

**CITY OF NORWALK
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL COMMITTEE
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 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; Mayor Rilling; David Heuvelman; Dominique Johnson; Barbara Smyth

STAFF: Ken Hughes, Acting Director, Parks and Recreation; Anthony Carr, Chief, Operations and Public Works; Vanessa Valadares, DPW Principal Engineer

OTHERS: Jerry Toni; Norwalk Seaport Association; Michael Riley, Norwalk Seaport Association

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2021.

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2021 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD TWO ITEMS TO THE AGENDA.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Sheldon Green

Mr. Green stated that he is a senior citizen and a member of the Broad River community and a tennis player and although there was an article in The Hour suggesting there are not enough employees which led to no maintenance or repairs the tennis courts that he has been enjoying for a number of years. However, the baseball fields are tended to twice or more weekly by Recreation and Parks employees. He also said that soccer could no longer be played on the field due to the chain link fence that has been added. He asked that the Recreation and Parks employees who tend to the baseball fields take some time to repair the damaged and neglected tennis courts so that the citizens of Broad River could enjoy the community park and would like to present some of his ideas. Ms. Young said the committee welcomed Mr. Green's comments and suggested he send his comments to her and Mr. Hughes.

Ms. Byrd said that 26 emails were received and that nine were opposed to the holiday light show, eight were in favor, five emails were regarding Tracey School to consider landscaping, maintenance and fence replacement and four emails regarding general field maintenance at Marvin School and Broad River. She said that all of the emails will be attached to the meeting minutes as part of the record.

Diana Paladino-Christopher- 1 Napels Avenue

Ms. Paladino-Christopher stated that she supports the light show and would love to see it in our city and it would be great for the community and families with young children.

Diane Cece- East Norwalk Neighborhood Association (ENNA)

Ms. Cece stated that the ENNA represents the 06855 area of East Norwalk and the board has recently opted to provide a position statement that states “as is we cannot support the event at this time for a host of reasons that were published”. She said they are anxious to hear the continued discussion on this item that is before the committee, but said that many of the concerns that they are expressing now with the scope of the event are the same concerns they had last year when this came before the committee, and the event was withdrawn and hopes the committee will take in the concerns of the community. She said that she would also like to clarify that tonight’s item is a discussion item alone and will not be made an action item and there will be no vote taken and will be continued as a discussion at the June meeting.

Matt O’Brien- 7 Spinning Wheel Lane

Mr. O’Brien stated that he had submitted an email regarding general field maintenance and upkeep and recently shared his dissatisfaction on Facebook a few weeks ago. He said his complaints go back before Covid-19 and the lack of maintenance is nothing new and his observation is that there is a lack of communication in the organization, and we were accused of not sending the league schedule to Parks & Recreation which was far from the truth. He said more communication with the league partners is needed and would go a long way and the current approach is not working.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

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 GALLAHER MANSION AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY COURTNEY STONE FOR A WEDDING RECEPTION TO BE HELD FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 2021 FROM 3:00 PM – 12:00 MIDNIGHT. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 150.**

*** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK GALLAHER MANSION AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY COURTNEY STONE FOR A WEDDING RECEPTION TO BE HELD FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 2021 FROM 3:00 PM – 12:00 MIDNIGHT. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 150.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION CONNECTICUT CHAPTER FOR THEIR USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH FOR THE WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021 FROM 8:30 PM – 1:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 6:00 AM WITH TEARDOWN NO LATER THAN 1:00 PM ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,000.

Ms. Vigorito provided a brief overview of the event and said that the event has been held for many years and that they will be following all CDC guidelines and are looking forward to being back in person.

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION CONNECTICUT CHAPTER FOR THEIR USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH FOR THE WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021 FROM 8:30 PM – 1:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 6:00 AM WITH TEARDOWN NO LATER THAN 1:00 PM ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,000.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Tsiranides said the representative will need to attend the Common Council meeting of May 25, 2021. Ms. Young asked that the representatives make an attempt to attend the Common Council meeting for all the events that are approved this evening. Mr. Hughes said that his staff will also follow up with the applicants.

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NORWALK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FOR THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK FOR A POPS CONCERT TO BE HELD SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 FROM 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 9:00 AM WITH TEARDOWN NO LATER THAN 8:00 PM ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,000.

****MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NORWALK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FOR THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK FOR A POPS CONCERT TO BE HELD SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 FROM 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 9:00 AM WITH TEARDOWN NO LATER THAN 8:00 PM ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,000.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. A) AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NICE INC. FOR THE USE OF OYSTER SHELL PARK FOR THE 5TH ANNUAL NICE. FESTIVAL TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JULY 10, 2021 FROM 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 5:00 AM WITH TEARDOWN NO LATER THE 12:00 MIDNIGHT ON SATURDAY, JULY 10, 2021. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 500+.

Ms. Young said 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.

Ms. Evelyn provided a brief overview of the event and said given the Governors lifting of the capacity restrictions for May 19, 2021, we feel that we could move ahead to plan the festival as we normally would with the city's direction and guidance for safety. She said we are also looking at ways to implement measures to keep the community safe and have had discussions with Ms. Deluca

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NICE INC. FOR THE USE OF OYSTER SHELL PARK FOR THE 5TH ANNUAL NICE. FESTIVAL TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JULY 10, 2021 FROM 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 5:00 AM WITH TEARDOWN NO LATER THE 12:00 MIDNIGHT ON SATURDAY, JULY 10, 2021. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 500+.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B) APPROVE THE USE OF THE SHOW MOBILE BY NICE INC. FOR THE 5TH ANNUAL NICE FESTIVAL TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JULY 10, 2021 FROM 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM.

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE USE OF THE SHOW MOBILE BY NICE INC. FOR THE 5TH ANNUAL NICE FESTIVAL TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JULY 10, 2021 FROM 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GORDON FINE ARTS, LLC FOR THE USE OF 50 WASHINGTON STREET PLAZA FOR THEIR ANNUAL SONO ARTS FESTIVAL TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021 FROM 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2021 FROM 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 6:00 AM ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021 WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 7:30 PM SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2021. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 500.

Ms. Brown provided a brief overview of the event and said they will be abiding by all of the safety protocols to provide a safe environment. Mr. Kydes asked if the festival will just be held at the 50 Washington Street plaza. Ms. Brown said “no” it will be the same footprint of what it has been in the past. Mr. Kydes asked if arrangements have been made with The Pearl for parking for their residents. Ms. Brown said that will absolutely be worked out with them. Mr. Hughes said the Recreations and Parks Committee will only be approving the use of the park and the applicant is aware she will need to go through the special event permit process regarding the street closures and any areas outside of the park that they are requesting to be used.

**** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GORDON FINE ARTS, LLC FOR THE USE OF 50**

WASHINGTON STREET PLAZA FOR THEIR ANNUAL SONO ARTS FESTIVAL TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021 FROM 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2021 FROM 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 6:00 AM ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021 WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 7:30 PM SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2021. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 500.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. APPROVE THE USE OF MATHEW’S PARK BY HAITIAN AMERICAN NETWORK GROUP FOR THE HAITIAN HERITAGE MONTH TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2021 FROM 10:00 AM TO 6:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 9:00 AM WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 7:00 PM ON SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2021. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 100+.

Ms. Young said this is a new event and would like to have a representative provide an overview of the event prior to it being approved. Mr. Kydes asked Mr. Hughes if he had any additional information on the event. Mr. Hughes said “no” and that he was hoping to speak to the applicant this evening.

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO TABLE THE USE OF MATHEW’S PARK BY HAITIAN AMERICAN NETWORK GROUP FOR THE HAITIAN HERITAGE MONTH TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2021 FROM 10:00 AM TO 6:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 9:00 AM WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 7:00 PM ON SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2021. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 100+.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO PURCHASE AND ACQUIRE THE BUILDINGS DECK PLATFORM AND OTHER PERTINENT STRUCTURES AT CALF PASTURE BEACH COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE NORWALK SAIL SCHOOL FROM NORWALK SMALL CRAFT SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000, ACCOUNT #014150-5585.

Mr. Hughes said that the city has been in the process revamping the sailing school at Calf Pasture Beach and the building was owned by the previous owner of the sailing school and \$25,000 is the fair market price to purchase the building.

**** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO PURCHASE AND ACQUIRE THE BUILDINGS DECK PLATFORM AND OTHER PERTINENT STRUCTURES AT CALF PASTURE BEACH COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE NORWALK SAIL SCHOOL FROM NORWALK SMALL CRAFT SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000, ACCOUNT #014150-5585.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. AUTHORIZE BRIAN BIDOLLI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NORWALK REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO ISSUE A TASK ORDER TO STANTEC CONSULTING CORP. FOR THE DESIGN OF THE RAIL UPGRADE FOR FREESE PARK IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,800.00. ACCOUNT #0920-6030-5777-C0657.

Ms. Valadares said that the Redevelopment Agency has an on call contract with Stantec and she will be applying for a grant for the construction portion of the project and would like to use this account and use the existing on-call contract that the Redevelopment Agency has with Stantec. Mr. Kydes asked what some of the designs for the rails are that were given to Stantec. Ms. Valadares said because the existing rail has lead paint we are giving them two options and once selected will put the project out to bid. Mr. Kydes said there was a master plan for Freese Park that was approved a few years ago and asked if this was included in some of those recommendations. Ms. Valadares said we are trying to keep some of the existing look and we have also received complaints regarding the paint peeling and this is a way to combine the project with grants that are accessible to the Redevelopment Agency with the on call consult that they currently have.

MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE TO AUTHORIZE BRIAN BIDOLLI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NORWALK REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO ISSUE A TASK ORDER TO STANTEC CONSULTING CORP. FOR THE DESIGN OF THE RAIL UPGRADE FOR FREESE PARK IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,800.00. ACCOUNT #0920-6030-5777-C0657.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR PROJECT# 4094 FAMILY CONSTRUCTION AND NON-MOTORIZED WATER CRAFT RENTAL WITH NORWALK COMMUNITY SAILING.

Ms. Isamiddinova provided a brief overview of the lease agreement and said in April an RFP had gone out for sailing instruction and non-motorized water craft rentals at Calf Pasture Beach, and the previous operator had decided not to respond to the RFP so Norwalk Sailing School LLC had responded and will be operating it. She said the goal is to continue to operate the service and make it a stronger organization and continue into the future.

Mr. Hughes said in the RFP process included June 15, 2021, as an estimated start date for the sailing program and they are requesting to begin Memorial Day weekend on a limited basis. Mr. Tsiranides asked Ms. Isamiddinova if she is confident she will be able to staff the school by that time. Ms. Isamiddinova said "yes" and we are recruiting additional staff to have a stronger team and the reason we are requesting to open Memorial Day weekend is because historically that is when it has opened and have been receiving calls from the public asking if we will be open that weekend. Mr. Hughes asked if the insurances will be in place by then. Ms. Isamiddinova said that the insurance is in place and that it is continuing coverage that is on file with the City of Norwalk. Mr. Kydes requested that Mr. Hughes follow up with the insurance company to be sure the insurance is in effect for the new operator. Mr. Hughes said he will get a copy of the policy from Ms. Isamiddinova and send it to the Law Department for their review. Mr. Keegan requested that Mr. Hughes also inquire with the Law Department if the equipment will need to be inspected by the Coast Guard if it is being rented.

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR PROJECT# 4094 FAMILY CONSTRUCTION AND NON-MOTORIZED WATER CRAFT RENTAL WITH NORWALK COMMUNITY SAILING.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK CONSERVATORY OF ARTS FOR THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK GREAT LAWN FOR BROADWAY IN THE PARK TO BE HELD SUNDAY AUGUST 8, 2021 SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2021 SUNDAY AUGUST 22, 2021 AND SUNDAY AUGUST 29, 2021 FROM 5:00PM TO 7:00PM EACH PERFORMANCE DATE . SET UP TO BEGIN AT 4:30PM AND TEAR DOWN BY 7:30 PM EACH PERFORMANCE DATE. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 200.

Ms. Guthrie said they are opening a trade school in downtown Norwalk and want to get to know the community. She provided a brief overview of the event said this will be a smaller event with mostly locals with no stage but are planning to have food trucks but that still needs to be confirmed. Mr. Tsiranides asked if the organization is non-profit. Ms. Guthrie said it will be and that they are going through the approval process now.

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK CONSERVATORY OF ARTS FOR THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK GREAT LAWN FOR BROADWAY IN THE PARK TO BE HELD SUNDAY AUGUST 8, 2021 SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2021 SUNDAY AUGUST 22, 2021 AND SUNDAY AUGUST 29, 2021 FROM 5:00PM TO 7:00PM EACH PERFORMANCE DATE . SET UP TO BEGIN AT 4:30PM AND TEAR DOWN BY 7:30 PM EACH PERFORMANCE DATE. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 200.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI Discussion

1. Norwalk Seaport Association for the use of Calf Pasture/Shady Beach for a Seaport Holiday Light Show to be held from Wednesday, November 24, 2020 through Sunday, January 2, 2022 from 5:00 PM – 10:30 PM daily. Set up date to be determined. Vehicular traffic only, Maximum Weekday Advanced Tickets sold Wednesday & Thursday: 700 car passes, Maximum Weekend Advanced Tickets sold Friday, Saturday & Sunday: 900 car passes.

Mr. Toni said that the proposal is to go until January 2, 2022, and the entire package was presented to the Recreation and Parks committee a few weeks ago when they submitted their second application for this event. He said they started this project last summer with the intent of doing it in December, 2020, and it did pass this committee unanimously but was then pulled for other reasons, and have now set up a program to hold the event in 2021 and have made significant concessions from the suggestions made by Recreation and Parks and other city agencies that include a time schedule and limit the number of cars that can enter the park.

He said they are confident that the roads can be kept open and be fully accessible at all times for the residents in the area and have sent a letter to the residents in the area and have received no comments pro or con from anyone. He said there seems to be some misconceptions of who is putting the event on and he clarified that it is being put on by the Seaport Association and are taking all of the risk.

Mr. Riley said they had started this process last year and have done tremendous research and is a substantial investment for them but want to give back to the community and the other non-profits. He also said they have made a lot of concessions and have a good plan and will be a great event for Norwalk, and the comments that he has seen are positive.

Mr. Keegan asked what the name of the vendor is that will be used. Mr. Riley said there are three vendors that they are working with and are all the major players in the industry.

Mr. Hughes asked what the plans are for portable bathrooms because the beach has no water during the winter months. Mr. Toni said they will have facilities for the volunteers but they have been operating under the assumptions that everyone wants to keep the traffic moving so there are no plans for portable bathrooms, and he has not seen them at any of the other events that he has attended. Mr. Hughes said the concern is the children. Mr. Toni said they would be open to having them but they would not be along the parade route.

Mr. Heuvelman asked how security will be handled on the off times for the event when the general public access the beach. Mr. Toni said the entire beach will be open and accessible to the public and the areas that will be effected will be the medians and will operate on the good faith that no one will go near the equipment, but if they believe at some point there is a risk to the public and/or equipment they will take precautions. Mr. Heuvelman said he has not yet seen the presentation that others have seen and he has concerns that need to be answered in order for him to be able to make a decision. Mr. Riley said they have done a tremendous amount of work and he would be happy to send the members of the Common Council the presentation. Ms. Young said she was hoping that was going to be presented this evening.

Mr. Kydes asked Chief Kulhawik and Deputy Chief Walsh if there are any other precautions that should be taken. Chief Kulhawik said his biggest concern is about the traffic and controlling the flow of traffic and thought there would be more specific traffic plans and signage. He also said there needs to be a plan for people that show up to the event without a ticket and will need to get out of the line to enter the event. Deputy Walsh added that there will need to be emergency access to the beach and there will also need to be adequate signage and traffic barrels from exit 16 to the beach as well as social media communications well in advance of the event. Mr. Riley said they plan of having a very active social media posts with real time information.

Ms. Young asked how many tractor trailers or flat beds are going to be during and after the event. Mr. Riley said the show is delivered in four tractor trailers.

Ms. Smyth said she appreciates the concessions that have been made but she still has concerns and cannot make an informed decisions without seeing a presentation and the public also needs to see it.

Ms. Johnson asked if there are any plans for carbon footprint offsets. Mr. Riley said “no” they do not.

Mr. Keegan said his concerns is the traffic and asked what if the que area on Calf Pasture Beach Road is not enough. Mr. Toni said the overflow would go onto Gregory Blvd. but they don't see that happening.

Ms. Young asked if the amount of time of the event had to be shortened if that is possible. Mr. Toni said it is not out of the question but would be challenging.

Mr. Kydes suggested the committee work off line to get some more information and have it presented at the June meeting and suggested a presentation be provided at the meeting. Mr. Riley said he will sent all the information along with the presentation. Mr. Toni asked who the point person will be. Ms. Young said to send the information to Mr. Hughes and copy her. Mr. Heuvelman added for him it is a certain level a specificity in the pre-planning stage which will inform him to make a decision.

2. Field Use

Mr. Hughes said Recreation and Parks Department currently has 18 staff members and that one is assigned to Calf Pasture Beach, one to Cranbury Park; there's a plumber, a plumber's assistant, a carpenter, a carpenter's assistant, a maintenance trades worker and a heavy equipment operator. He said that leaves us with 10 staff for general maintenance throughout the city, and the department has over 52 sites to maintain, 18 of them school properties. Included are Calf Pasture Beach, Shady Beach, Cranbury Park, Veterans Park, Oyster Shell Park, Flax Hill Park and Ryan Park. He said during a normal course of business day two employees pick up garbage at a ton of garbage a day, two days a week, and that's from schools and parks, not street garbage, two employees mow lawns, with a goal of cutting every site once a day, and one employee paints lines on fields that include the baseball outfields, the lacrosse fields and the soccer fields. He said when we're faced with 15 or 16 fields a day, then we're left with making a decision, what fields we do first, and typically we prioritize the high schools, and then we work our way down through the leagues, but obviously some fields are not getting done, so then you see the post on Facebook, that "our field wasn't touched" that makes us look bad. Mr. Hughes added typically, we average one staff member out per week, whether it be sick, vacation, personal time, and on a typical dry day, eight to nine fields can require lining, and there are beach fields so in actuality we're doing 11 fields a day, Monday through Friday and throw in a rainy day, equipment breakdowns, etc. is just the reality of the situation.

Mr. Hughes said additional staff might sound like the answer but it's seasonal, and is a mad dash, March, April, May, with high school sports and all the leagues just starting up, and a lot of times you can't even touch the fields, until April because they're so wet, you know, with the thaw. He went on to say that work was added to Recreation and Parks and while two positions were added, they were replacements for other positions, meaning that some of the labor was reassigned, and through the time that he has been here, which is now 13 years, he actually lost two driver-classified employees, because when they created the plumber assistant and the carpenter assistant they didn't give him new employees, they reclassified existing positions so they actually took away a driver position to create the plumber assistant and took away a driver position to create the carpenters assistant and granted we have a ton of plumbing work and a ton of carpentry work in those positions are needed, it wasn't two additional position, it was in lieu of and there was a time that there was 34 employees in the Parks Department.

Mr. Hughes said that one of the issues that we've had and we've had it forever, is we get the schedules from the leagues. We know what fields they're using, but we don't know when they're using these fields. There are days that we're faced with 15-16 fields and it's physically impossible for us to get all those fields done. It just doesn't work. And that's why you'll hear, process is broken. It's been this way for the past 10-15 years, because that's how business has been conducted for the past 10 or 15 years. He suggested starting next season to have the city set the schedule for the leagues so we know what fields we have in Norwalk.

Mr. Keegan asked when the last time the representatives from Recreation and Parks met with the representatives from the leagues to work some of these issues out. Mr. Hughes said approximately five years ago but that he is in constant contact with the league officials and he knows what needs to be done but he does not know what the solution is. Mr. Keegan said he knows it's a manpower issue and if the committee can help with that he is more than willing to sit and listen the needs for personnel. He asked what is allowed for the leagues to do on their own. Mr. Hughes said they can they just can't do the paint machines because he has staff for that and the issue for them is the line and drags and they work under a collective bargaining agreement and are limited to what can be allowed on the fields before there are issues with the union and that may be a discussion for the Personnel Committee.

Mr. Heuvelman asked if during the "busy time" if a sub-contractor can be used. Mr. Hughes said but it becomes a collective bargaining issue but is a discussion that needs to take place.

Mr. Kydes said his son was involved in Cal Ripken league until he aged out and these leagues are, are very open to absorbing the cost to keep these fields at their level of quality and the issue was always the union and the kickback from them. He strongly suggests passing this on to the Personnel Committee to open that dialogue and to allow these leads to outsource some of these, the maintenance of these fields.

Ms. Johnson asked how many times a week the trash is collected at the schools. Mr. Hughes said the garbage truck visits each site twice a week to empty the 95 gallon toter cans and then two part time staff pick litter once every two to three weeks but don't hit every site because they spend a lot of their time at the "troubled sites"

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE TO BEGIN UNION DISCUSSIONS TO OUTSOURCE SOME FIELD MAINTENANCE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION TO THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE TO BEGIN UNION DISCUSSIONS TO OUTSOURCE SOME FIELD MAINTENANCE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd