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Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.

Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Brian Candela at bcandela@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 21, 2023
VIA TELECONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: Lisa Shanahan, Chair; Ed Camacho; Josh Goldstein; David Heuvelman;
Thomas Livingston

STAFF: Brian Candela and Darin Callahan, Corporation Counsel;
Sabrina Godeski, Director of Business Development and Tourism;
Jessica Vonashek, Chief of Economic and Community Development

OTHERS: Tod Bryant, Norwalk Preservation Trust;
Dana Laird, Norwalk Historical Commission

ROLL CALL

Ms. Shanahan called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. She called the Roll as indicated above.

PUBLIC HEARING (possible action only)

Public participation comments are not verbatim and represent a summarization of statements unless otherwise noted. Speakers are Norwalk residents unless otherwise noted.

- Discuss and Vote on Chapter 55 – Demolition Delay Ordinance

Mr. Bryant spoke in support of the Ordinance; however, he was disappointed that they did not get the 180 day delay. He added that what they will have now is a vastly better Ordinance.

Ms. Dana Laird spoke in support of the Ordinance and said she hopes this will give a little more weight to the powers of the Historical Commission. She would like to see Norwalk's historical structures respected and paid attention to.

There were no further comments, and the Public Hearing was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION

Ms. Shanahan noted the Committee spent hours discussing this Ordinance. The Committee members made final revisions to the wording of the Ordinance.

- ** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THAT CHAPTER 55 – DEMOLITION DELAY
ORDINANCE PROPOSED ORDINANCE AS AMENDED BE APPROVED AND
FORWARDED TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no members of the public who wished to comment this evening.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- February 21, 2023-regular meeting of the Ordinance Committee

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Correct the spelling of the following names:

Priscilla Feral

Mary Verel

Tod Bryant

Page 5: Oak Hills should read – Mr. Livingston explained that this Ordinance is to put the Director of Parks and Recreation on the Oak Hills Park Authority.

Under the Leaf Blowing discussion the following sentence They had spoken to some members of the governing council...should read, they had spoken to some members of City government.

- ** MR. HEUVELMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

OLD BUSINESS:

- Discuss and vote on the Arts and Cultural District Proposal, Approval Process and Ordinance (Chapter 17A – Arts Commission)

Ms. Shanahan explained that the Committee is still working on how the account will work. She said she believes they will get grants that are pretty restrictive. Ms. Godeski explained that they will get grants and private donations. They will need to have a process on how the general funds are spent.

Mr. Heuvelman expressed concerns about how the funds will be accepted. Ms. Godeski said she believes that when they get a donation of money it will go to the Arts and Cultural District. Ms. Vonashek said that currently an individual can donate art and the Arts Commission can determine

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where to place it. The Arts and Cultural Commission will be able to collect private donations. Mr. Heuvelman said they need to be clear on how the Commission functions because they serve a dual purpose. Ms. Vonashek said that approvals would need to go through the Economic and Community Development Committee and the Common Council.

Mr. Goldstein asked if grants would be subject to conditions. He expressed concern that something would get lost and they would not be in compliance. Mr. Godeski explained they could include guidelines in the Ordinance regarding conditions.

Mr. Goldstein asked why in the officer section, the Mayor appoints a Chair and Vice Chair. Ms. Godeski said she believes this is to give more diversity to the Commission. For example, the same person would not hold this office year after year. Ms. Vonashek said this Commission will be responsible for administering different funds and that it was important for the Mayor to appoint these positions. This is not a typical Chair position. Ms. Shanahan suggested limiting the terms to two terms.

Mr. Goldstein asked if there would be designated areas as the Cultural Arts District. Ms. Vonashek said the definition of this District is that it has to be walkable. She noted that the Cranbury section of Norwalk has a lot of historic sites, but it is not a walkable area.

Mr. Heuvelman said that he remembers seeing a PowerPoint presentation from the State. The idea is that it is not just about cultural assets. It is about attracting people to the City. He asked if they have to have individuals with expertise on the Commission. He said he feels there is a need to embrace non-residents who have the expertise, as well as residents with the expertise. Ms. Shanahan said the Mayor felt strongly that the Norwalk residents would be voting members of the Commission. She asked everyone to think about this and another draft will be offered at next month's meeting.

- Discuss and Vote on Chapter 763, Article I, Oak Hills Park Authority

Mr. Livingston explained that part of the amendment was to add the Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs to the Oak Hills Park Authority. He said he also recommended removing the newspaper notices.

Mr. Camacho asked if it was legal to appoint the Director to serve on the Oak Hills Park Authority. Mr. Candela explained that the State's opinion was that it would not be prohibited.

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON
CHAPTER 763, ARTICLE I, OAK HILLS PARK AUTHORITY AT THE
NEXT ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

NEW BUSINESS

- Discuss Chapter 66A of the Norwalk Code (Mooring and Anchoring); 2023 Mooring Fee Schedule

Mr. Callahan reviewed the item. He said the Harbor Management Commission revised the fee structure for the 2023 calendar year. He said that he had an opportunity to review Chapter 66A and based on that review saw that the process for revising the fee structure for moorings was antiquated. He said the update will require an additional process, but it is not complicated. He said it should be easy to do and warrants some consideration.

Mr. Livingston said he has been approached by some local yacht clubs with concerns about the Ordinance. They are confused about how the fees are set up. Mr. Callahan said he will have to work with the Harbor Management Commission on this. He added that technically, the fees will have to be part of the Harbor Management plan. Ms. Shanahan said she will work with Mr. Callahan and meet with the Harbor Management Commission.

DISCUSSION ITEM

There were no other discussion items.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services