-Moye asked about the hours because they don't usually allow people to stay that late in park.

Commissioner Hosier asked Atty. McLean if he had an alternative date in mind. Atty. McLean said that they would be able to do it the week before or the week after. Ms. Urena checked the calendar and said that June 30th was still open.

Commissioner Labrador then reviewed the policies for the park usage. He explained that there are no lights in the park and that renting lighting is very expensive. Fencing will be required.

The Commissioners then reviewed the details of the diagram that Atty. McLean had submitted. The group does plan to serve alcohol.

Commissioner Labrador pointed out that they needed a second exit and that they would need to check people's wrist band to insure that the alcohol does not leave the bandshell area. Atty. McLean said that the attendees were over 25 years old. They will need to get permits if they are going to erect tents or staging,

Atty. McLean said that he would work on adjusting the dates and addressing the various concerns. Commissioner Labrador said that he wants the group to have a successful event. He cautioned Atty. McLean that the Police Department has asked them not to schedule too many big events too closely together because they can't provide coverage. He said that he was trying to be fair to everyone.

One of the members named Jimmy explained that they have a contract with the artist for the 4th of July week-end. Discussion followed.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO TABLE AGENDA ITEM 7. BEVON MCLEAN, ESQUIRE, MCLEAN LAW PLLC ACTING ON BEHALF OF LTE MANAGEMENT LLC, 2 TRAP FALLS ROAD, SUITE 508, SHELTON, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST THE LUST – ALL WHITE GALA – CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL ON SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2024 AT SEASIDE PARK – BAND SHELL FROM 2:00 P.M. TO**

11:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP AT 8:00 P.M. AND CLEAN-UP AT 12:00 A.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 1,500 PEOPLE.

**** COMMISSIONER COTTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. Daniel Viera, Liv Free, 12 Sharon Road, Trumbull, CT, requesting to host a Fundraising party at the 19th hole including foam slide on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course – Black Course from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with a set-up time at 10:00 a.m. and clean-up time at 6:00 p.m. for approximately 400 people.

Commissioner Labrador said that he had spoken with Mr. Roach and expressed his concerns about the event. Mr. Viera said that he was focused on just using one hole near the clubhouse for the children who are affected by leukemia. They will have a foam slide with suds.

Commissioner Labrador asked about insurance coverage. Mr. Viera said that he could get a \$2 million policy but could increase it if the Commission wants it. There will be waivers for the participants. There will be some stakes set up to prevent usage of the 18th tee box and green.

Mr. Caulfield said that he was concerned about any damage to the course and restoring the area to its previous condition. Mr. Viera said that he would sign a hold harmless contract and that the slide film dissolves when it rains, so they will turn on the sprinklers.

**** COMMISSIONER HOSIER MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 8. DANIEL VIERA, LIV FREE, 12 SHARON ROAD, TRUMBULL, CT, REQUESTING TO HOST A FUNDRAISING PARTY AT THE 19TH HOLE INCLUDING FOAM SLIDE ON TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024 AT FAIRCHILD WHEELER GOLF COURSE – BLACK COURSE FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M. WITH A SET-UP TIME AT 10:00 A.M. AND CLEAN-UP TIME AT 6:00 P.M. FOR APPROXIMATELY 400 PEOPLE.**

**** COMMISSIONER WADE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REPORTS

1. Commissioner’s Report – There was no report at this time.

2. Director’s Report – Designee Speaker of Public Facilities

Mr. Caulfield displayed his report on screen and reviewed the details of the work done in the parks and the projects that were completed.

Ms. Conine greeted everyone and reviewed the details of the upcoming events and programs with the Commissioners.

The basketball programs are underway and well attended.

Commissioner Labrador said that he had gotten some calls from golfers that they would like to see the driving range spruced up and beautified. He thanked the Parks and Recreation staff for all their hard work. He said that the parks are open 7 days a week to allow the residents to enjoy them. The staff continues to supply the residents with the various recreation programs and events.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER WADE MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** COMMISSIONER HOSIER SECONDED
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services