



DEPARTMENT OF
RECREATION & PARKS

CITY OF NORWALK
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
COMMITTEE
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024
7:00 PM

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone and/or Zoom, or a recording in the City of Norwalk YouTube channel.

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Members of the public may call in to participate. Callers will not be able to see the meeting participants. All participants will be 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 five 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 "live comments" may also use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called 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 five 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 comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. Comments to be included into the record, they must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please email (insert email address here) with the subject line "Public Comment" to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Darlene Young, Chair, Doug Sutton; Lisa Shanahan; Johan Lopez; Heather Dunn; Nicol Ayers; Jenn McMurrer

STAFF: Robert Stowers, Director of Recreation and Parks; Ken Hughes, Superintendent, Recreation and Parks

OTHERS: Kevin Mullins, Lilian Santa-Donato; Amy Esparza; Leelee Smith Klein; Steven Quatela; Thomas Donohue; Partrick Dunn; Janet Evelyn; Jeremiah Schwartz

I ROLL CALL

At roll call there were seven (7) committee members present. A quorum was present.

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

II MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 14, 2024.

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Cece said that she had sent the committee a series of emails regarding the Tribal Championship Competition at Veteran's Memorial Park. She said she outlined a number of concerns regarding the status of the organization that will be running this and their legitimacy in Connecticut to be able to host this event. She said their filings with the state (which are no longer valid) stated they were a non-profit organization but there is no record of that so this is a for-profit endeavor as best she can tell. She thanked staff for letting her know that there is nothing in the city policy that prohibits for-profit organizations from renting out the public park space, but due to the nature and size of this event which will be held over the weekend in the summer. She said while we try to balance the community needs for having healthy sporting events that are suitable for the whole community and for families, she thinks the quality-of-life issues also need to be balanced for the residents in the area.

She said she hopes these things are being addressed or have been addressed and if there was a misunderstanding regarding what the documents are with the state or the address of this organization etc., she hopes that will be clarified tonight, and when the item is voted on, she wants to be sure the mechanism for those conditions are being met within a reasonable amount of time.

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 RYAN PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY BROAD RIVER CHURCH FOR THEIR EASTER EGG HUNT EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2024, FROM 1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM. SET-UP TIME BY 11:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN BETWEEN 2:00 PM AND 3:00 PM. APPROXIMATELY 200 PEOPLE.**

Mr. Mullis said they are excited to offer another Easter egg hunt with several already being offered so the city will be well served and are pleased to be offering this one that will be one block away from their location in South Norwalk.

**** MS. MCMURRER MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF RYAN PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY BROAD RIVER CHURCH FOR THEIR EASTER EGG HUNT EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2024, FROM 1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM. SET-UP TIME BY 11:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN BETWEEN 2:00 PM AND 3:00 PM. APPROXIMATELY 200 PEOPLE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. **APPROVE THE USE OF ROWAYTON SCHOOL AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY ROWAYTON SCHOOL PTA FOR THEIR ROWAYTON SCHOOL CARNIVAL 2024 EVENT TO BE HELD FRIDAY, MAY 3 AND SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024, FROM 4:00 PM TO 10:00 PM. SET-UP TIME BY SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024, AT 7:30 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN BY MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024 AT 5:00 PM. RAIN DAY SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024. APPROXIMATELY 700 PEOPLE.**

Ms. Esparza provided a brief overview of the event and said it is an annual event that is held at Rowayton Elementary School and all the proceeds go back to the school for educational purposes. She said it will be held on Friday and Saturday with a rain date on Sunday.

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF ROWAYTON SCHOOL AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY ROWAYTON SCHOOL PTA FOR THEIR ROWAYTON SCHOOL CARNIVAL 2024 EVENT TO BE HELD FRIDAY, MAY 3 AND SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024, FROM 4:00 PM TO 10:00 PM. SET-UP TIME BY SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024, AT 7:30 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN BY MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024, AT 5:00 PM. RAIN DAY SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024. APPROXIMATELY 700 PEOPLE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. APPROVE THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH ROAD AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY NORWALK BIKE WALK COMMISSION FOR THEIR NORWALK OPEN STREETS 2024 EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024, FROM 8:00 AM TO 3:30 PM. SET-UP TIME BY 7:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 3:30 PM. APPROXIMATELY 500 PEOPLE.

Ms. Bisceglie provided a brief overview of the event and said this is the second time the event will be held, and it will be held on Saturday, May 4th and are hoping to get 500 people to attend and they have partnered with quite a few organizations and this year will be offering several events for children and families. She also said there will be no rain date. Ms. McMurrer said she got back on her bike last year for this event and she is glad that it is back, and the event will get bigger and better each year and thanked the Bike/Walk Commission for putting all of the work into it. Mr. Stowers said he hopes in the future not to have just annual events but to open the streets once a month as part of recreation. Ms. Dunn suggested in the future not to schedule this event for the same day as the five-borough bike race in New York City.

**** MS. AYERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH ROAD AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY NORWALK BIKE WALK COMMISSION FOR THEIR NORWALK OPEN STREETS 2024 EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024, FROM 8:00 AM TO 3:30 PM. SET-UP TIME BY 7:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 3:30 PM. APPROXIMATELY 500 PEOPLE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. APPROVE THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY COACHMEN ROD & CUSTOM BEACH CRUISE FOR THEIR CAR SHOW EVENT TO BE HELD TUESDAY, MAY 14, JUNE 11, JULY 9 AND AUGUST 13, 2024, FROM 6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM. SET-UP TIME THE DATES OF THE SHOW BY 5:00 PM WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 9:00 PM. RAIN DATES, THURSDAY, MAY 16; JUNE 13; FRIDAY, JULY 12, AND AUGUST 16, 2024. APPROXIMATELY 100 PEOPLE.

Mr. Hughes said the car show events have been held for quite some time and are good events and are well attended. Ms. Young asked how many participants they generally have. Mr. Hughes said it is hard to say since it is held at the beach, so people walk back and forth from the car show to the beach. Ms. Young suggested in the future that the application state 100 participants rather than 100 people attending because it is much more than that.

**** MS. DUNN MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY COACHMEN ROD & CUSTOM BEACH**

CRUISE FOR THEIR CAR SHOW EVENT TO BE HELD TUESDAY, MAY 14, JUNE 11, JULY 9 AND AUGUST 13, 2024, FROM 6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM. SET-UP TIME THE DATES OF THE SHOW BY 5:00 PM WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 9:00 PM. RAIN DATES, THURSDAY, MAY 16; JUNE 13; FRIDAY, JULY 12, AND AUGUST 16, 2024. APPROXIMATELY 100 PEOPLE.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. APPROVE THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY TINY MIRACLES FOUNDATION FOR THEIR FAMILY FUN DAY EVENT TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024, FROM 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM. SET-UP TIME BY 8:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 3:00 PM. APPROXIMATELY 170 PEOPLE.

Ms. Klein provided an overview of the event and said this is the third time the event will be held at Cranbury Park, and they create a family fun day for all the families of premature babies in Fairfield County and usually have 60 families attend. Mr. Lopez asked if the families that attend the events are local. Ms. Klein said they are all local and are from Fairfield and New Haven counties.

**** MR. SUTTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY TINY MIRACLES FOUNDATION FOR THEIR FAMILY FUN DAY EVENT TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024, FROM 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM. SET-UP TIME BY 8:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 3:00 PM. APPROXIMATELY 170 PEOPLE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. APPROVE THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK – PAVILION 1 AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY ANCHOR ACADEMY FOR THEIR REGINA PACIS ACADEMY ANNUAL FIELD DAY PICNIC EVENT TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024, FROM 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM. SET-UP TIME BY 7:30 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 4:00 PM. APPROXIMATELY 170 PEOPLE.

Mr. Quatela provided a brief overview of the event and said it will be the fourth year the event has been held at Cranbury Park and is the end of the year event for the school. Ms. Dunn asked if the other schools in Norwalk use the parks for their end of the year events. Mr. Stowers said “yes”. Ms. Dunn asked if this event would conflict with any other school events. Mr. Stowers said “no”. Mr. Hughes said most of the schools use the beach for their end-of-the-year events. Mr. Stowers said they are also in the final stages of approving the joint use agreement which will hopefully clarify events further regarding how they jointly use each of the facilities.

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK – PAVILION 1 AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY ANCHOR ACADEMY FOR THEIR REGINA PACIS ACADEMY ANNUAL FIELD DAY PICNIC EVENT TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024, FROM 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM. SET-UP TIME BY 7:30 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 4:00 PM. APPROXIMATELY 170 PEOPLE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. APPROVE THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY NORWALK KARTING ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR CALF PASTURE

BEACH EVENT TO BE HELD THE FOLLOWING SATURDAYS: MARCH 16, 23, 30; APRIL 6, 13, 14, 20, 27; MAY 5; SEPTEMBER 14; OCTOBER 5, 19, 26; NOVEMBER 2, 9, 16, 23, AND SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024, FROM 7:00 AM TO 10:00 PM. APPROXIMATELY 50 PEOPLE.

Mr. Donahue provided an overview of the event and said the club was started in 1971 and concentrates on children five years old and up and most of the racers are local residents and they are a non-profit agency. Mr. Hughes said the races take place during the off-season so do not affect the usage of the beach and it is very interesting to watch. Mr. Lopez asked if adults could participate. Mr. Donahue said "yes" and is broken down into classes. Ms. Dunn said anything that will get the kids off the screen is fabulous. Ms. Young said after being around for so many years they are a staple of the city and are a real asset for the City of Norwalk and she appreciates everything that they have done.

**** MS. DUNN MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY NORWALK KARTING ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR CALF PASTURE BEACH EVENT TO BE HELD THE FOLLOWING SATURDAYS: MARCH 16, 23, 30; APRIL 6, 13, 14, 20, 27; MAY 5; SEPTEMBER 14; OCTOBER 5, 19, 26; NOVEMBER 2, 9, 16, 23, AND SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024, FROM 7:00 AM TO 10:00 PM. APPROXIMATELY 50 PEOPLE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. APPROVE THE USE OF VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY CONNECTICUT VETERANS LEGAL CENTER FOR THE RIDE FOR OUR VETS EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024, FROM 6:00 AM TO 2:00 PM. SET-UP BY FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024, AT 12:00 PM WITH TEAR-DOWN SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024, BY 5:00 PM. APPROXIMATELY 200 PEOPLE.

Mr. Dunn provided a brief overview of the event and said the Ride for Vets has a long history of existing in Connecticut and has been held since 2012, and specifically raises funds to support their mission to serve veterans all over the State of Connecticut to provide free legal services on a variety of matters. He invited the members of the committee to come out and support the riders.

**** MS. AYERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY CONNECTICUT VETERANS LEGAL CENTER FOR THE RIDE FOR OUR VETS EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024, FROM 6:00 AM TO 2:00 PM. SET-UP BY FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024, AT 12:00 PM WITH TEAR-DOWN SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024, BY 5:00 PM. APPROXIMATELY 200 PEOPLE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. APPROVE THE USE OF OYSTER SHELL PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY NICE FOR THEIR 8TH ANNUAL NICE FESTIVAL EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JULY 6, 2024. SET-UP TIME FRIDAY, JULY 5, 2024, AT 6:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN BY SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2024, BY 9:00 AM. APPROXIMATELY 500 PEOPLE.

Ms. Evelyn provided a brief overview of the event and said this will be the eighth year the event will be held and is looking forward to delivering on their mission as they always have which is to bring as many different groups as possible from various cultures and genres around the city and state for a day of fun and

great entertainment. Ms. Young said that Ms. Evelyn has done a terrific job of keeping this event alive for the city.

**** MS. MCMURRER MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF OYSTER SHELL PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY NICE FOR THEIR 8TH ANNUAL NICE FESTIVAL EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JULY 6, 2024. SET-UP TIME FRIDAY, JULY 5, 2024, AT 6:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN BY SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2024, BY 9:00 AM. APPROXIMATELY 500 PEOPLE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. APPROVE THE USE OF VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY TRIBALL CHAMPIONSHIP USA, LLC FOR THEIR TWO ROADS TRIBALL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2025, FROM 10:00 AM TO 6:30 PM. SET-UP ON FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2025, AT 12:00 PM WITH TEAR-DOWN ON SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2025, BY 12:00 PM. APPROXIMATELY 1,000 PEOPLE.

Mr. Schwartz provided a brief overview of the event and said it won't take place for 16 months but wanted to have a long runway to get everything achieved effectively and is working with community policing to work out the correct security protocols that will be needed. He said the events are held all over the world and are a fantastic platform to get people together from different cultures, and they had over 65,000 participants from around the world and realized people gravitated towards the organized events. He said it also allows them to generate revenue, which is important to make the balls, goals, and to get uniforms and are positional Triball to be the world's number one professional co-ed sport. He said this tournament will be bringing 12 semi-professional co-ed teams for across the northeast to descend to Norwalk and can be televised and will be a fantastic day not only for the City of Norwalk, but also for the people that work with him and supported him in the past seven years coming back to this country. He said as a result of building the 12 state teams they would be to open academies and Norwalk is a great epicenter for them to launch the youth academy for Triball.

Mr. Sutton asked if there were any ordinances that would need to be adhered to regarding television productions. Mr. Hughes said that this will need to go through the special event permit process.

Ms. McMurrer asked if the approximate attendance of 1,000 people is per day as that potentially seems low to her. Mr. Schwartz said they prefer that the city is comfortable and that they can manage year one starting with a steppingstone and by year two and three can grow together and grow it into a larger spectacle and use their partners and will work with the police to help manage the crown over the six-hour event. Ms. McMurrer asked if there are any concerns about parking. Mr. Stowers said through the special events committee they will have to have a plan regarding parking as do the other larger festivals that are held at Veteran's Park. Mr. Schwartz said they will hire bus companies to shuttle people from the parking garages in South Norwalk. Ms. McMurrer asked Mr. Hughes and Mr. Stowers if they had any concerns regarding the event. Mr. Hughes and Mr. Stowers said "no" and Mr. Stowers said the Oyster Festival and Pride in the Park are much bigger events than these and those are done seamlessly.

Ms. Dunn and if there are professional players and if so, will they be making money. Mr. Schwartz said "no" and started with semi-professionals and a big part of reason why they are raising investment is to give cash prizes to the athletes after the event. Ms. Dunn asked how many are on a team. Mr. Schwartz

said there will be six women and six men per state and there are 12 states for a total of 144 athletes followed by a manager and an Asst. Manager. Ms. Dunn asked how much a ticket will be to attend the event and how much the entrance fee is for a player. Mr. Schwartz said the entrance fee for the players is free and they will need to discuss the cost of the tickets further and would like to have the city involved and discuss the possibility of revenue sharing but were looking at \$30 per ticket which would include one free beverage from Two Roads Brewery. Ms. Dunn asked if they are a for-profit organization. Mr. Schwartz said "yes" and the best way to serve the national community is to make sure as a small business they can continue and come back for year two and make it even better for people by generating revenue. Ms. Dunn asked how many people they have on staff and if they have revenue or taxes with the state that they have submitted. Mr. Schwartz said that have not submitted any revenue to the state because they have not done any events since Covid and have been preparing for this event. He said as far as the taxes they are a Delaware LLC and trying to transition the process of going from Delaware to Connecticut and registered in Connecticut as an LLC. If the event is approved. Ms. Dunn said some of her concerns are that they had gotten a lot of information about the company and if they were a for-profit or non-profit organization and requested that be followed up on at some point. Mr. Stowers said there is some vetting that will need to be done but there has also been some miscommunication and was never indicated that they were not a non-profit, but they have over a year to get the event into place as well as have a plan for parking and the police etc. and there is a timeline and if the event can't happen they will be able to tell them early on and the special events committee are the ones that really decide whether or not the event will happen.

Ms. McMurrer said requested that Mr. Stowers make the committee aware of any concerns or questions he may have as he always does, and she hopes is a successful event for both sides.

Ms. Ayers thanked Mr. Schwartz for considering Norwalk for the event and that there is some sort of plan that he is trying to work through, but she is uneasy that they don't yet have the insurance because the permit is based on them receiving their insurance, and normally the applicants have some sort of liability insurance and asked for clarification that they do not have the insurance. Mr. Schwartz said the company has operations insurance but the event itself needs to first be approved before they are going to spend the money to get the insurance for the event. Mr. Stowers said when there is a unique event no matter how much insurance there is it needs to be presented to the risk manager and they may require a different kind of insurance for each event. Ms. Ayers asked how much time the city will need to make sure all of the necessary permits, traffic plans etc. to be in place. Mr. Stowers said they will need to have everything done within six months of the event.

**** MS. MCMURRER MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY TRIBALL CHAMPIONSHIP USA, LLC FOR THEIR TWO ROADS TRIBALL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2025, FROM 10:00 AM TO 6:30 PM. SET-UP ON FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2025, AT 12:00 PM WITH TEAR-DOWN ON SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2025, BY 12:00 PM. APPROXIMATELY 1,000 PEOPLE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR, ONE (1) AGAINST- MS. AYERS, AND TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS- MR. SUTTON AND MS. DUNN.**

VI DISCUSSION

There was no discussion this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. MCMURRER MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd