



CITY OF NORWALK
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL COMMITTEE
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024.

REGULAR MEETING

7:00 PM.



Members of the public may call in to participate. Callers will not be able to see the meeting participants. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, dial *9 on the phone and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to “view the meeting live” and/or “provide live comments” can use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the “raise your hand indicator” and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comments are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please email Dilene Byrd at dbyrd@norwalkct.gov with the subject line “Public Comment” to provide written public comments prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Darlene Young, Chair; Douglas Sutton; Nicole’ Eaddy; Duane Wiggins

ABSENT: Nicol Ayers; Heather Dunn; Lisa Shanahan; Johan Lopez

OTHERS: James Whipple; James Gerweck; Josh Rosales

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Young called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

At roll call, there were four (4) committee members present. A quorum was present.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES- NOVEMBER 13, 2024

**** MS. EADDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AMENDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION- MR. WIGGINS.**

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation this evening.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF VETERAN'S PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY JS ENDURANCE FOR THEIR GARAVEL SONO HALF MARATHON, 5K & KIDS FUN RUN TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH, 2025 FROM 8:30 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M. SET-UP TIME BY 8:00 A.M. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 2025 WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 5:00 P.M. APPROXIMATELY 1200 PEOPLE.

Mr. Hughes said the SONO Half Marathon is an annual event that brings a lot of people to Norwalk, and staff has no issues with it. Mr. Whipple provided a brief overview of the event and

said this will be the 11th year it has been held. He said that people look forward to the event, and they work with many of the local businesses and charities and are excited to continue the event.

Ms. Young said that as a resident of South Norwalk, she has seen a difference in the traffic and can now get through the neighborhood quickly and easily. She knows she can speak for folks in the area who are pleased with how this is working out.

**** MR. SUTTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF VETERAN'S PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY JS ENDURANCE FOR THEIR GARAVEL SONO HALF MARATHON, 5K & KIDS FUN RUN TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH, 2025 FROM 8:30 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M. SET-UP TIME BY 8:00 A.M. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 2025 WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 5:00 P.M. APPROXIMATELY 1200 PEOPLE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH, TAYLOR FARM AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY NORWALK MARINE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR NORWALK BOAT SHOW TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH, AND SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2025 FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M. APPROXIMATELY 13,500 PEOPLE

Mr. Hughes said this is the annual boat show that is held in Cove Marina, and they work in conjunction with boat show organizers as they utilize the parking at Calf Pasture Beach and Taylor Farm. He said the event has always run well and the staff has no issues with it.

Mr. Rosales provided a brief overview of the event and said this will be the 50th year the boat show will be held and will have approximately 13,000 attendees over the four days. He said with the help of the Recreation and Parks Department they have had a smooth last couple of years with the agreement they have for the parking and hope to continue that.

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**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE OCTOBER 26, 2021, AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND RACE COASTAL ENGINEERING. FOR PURCHASING PROJECT 4154 DESIGN AND PERMITTING FOR REPLACEMENT OF VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK PUBLIC MARINA DOCKS FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$47,471.00 FOR CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES. ACCOUNT NO.09 22 6030 5777 C036709 23 6030 5777 C036709 24 6030 5777 C036709 25 6030 5777 C0367

Mr. Hughes said they have been working on this for the past three years and have been collecting funding from various sources the last being a grant from the State of Connecticut. He said they are at the point now to go out to bid and part of the original contract was to use Race Coastal Engineering for contract administration services and are requesting approval for those administration services. Ms. Young asked what is entailed in those services. Mr. Hughes said they are the design firm that has completed the design of the Mariana, and they will be the firm to review the bids and administer the construction process. Ms. Young asked when this would begin. Mr. Hughes said they are hoping to put it out to bid later in winter and start the construction in the fall of 2025, after the boating season, and have it completed in the spring of 2026, before the boating season.

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**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. APPROVE THE USE OF ROTON MIDDLE SCHOOL PARKING LOT AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY BOSTON BUILDUP TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 5TH, 2025 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M. APPROXIMATELY 150 PEOPLE.

Mr. Gerwick provided an overview of the event and said this will be the 47th year the event will be held.

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E. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A MICROFOREST AT MEADOW STREET PARK, PROJECT DEPA00002011221 SOUTH NORWALK "PAVEMENT TO MICRO-FOREST" URBAN RESILIENCY PROJECT, AWARDED THROUGH THE NORWALK RIVER WATERSHED AUTHORITY.

Mr. Hughes said the Norwalk River Watershed Authority received a grant to install a micro-forest at Meadow Street Park and this item is to authorize the mayor to sign any documents that will be required for that partnership. He said this is an exciting project to have a micro-forest in South Norwalk and the project should begin in the fall of 2025.

Ms. Eaddy requested more information about the micro-forest. Mr. Hughes said there is a basketball court at Meadow Street Park that will be removed and the micro-forest which is a tight planting area will be installed and will plant 300-400 trees within that area as there are numerous benefits. Ms. Eaddy asked if there would be space available to plant vegetables. Mr. Hughes said a design will need to be done as part of this project and that is absolutely something that can be discussed.

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** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

F. APPROVE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL COMMITTEE FOR THE 2025 CALENDAR YEAR. MEETING DATES - JAN 08. FEB 12. MAR 12. APR 09. MAY 14. JUN 11. JUL 09. AUG 13. SEPT 10. OCT 08. NOV 12. DEC 10.

**** MR. SUTTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL COMMITTEE FOR THE 2025 CALENDAR YEAR. MEETING DATES - JAN 08. FEB 12. MAR 12. APR 09. MAY 14. JUN 11. JUL 09. AUG 13. SEPT 10. OCT 08. NOV 12. DEC 10.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. DISCUSSION

Ms. Young asked if there were any upcoming events. Mr. Hughes said "yes" and that there will be a race held this Saturday at Calf Pasture Beach, and there will be a family magic show held the week between Christmas and New Year's at City Hall and registration is available on the city website.

Ms. Young said the Recreation and Parks Department has done a fantastic job of putting together programs that are family-focused. Mr. Hughes suggested they look at the fall and winter brochures as they will be amazed at the different types of programming that are now being offered and this will increase even more once the community center is completed. Ms. Young said the one thing that they will need to look into is to find ways to support the folks who may not be able to afford some of the programs such as scholarships etc. Mr. Hughes said that the staff is currently working on that.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

**** MR. SUTTON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd