

CITY OF NORWALK
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL COMMITTEE
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023.
REGULAR MEETING
7:00PM.

Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide “live comments” will need to register in advance and 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. Please find the information using the link above.

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 e-mail 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 Dilene Byrd at dbyrd@norwalkct.gov to provide written comment prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE:	Darlene Young, Chair, Josh Goldstein; Lisa Shanahan
ABSENT:	Jenn McMurrer, Nicol Ayers, John Kydes; Bryan Meek
STAFF:	Robert Stowers, Director of Recreation and Parks; Ken Hughes, Superintendent, Recreation and Parks
OTHERS:	Nancy Nelson, Greenwich Kennel Club, Sergio Serrano, Norwalk Sailing School

I. ROLL CALL

At Roll Call there were three (3) committee members present and four (4) absent (Ms. McMurrer; Ms. Ayers; Mr. Meek; and Mr. Kydes). A Quorum was present.

Ms. Young called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.

II. MINUTES OF JULY 12, 2023

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public comments this evening.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

V. NEW BUSINESS

The City of Norwalk reserves the right to cancel the Event for public health or safety reasons as determined by the City of Norwalk in its sole discretion. The City of Norwalk shall not be liable for damages arising from the cancellation of the Event.

1. APPROVE THE USE OF TAYLOR FARM AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY THE GREENWICH KENNEL CLUB FOR THEIR PAWS BY THE SEA DOG SHOW EVENT TO BE HELD FROM THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024, TO SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024 FROM 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM. SET-UP TIME FROM TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2024, AT 12:00 PM TO WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024 AT 5:00 PM WITH TEAR-DOWN ON SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024 BY 3:00 PM. APPROXIMATELY 500 + PEOPLE.

Ms. Nelson said that this is a reoccurring event, and they have the opportunity to expend from two days to four days, and on average for a two day show a show competitor brings approximately \$865 of revenue to the city that is hosting so by going to four days it will bring approximately \$1,500 of revenue per competitor so it is good for the community. She said the proceeds will go to dog centric charities.

****MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF TAYLOR FARM AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY THE GREENWICH KENNEL CLUB FOR THEIR PAWS BY THE SEA DOG SHOW EVENT TO BE HELD FROM THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024, TO SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024, FROM 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM. SET-UP TIME FROM TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2024, AT 12:00 PM TO WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024, AT 5:00 PM WITH TEAR-DOWN ON SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024, BY 3:00 PM. APPROXIMATELY 500 + PEOPLE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. APPROVE THE USE OF TAYLOR FARM AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY THE FRIENDS OF NORWALK DOGS FOR THEIR HALLOWEEN DOG COSTUME ROMP EVENT TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023, FROM 11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM. SET-TIME AT 10:30 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 4:30 PM. APPROXIMATELY 50+PEOPLE.

Mr. Stowers provided an overview of the event and said that it is a Halloween event and that it is the first time it will be held, and staff sees no issues with the event. Ms. Shanahan said this is an exciting organization and she looks forward to more of their events. Ms. Young thanked Mr. Stowers for helping to get the group organized in a way that will be helpful to the city.

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3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT WITH NORWALK COMMUNITY SAILING FOR THREE (3) ADDITIONAL YEARS, PER SECTION I-2 OF LEASE AGREEMENT DATED OCTOBER 12, 2021, AND TO ADD A ROWING COMPONENT TO THE EXISTING CONTRACT.

Mr. Hughes said a few years ago the city entered into a contract and the previous owner of Norwalk Sailing School has moved on but were lucky enough to find a new tenant for that space that will offer the same valuable programming that the previous owner did, and they would like to add a rowing component. He said they will also be requesting to have a contract extension approved for a period of three years which are outlined in the terms of the original contract that was negotiated with the city. Mr. Serrano said they also had an idea of not just working as a sailing school but would like to expand services to underserved children and this year have been offering grants that will provide free access to the camp. He said in order to offer the grants they need to be financially sustainable and would like to add a rowing component. Ms. Shanahan asked Mr. Serrano if this is something that he thinks will ultimately get the kids to a level where they can be competitive in rowing. Mr. Serrano said they would like to have a two-prong approach, but the initial approach will be to bring rowing to as many kids but are open to competing both in rowing and sailing. Ms. Young asked how many participants there currently are. Mr. Serrano said the program has not yet started but last year that started offering the camp for free and had eight attendees but the goal is to get anywhere from 20 and 40 participants next year, and would like to look for funding to start a program to get teams from the less represented communities and train them not just to sail but to potentially become coaches and to explore a career in this field if they are interested. Mr. Stowers said one of the things that he is trying to do is create and evaluation process within the mayor's

dashboard so there are metrics to evaluate the programs and what the numbers are and will work with Mr. Serrano and his group on developing some sort of evaluation so that they can report on the metrics for participation on a monthly basis.

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VI DISCUSSION

There was no discussion this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

****MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd