

**CITY OF NORWALK
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL COMMITTEE
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023.
REGULAR MEETING
5:30PM.**

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: John Kydes; Jenn McMurrer; Josh Goldstein; Lisa Shanahan; Bryan Meek

ABSENT: Darlene Young; Nicol Ayers

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

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. McMurrer called the meeting to order at 7:03PM.

II. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 21, 2022

****MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) IN FAVOR AND TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS – MS. SHANAHAN AND MR. MEEK.**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation this evening.

IV Old Business

There was no new 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. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO TPC-TURF PRODUCTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF THREE (3) TORO WORKMAN GTX EFI CARTS, MODEL # 07409 FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEEP GRANT ACCOUNT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$34,874.44

Mr. Hughes said they were issued a grant from the DEEP and part of the grant was to purchase maintenance equipment and are currently working with the finance department to set up an account for the grant. Mr. Goldstein asked if the carts are battery powered. Mr. Hughes said they are battery assisted.

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO TPC-TURF PRODUCTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF THREE (3)**

**TORO WORKMAN GTX EFI CARTS, MODEL # 07409 FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEEP GRANT ACCOUNT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$34,874.44.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO TPC-TURF PRODUCTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A TORO GROUNDSMASTER 5910 MOWER, MODEL # 31699 FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEEP GRANT ACCOUNT, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$167,069.67.

Mr. Hughes said this item will also be purchased through the grant and will be replacing their oldest mower. He said that four years ago this mower was \$109,000 and are now over \$167,000 and are seeing these types of increases often in equipment pricing.

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO TPC-TURF PRODUCTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A TORO GROUNDSMASTER 5910 MOWER, MODEL # 31699 FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEEP GRANT ACCOUNT, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$167,069.67.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO FIELDTURF USA INC, FOR THE SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT OF THE REPLACEMENT OF THE TRACK AT BRIEN MCMAHON HIGH SCHOOL, PRICING OFF THE SOURCEWELL CONTRACT # 060518-FTU, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$822,600.00 FROM ACCOUNTS 09226030-5777- C0820 AND 134010 5796 ARP01.

Mr. Hughes said \$560,000 was approved as part of the last capital improvement for the repair of the track at Brien McMahon High School, and the track itself is approximately 23 years old and was last recoated 11 years ago, and the asphalt under the rubber is beginning to fail and needs to be repaired. He said the quote was updated in December which increased from \$560,000 to over \$822,000 so the additional funds will be taken from the ARPA accounts to cover the cost. He said it is important this project gets done because during the Norwalk High School project a lot to the sports will be moved to Brien McMahon and will need to start the project the day after the school year ends and have it finished before school begins.

Mr. Goldstein asked what the amount of ARPA funding is that is being proposed for the track. Mr. Hughes said \$262,600. Mr. Goldstein asked about the price increase for the project. Mr. Hughes said that when they go for capital requests he needs to get the quotes at that time but by the time the project is ready to be done the quotes need to get updated so when the initial quote was received for the track it was \$560,000 to redo the entire track, but the contractor will not lock into a price until there is an actual start date so he received an updated quote of \$822,600 in December. Mr. Goldstein said he thinks that \$860,000 is extremely expensive to build a track. Mr. Hughes agreed but said the price is the state contract pricing. Ms. McMurrer asked how long the track will last once it is replaced. Mr. Hughes said 15-20 years but will probably need to be recoated after eight or nine years. Ms. McMurrer asked how much that will cost based on past pricing. Mr. Hughes said approximately \$250,000.

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO FIELDTURF USA INC, FOR THE SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT OF THE REPLACEMENT OF THE TRACK AT BRIEN MCMAHON HIGH SCHOOL, PRICING OFF THE SOURCEWELL CONTRACT # 060518-FTU, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$822,600.00 FROM ACCOUNTS 09226030-5777- C0820 AND 134010 5796 ARP01.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI DISCUSSION

Mr. Stowers said that staff has met with the finance committee regarding the budget and for the recreational programs they are anticipating. He said the project possibilities include working with the Girls and Boys Club to be a possible operator for the possible reopening of NEON.

Mr. Stowers said they have a lot of temporary staff that have been working for years without any benefits and because he is anticipating more work including a tree inventory plan more fulltime staff is needed. He said he would also like to reclass the temporary positions to full time positions and have sent the request to both the personnel and finance departments and to fund the request has moved the funds from the temporary position account to the full-time position account. He said they are also looking to reclass two positions that need to be upgraded based on the work they are doing.

Mr. Stowers said he discussed a small inflationary increase in fees for fiscal year 2023 with Mr. Dachowitz until the fees and charges study is received which was released two weeks ago and are due back on January 19, 2023. He said the study will be awarded by next month and have a product back sometime in April which will help set a fee schedule for fiscal year 2024 and beyond.

Mr. Stowers said he expects the draft master plan to be received back sometime in February and will be having a strategic plan visionary workshop with the stakeholders along with staff which will take place at the end of this month.

Mr. Stowers said he also hired someone out of the ARPA funds to assist him with the accreditation process project, and a new recreations supervisor has also been brought on. He said there has been a delay in hiring the additional maintenance staff due to the unavailability of trucks, but an electrician has just been hired so they are trying to build the staff to do the work for the future of Norwalk. He said he also discussed bring on a horticulturist to help with the tree inventory study using ARPA funds.

Ms. McMurrer asked is 98 South Main Street is still be considered as the building that the Girls and Boys Club will be using. Mr. Stowers said "yes". Ms. McMurrer asked what the timeline will be. Mr. Stowers said that the proposal has been written and staff will be meeting with representatives of the Girls and Boys Club for their input and will then send a final proposal to Mayor Rilling.

Ms. McMurrer asked for an update on the scheduling system for the fields. Mr. Stowers said they are working on finalizing the agreement and expects the contract to be signed in the next few weeks and then will immediately begin working on the implementation.

Ms. McMurrer asked for a status update on a foundation that she had been previously discussed. Mr. Stowers said he is looking for someone to lead this effort.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd