

New Haven Board of Park Commissioners

Meeting No. 1458

Pardee Rose Garden
150 Park Rd.
Hamden, CT 06517

June 17, 2021

Present: President Belowsky, Commissioners Carl Babb, Georgia Miller, Ernie Santiago, Kevin Walton; Andrew Donarumo, Bob Potter, Anthony Vermiglio
Absent: Commissioners Ronnell Higgins, Hector Torres; Thomas Verderame
Staff: Director Jeff Pescosolido, Deputy Director William Carone, Director Gwen Busch, Deputy Director William Dixon, Tariq Dasent

I. Minutes of Meeting #1457: Motion to approve Minutes of Meetings 1457. Motion Seconded. Unanimously approved. Closed.

II. Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve Treasurer's Report. Motion Seconded. Unanimously approved. President Belowsky requested an updated report for the next meeting as the treasurer's report states March 31, 2021. **Closed.**

III. Old Business:

- Reminder of walkthrough at Lake Whitney Dam. The walkthrough will be at 11:30 on Tuesday, June 22, 2021.
- The dedication date for the clock tower at Hillhouse will be determined by President Belowsky and Deputy Director William Dixon.
- Bowen Field Update: Giovanni Zinn and Katherine Jacobs did an audit on the irrigation system. Sending bid out for the irrigation system and baseball renovations.
- Funds from the State and BOE are needed for repairs at the football field and track at Wilbur Cross.
- Commissioner Carl Babb asked if summer youth workers can clean up parks. Commissioner Walton suggested signage may help decrease littering.
- Giovanni Zinn will do a presentation on renovations at Alling Golf Course at an upcoming meeting. President Belowsky is hoping renovation can start in the fall.
- Commissioner Ernie Santiago has not received calls about the litter at Criscuolo Park however he has been receiving call about noise.

IV. New Business:

Wells Fargo – Christine Testani

Christine Testani will join the July meeting. Meeting will be held in person at 180 Park Road.

Signage – Andrew Donarumo & Anthony Vermiglio

Andrew Donarumo of 57 Ley Street, New Haven and Anthony Vermiglio of 125 Putnam Ave, Hamden will be having a benefit concert on July 2nd at Wooster Square from 6-9 pm. They are seeking permission to place temporary lawn signs around Wooster Square starting the week of June 21st. The signs will state the event, the date, and the time. The signs will be removed the day after the event.

Motion to approve. Motion Seconded. Unanimously approved. Closed.

Prime 16/ Temple Plaza – Bob Potter

Bob Potter was informed by Hershey at the Parks Department that his request to have a Beer Festival was approved however there were questions on how tickets would be sold. Bob explained tickets can be purchased through an app called BeerFest.com. Roughly 95-97 % of tickets are sold through this app. The event will be Saturday, August 28, 2021, from 11 am – 2pm at Temple Plaza. Partial proceeds will be donated to the Columbus House.

Commissioner Kevin Walton raised an issue with Bob Potter's presentation. Commissioner Walton stated there was no context to Bob Potter's presentation leaving many questions unanswered. Commissioner Walton would like to be more aware of who and what will be presented at future meetings. Deputy Director Carone explained last year commissioners wanted Bob to come back to explain how he sold tickets for this event. Commissioner Walton referenced the meeting from last year when Bob presented and stated there was an issue of making a profit without donating to Parks. Director Gwen Busch asked the commissioners if there was anything in writing that stated there is a requirement for donating when having a ticketed event. President Belowsky stated there is nothing in writing now. Director Busch would like to have something standardized so there is not a precedent set for one group and not another. Deputy Director Carone stated the relationship between Temple Plaza, the businesses, and the ambassadors should be reviewed. Businesses will go to the ambassadors first for approval for events rather than the Parks Commission. Commissioner Walton would like Carone and Busch to work on a process that would allow the commissioners to be more informed and consistent, while still being flexible. President Belowsky stated they will analyze and review this.

Pardee Rose Garden – William Carone

Deputy Director Carone presented for Katherine Jacobs as she could not attend. In October, the commission approved stone wall repairs to Pardee Rose Garden. Two small steps are showing signs of disrepair and they were not included in the original proposal. Katherine Jacobs did get a price to repair the stairs and the cost for the repairs is \$13,570. Commissioner Walton asked if this was the first time these steps were seeking approval to be repaired. Deputy Director Carone explained the larger project was approved prior however these stairs were not included. Commissioner Walton questioned how many other things will come up as this project goes along. Deputy Director Carone explained as of now this is the only additional cost for the project. Commissioner Walton asked if this would have to be put out to bid again or is this automatically approved since the contractor already has the job. Deputy Director Carone explained the money does not come from the general fund instead it comes from the Pardee Rose Garden fund so adding the stairs will not be an issue. Commissioner Walton would like the whole wall to be looked at so new improvements are not piece feed to the commissioners every month.

Motion to approve. Motion Seconded. Unanimously Approved. Closed.

V. Director's Report Parks & Public Works:

- Splash pads are open.
- Helping Arts & Ideas with stage. Concert starts Friday and runs for about 2.5 weeks.
- Fireworks are on for 2021.
- Assisting with vaccine clinics at Edgewood Park.
- No HR update on Supervisor and 3 caretakers' positions.

- Supporting summer youth camps.

Director's Report Youth & Recreation:

- American Rescue Plan funds were secured which allows for summer camp extension into August.
- Partnering with BOE for Summer of Fun. Recreation side will be in all 12 schools providing activities from 12-4 or 1-5.
- 2 Park Rangers resigned: in need of seasonal help.
- Waiting on a new furnace for 720 Edgewood.
- Working with friend groups who applied to be worksites under the Youth@Work program and will be cleaning up parks.
- Will need support from commissioners regarding sports permits. Director Busch is having difficulty with some leagues.
- Increases to the usages of the parks in the 2022 fiscal year.
- Griffin Hospital will place a pop up covid tent at Lighthouse Park.
- Director Busch extended the invite to join an ad hoc committee.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:53 PM

Minutes Submitted by: Tariq Dasent, Executive Administrative Assistant to Park & Public Works

Next Meeting: July 21st, 2021

Location: 180 Park Road