

## New Haven Board of Park Commissioners

Meeting No. 1340  
November 19, 2008

Department of Parks, Recreation & Trees  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Board Room  
720 Edgewood Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06515

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**Present:** President Belowsky, Vice President Bush, Commissioners DePino, Miller, Torres, Tucker & Walton  
**Absent:** Commissioner Castro  
**Staff:** William Dixon, Deputy Director of Recreation

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- I. **Minutes of Meeting 1338 & 1339:** Commissioner Miller motioned to approve the minutes of Meeting 1338 & 1339 seconded by Commissioner Bush and it passed unanimously.
- II. **Treasurer's Reports:** Commissioner Walton motioned to approve the treasurer's reports, seconded by Commissioner DePino and it passed unanimously.
- IV. **Turner Construction Request:** Mr. Lou Rapuano of Turner Construction addressed the Board. Turner Construction would like to utilize an abandoned portion of Canal Street Ext. between Webster and Bristol for construction trailers and site storage for a period of six to seven months. The project is part of the new Yale Health Services building and garage. The property is not being used at this time by the city. There's a grassy area and some concrete structures from past road work this is the area we are interested in utilizing. President Belowsky asked how many trucks would be parked at the site. Mr. Rapuano stated that he'd like to place trailers there. He planned to fence off an area with 8' high chain-link fencing. There's a line of shrubbery there so he'd be west of those with an enclosure 39' x 304' with a gate on each end. One entrance on Bristol and one on Webster. The main entrance would be off of Webster since Bristol is a one lane passage now. The shrubbery will not be disturbed. The surface is currently just dirt & stone. Turner Construction will mat it out with fabric matting and place 4" of stone all the way through dress it up a bit back blade it and clean up the area. By June '09 they will be leaving that site and going into the parking structure. The site would be used mainly for construction trailer offices.

President Belowsky mentioned that the Commission will require a monthly fee for use of the area. Mr. Rapuano stated that Turner Construction will pay for the use of this park property.

**Commissioner Bush motioned to allow Turner Construction to utilize the park property located on Canal Street Ext. between Webster and Bristol for construction trailers and other vehicles through June 2009 for a fee of \$700 per month. When the project is complete Turner Construction will remove the fencing and leave the crushed stone in place. The site must be left in original or better condition.**

- V. **For Motion from Meeting 1339:**  
**Solar Array for Lighthouse:** The Commissioners discussed the details of the Solar Array installation request from City Plan. Commissioner Tucker mentioned that they would need insurances that the roof warranty would not be compromised by the installation of the solar array. **Commissioner Bush motioned to approve the installation of the solar array on the bathhouse roof at Lighthouse Point**

**Park contingent upon the roof warranty not being voided by said installation.**

Commissioner Tucker stated that they will need to get a letter from the manufacturer saying that they have inspected the installation and it does not violate the warranty. They will need to get the letter from the roofing company. This is standard operating procedure in the industry. **Seconded by Commissioner DePino and it passed unanimously.**

**Lewis Street Park Sculpture:** The Commission discussed the request for a donated sculpture to be placed in Lewis Street Park. **Commissioner Bush motioned to approve the installation of a donated sculpture in Lewis Street Park at no cost to the city and to be maintained by a stipend donated by Mary Benjamin-Ornstein. In the event that the sculpture falls into disrepair it will be removed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Walton and it passed unanimously.**

**III. Director's Report:** Deputy Director, Bill Dixon presented the Director's Report. 1) Pardee Greenhouse Asbestos Removal. Commissioner Tucker had questions regarding the cost of this removal (\$61,000). Mr. Dixon stated that this project went out to bid via the Livable City Initiative and was processed through the Purchasing Agent for the City. There were three bids and the job was awarded to the lowest bidder. The high cost to dispose of the asbestos is part of what drives the price of a removal project.

**VI. Other Business:** Deputy Director, Bill Dixon went over Lighthouse Point Park attendance and revenue numbers. Non-resident cars and busses are charged a parking fee to enter the park between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. However, as we speak, Director Levine is at the Finance Committee meeting discussing extending the season to open the park earlier in April and keeping it open later into October. The extension of the season would increase revenue from out-of-town visitors. The park is overflowing with people every nice weekend day. The park is open from 7:00 a.m. to about 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Dixon did not have figures but believes the golf course revenue was up about 2% over last year. We have been doing well up at the course over the last few years. The current fees expire and we are looking for approval from the Board of Aldermen for a slight increase in some fees.

Per Director Levine, Mr. Dixon requested a \$1,000 donation towards Polar Plunge from the Park Commission. Basically this donation would cover our staff costs for the Elm City Conservancy fundraiser.

The annual holiday gathering is scheduled for Friday, December 12 at Sage American Grill on Water Street from 12:30 to 2:30. Director Levine would like the Commissioner to authorize \$5,000 for this event. The expenses include the luncheon, employee appreciation gifts and raffle prizes.

**Commissioner Tucker motioned to approve a \$1,000 donation to the Polar Plunge event and \$5,000 to the employee holiday gathering from the Donation Account. Seconded by Commissioner DePino and it passed unanimously.**

Deputy Director Dixon informed the Commission that Mary Boyle, President of the Friends of the Carousel at Lighthouse Point Park was killed in a car accident recently. She led the Friends group to help restore the carousel in the 1980's. Director Levine requested the Commission do something in her honor. She has a sister in another state but did not have any children or

husband. Maybe send a donation in her memory. President Belowsky suggested a plaque in her memory at the carousel building. Commissioner Miller suggested a gift to the Friends of the Carousel in her memory to help maintain the carousel. The carousel and building gets most of its funding from rental revenue. There was some discussion regarding precedent. The matter was **Tabled**.

President Belowsky mentioned an e-mail from Commissioner Tucker regarding the theft of cable from the Fantasy of Lights exhibit at Lighthouse. Currently we receive 5% of Easter Seals revenues from the event. The cables that were stolen are going to be replaced by donations.

President Belowsky asked to have a bench repaired on Whalley Avenue by West Park by the Holocaust Memorial. A wooden bench is broken.

President Belowsky asked Mr. Dixon about the number of employees in the department and if there were going to be further cuts by the city. Mr. Dixon believes there are about 60 full-time employees currently in the department. He has heard rumors about layoff and cutbacks but nobody really knows at this time. One laid-off employee did get reinstated to the department. We are still running our programs. He did express to downtown officials that going into the summer camp season without Roxanne Hayes, Community Recreation Coordinator position will be very difficult. That will be a big void for us since that position handled so much of the camp responsibilities. Hopefully we'll be able to fill that position this winter.

We are running our after-school programs and are looking at opening up Coogan Pavilion as a drop-in recreation center. We are working closely with the Mayor's Youth Initiative Program. We're still going full speed ahead with programs. We are utilizing some college-age recreation majors under the supervision of the Recreation Supervisors.

Commissioner Tucker mentioned that the Bayview Park Sound Barrier letter of support was tabled at the last meeting. His only issue would be with the design of the sound barrier. Some of these structures are so un-park like. Bill Dixon is going to check with City Plan if they still need a letter from the Commission. **Tabled until the next agenda.**

Commissioner Tucker asked about the status of Commissioner Castro. President Belowsky stated that she did call today stating she has to work until 7:00 p.m. Can the Commission ask her to step down? The Board of Aldermen appointed her so they would need to appoint someone else.

Meeting adjourned: 6:30

Next Meeting: **January 21, 2009**