

**CITY OF NORWALK
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL COMMITTEE
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021.
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.org to provide written comment prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Darlene Young, Chair; Thomas Keegan; John Kydes; George Tsiranides; Kadeem Robert; Manny Langella

STAFF: Ken Hughes, Acting Director, Parks and Recreation

OTHERS: Dajaun Wiggins; Jeff DeWitt

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Young called the meeting to order at 7:06PM and stated that a quorum was present.

II. MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2021.

- ** MR. ROBERTS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2021 AS SUBMITTED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation 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 CRANBURY PARK PAVILION 1 AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY CYCLING SPORTS GROUP INC. FOR THEIR SUMMER BBQ TO BE HELD FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2021 FROM 12:00B NOON-3:00PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 150.

Mr. Hughes said this event has been held in the past and recommends that the committee approve the item. Mr. Tsirinides asked how long the event has been held and if there were any issues in the past. Mr. Hughes said this will be the fourth year and there have not been any issues in the past.

- ** MR. TSIRINIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK PAVILION 1 AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY CYCLING SPORTS GROUP INC. FOR THEIR SUMMER BBQ TO BE HELD FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2021 FROM 12:00B NOON-3:00PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 150.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. APPROVE THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK PAVILION 1 AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY BOUNDLESS GLOBAL. LLC. FOR A BACK PACK FUNDRAISER TO BE HELD SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2021 FROM 2:00PM-6:30PM. SETUP TO BEGIN AT 12:00 NOON AND TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 7:00PM ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 100+

Mr. Hughes said the applicant has withdrawn the application.

3. APPROVE THE USE OF SPRINGWOOD PARK BY YOUTH BUSINESS INITIATIVE (YBI INC.) FOR A 3 ON 3 TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JULY 24, 2021 FROM 9:00AM TO 6:00PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 90.

Mr. Dajuan Wiggins provided an overview of the program and the event and said they are located on South Main Street and the program is called the Youth Business Initiative and they teach youth business using hands on experience, and there are 14 students that are currently enrolled in the program and they receive a stipend of \$150 per week to learn about business and we challenge them to do the right things with the money that they receive. He said there is also an apprenticeship program and there are three teams and they are in the process of building three mock food trucks. He said the basketball tournament is a fundraising event to continue to fund the program and also to bring together the community. Ms. Young asked how many years this has been held. Mr. Wiggins said they are a new organization and this will be the first event. Mr. Hughes asked how parking will be handled. Mr. Wiggins said that police officers will be hired for traffic control. Mr. Roberts applauded the work that Mr. Wiggins is doing and it will be a wonderful event. Ms. Young echoed Mr. Robert's comments and said that Mr. Wiggins works hard to provide these opportunities for young people in our city and she applauds him for his efforts. Mr. Keegan, Mr. Tsirinides and Mr. Langella wished Mr. Wiggins luck with the tournament.

Mr. Langella joined the meeting at 7:15PM.

**** MR. ROBERTS MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF SPRINGWOOD PARK BY YOUTH BUSINESS INITIATIVE (YBI INC.) FOR A 3 ON 3 TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JULY 24, 2021 FROM 9:00AM TO 6:00PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 90.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSSION

1. PURPLE HEART MONUMENT PROPOSAL- VETERANS PARK (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

Mr. DeWitt presented and said the project is to create a Purple Heart Monument in Veterans Park to honor our combat wounded from Norwalk and that there are 120 know recipients from Norwalk. He said in January 2020, an application was sent to the Connecticut Military Order of the Purple Heart to make Norwalk a Purple Heart City and that application was approved and there was an event held on August 7 which is National Purple Heart Day and gave families an opportunity to speak with each other and share their stories. He said in June 2021, the Arts Commission had approved the monument design and he presented a quote for the monument that he received from Bates Monument Company of \$ 26,500. Mr. Hughes asked where the funding will come from. Mr. DeWitt requested the funds come from the City of Norwalk. Mr. Hughes said he will look through the budget to see what funds are available and he will email the committee. Mr. Tsirinides thanked Mr. DeWitt for all of his time and effort and that we have a

proud history in Norwalk for many of the residents that have served. Ms. Young echoed Mr. Tsirinides's comments and thanked Mr. DeWitt for all of his efforts.

2. CODE OF NORWALK, CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION SEC. 1-10 PERMITS 7B.

Mr. Hughes presented the code for the Recreation and Parks Department and said it guides the operations of the Recreation and Parks Department. He said through the Recreation and Parks Committee events are approved throughout the city and one of the complaints he has heard is that the committee has to approve weddings and he is proposing to make a change to the code to keep the current event permit process but omit weddings and civil unions. He said the proposed change is in section 1-10 permits, Item 7B to add "weddings and civil unions do not require approval of the Recreation and Parks Committee unless required by the Director".

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE CHANGES AS PRESENTED FOR ACTION ON SECTION 1-10, ITEM 7B OF THE PERMITS.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE CHANGE TO THE CODE OF NORWALK, CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS SECTION 1-10 PERMITS 7B TO ADD WEDDINGS AND CIVIL UNIONS DO NOT REQUIRE APPROVAL OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMITTEE UNLESS REQUIRED BY THE DIRECTOR.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Young asked if there is any update on the Recreation and Parks Director position. Mr. Hughes said interviews will take place the third week of July.

Ms. Young asked for an update on the Master Plan Study. Mr. Hughes said the contract is finished and the work should begin in the City of Norwalk in the next few weeks.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. TSIRINIDES MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd