

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

September 8, 2021

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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.org to provide written comment prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Darlene Young, Chair; Thomas Keegan; Kadeem Roberts; John Kydes; Manny Langella

STAFF: Ken Hughes, Interim Director, Parks and Recreation

OTHERS:

Yohann Offredo, , Kenguru Professional US

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Young called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and stated that a quorum was present.

II. MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2021.

**** MR. ROBERTS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2021 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation this evening.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Veterans Park Memorial, progress update

Mr. Hughes provided an update and said he and Mr. DeWitt have been working together and have received three quotes for the creation and installation of the monument and the low bidder has been selected. He said the monument will be installed over the next few months and we did find the funds to pay for the monument.

2. City Hall 9/11 Memorial, progress update

Mr. Hughes provided an update and said that a company was selected to move the monument along with a few benches to City Hall from Veterans Park and have since had the flagpole refinished and painted, and is now in the process of speaking with some contractors to install a small paver patio area near the flagpole.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE USE OF FOX RUN SCHOOL AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY LIGHTFOOT RUNNING CLUB FOR THEIR SAM ALPERN MEMORIAL HALF TO BE HELD SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 FROM 10:30AM-11:00AM. SET-UP TO BEGIN AT 7:00AM AND TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 11:30PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 150.

Mr. Capone provided a brief overview of the event and said this will be the 44th season the event will be held and are looking forward to another nice event.

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF FOX RUN SCHOOL AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY LIGHTFOOT RUNNING CLUB FOR THEIR SAM ALPERN MEMORIAL HALF TO BE HELD SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 FROM 10:30AM-11:00AM. SET-UP TO BEGIN AT 7:00AM AND TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 11:30PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 150.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. APPROVE THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY WILLIAM RAVEIS CHARITABLE FUND FOR RAVEIS RIDE AND WALK 2021 TO BE HELD SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021 FROM 7:00AM-2:00PM. SET UP TIME 5:00AM AND TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 3:00PM. APPROXIMATE ATTENDANCE: 400 PEOPLE

The item was removed from the agenda.

3. APPROVE THE USE OF VETERANS PARK AND OYSTER SHELL PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY THE CLUB CONNECTICUT FOR THEIR O'NEILL'S 5K TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 FROM 10:00AM TO 11:00AM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 8:00AM WITH A TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 10:45AM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE: 300 PEOPLE

A representative provided a brief overview of the event and said this is the 9th year the event will take place and the event has raised several hundred thousands of dollars for various charities, and this year the beneficiary will be the Norwalk Education Foundation. Mr. Kydes said that O'Neill's gives back to the community so much and thanked them for all that they do.

**** MR. ROBERTS MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF VETERANS PARK AND OYSTER SHELL PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY THE CLUB CONNECTICUT FOR THEIR O'NEILL'S 5K TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 FROM 10:00AM TO 11:00AM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 8:00AM WITH A TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 10:45AM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE: 300 PEOPLE**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. APPROVE THE USE OF JOHN RYAN PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY THE TRINITY WASHINGTON VILLAGE FOR PHASE TWO LIMITED PARTNERSHIP FOR THEIR SOUNDVIEW LANDING RIBBON CUTTING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 FROM 11:30AM TO 2:00PM. SETUP TIME TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2021 AT 2:00PM WITH A TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 5:00PM ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2021. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE: 150 PEOPLE.

A representative provided a brief overview of the event and said he would answer any questions the committee had. Ms. Young asked how the food will be served. The representative said they will be working with a caterer to provide boxed lunches following the ribbon cutting ceremony.

**** MR. ROBERTS MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF JOHN RYAN PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY THE TRINITY WASHINGTON VILLAGE FOR PHASE TWO LIMITED PARTNERSHIP FOR THEIR SOUNDVIEW LANDING RIBBON CUTTING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 FROM 11:30AM TO 2:00PM. SETUP TIME TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2021 AT 2:00PM WITH A TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 5:00PM ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2021. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE: 150 PEOPLE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. DISCUSSION

1. Veterans Park, donation of exercise equipment, Kenguru Professional US, Yohann Offredo, discussion and possible action.

Mr. Offredo presented and said his company will be donating a pull up bar, Swedish wall, and parallel bars to Norwalk and although it is a small donation it can be added onto in the future. He said the three pieces of equipment will be enough for people to get a good workout, and he would like to have it installed in Veterans Park because a lot of people run by that area and a lot of people in the community meet there. He said once it is built his company can help to organize events and even world class competitions. Ms. Young asked what the dollar amount is of the equipment that will be donated. Mr. Offredo said approximately \$3,500 but will need to be installed using city resources. Mr. Langella said he thinks this is a great idea and is worth the cost

of the installation and suggested it be installed in an area where there is visibility. Mr. Keegan asked if there are any concerns regarding liability. Mr. Hughes said “no” because the equipment will be installed to the manufactures specifications and would fall under the same insurance liability as the playgrounds. Mr. Roberts said that the concept is a great idea but it will need to be installed at the proper location. Ms. Young said the committee members all like the idea but the parks get a lot of use and because we are starting a master plan study suggested this be included in that to be sure it is installed in the best possible location. She asked if the master plan process takes longer than what is anticipated if the equipment will be donated to the city and when the proper location is determined the equipment will be installed or if he is expecting once the equipment is delivered that it is installed. Mr. Offredo said he thinks the equipment will be donated to be installed whenever but he will have to confirm with his company and report back to Mr. Hughes.

2. Citywide dog ordinance, discussion and possible action

Mr. Hughes said that dogs have become an issue again which was prompted by the installation of the “no dogs allowed” signs at Oyster Shell Park. He said the city has a no dog policy at schools or park properties within the city limits not including Taylor Farm and sections of Cranbury Park. He said that he has met with Mr. McQuaid and one of the ideas they had come up with was to give people a hand out when they come in to register their dogs. He also said the existing dog ordinance needs to be updated because there are other sites that should allow dogs but will be part of the master plan and a public hearing so the public can weigh in with their thoughts and ideas. Mr. Kydes asked Mr. Hughes if recommends dog park installation at Oyster Shell Park. Mr. Hughes said he did have some discussions with Redevelopment Agency regarding the possibilities of installing a dog park at Oyster Shell Park but there are limitations due to the land fill cap but are looking into that now.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd