

## New Haven Board of Park Commissioners

Meeting No. 1359  
January 19, 2011

Department of Parks, Recreation and Trees  
720 Edgewood Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06515

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Present: President Belowsky, Commissioners Castro, O'Sullivan-Best, Torres & Tucker  
Absent: Vice President Bush, Commissioners Miller & Walton  
Staff: Robert D. Levine, Director of Parks, Recreation & Trees

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Meeting called to order 5:35 p.m.

**V. Quarry Park Proposal:** Frank Cochran and several members of the Religious Society of Friends were in attendance. Mr. Cochran addressed the Commission regarding the "Friends" proposed land swap. Mr. Cochran gave an overview of Quarry Park, the use of the park and some background information. He stated that the "Friends" daycare would like to expand and they are proposing a land swap with the City. Mr. Cochran went over the "Friends" proposal in great detail and at great length; presenting and explaining maps of the proposed land swap. The Commission thanked the group for their presentation. **Tabled.**

**I. Minutes of Meeting 1358:** Commissioner Castro motioned to pass the Minutes of Meeting 1358, seconded by Commissioner O'Sullivan-Best. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Treasurer's Report:** Commissioner Castro motioned to approve the November 2010 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Commissioner Tucker. Commissioner Tucker asked about a bumper sticker expense. Director Levine stated that it was for the Commissioner's "Don't Litter" campaign. Commissioner Tucker asked if the funds in the Charles Schwab Account are the same funds with Halsey Associates. Director Levine stated yes. Commissioner Tucker asked if the legal services for the 501c3 in the amount of \$2,655.00 completed the process. President Belowsky stated they are the complete and will allow the Commission to accept donations which individuals will be able to write off on their taxes. Commissioner Tucker asked about the bleacher rentals. Director Levine stated that they involve out-of-town rentals which; after reimbursing the City for manpower, supply funding to the Donation Account. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**IV. Tennis Program—Anne Worcester:** Anne Worcester addressed the Commission regarding tennis programs in New Haven. The tennis programming in New Haven has grown tremendously thanks in large part to the New Haven Parks Dept. as well as the partnership between Pilot Pen (now New Haven Open at Yale). Ms. Worcester stated that when Pilot Pen took over administration of the tournament it was important to use the celebrity and power to help build excitement for tennis in New Haven. Fourteen years ago there were not a lot of people playing tennis in New Haven. We brought in Monica Seles come in and do a clinic with Park & Rec. campers and other high profile tennis pros over the years. Back in 2003 there was a small tennis program with 30-40 children. In 2004 we received grant

money from USTA and began providing affordable tennis lessons to children. John Pirtel has worked with the Parks Dept. over the years to expand this program. We now have lessons year-round, including use of indoor space. Ms. Worcester explained all the different programs they have run in conjunction with the tournament and as stand alone programs over the years. In 2007 we added tennis to the summer camp experience. John Pirtel has grown many of these programs and more than 5,000 children are experiencing tennis in New Haven.

Last January Ms. Worcester was invited on behalf of the City of New Haven to be the Keynote Speaker at the Community Tennis Development Workshop in San Diego. She told the story of growing community tennis programs with limited resources, the power of partnerships and event marketing. **Tabled.**

**VI. Verdin Clock Company:** President Belowsky introduced Jeff Lewis of the Verdin Clock Company. Mr. Lewis addressed the Commission regarding the possibility of a clock for the Margaret Pastore Memorial to be installed at the Pardee Seawall. Mr. Lewis gave a detailed description of the product and provided brochures to the Commission. **Tabled.**

Meeting Adjourned: 6:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 16, 2011, 5:00 p.m.,

Annual Election of Officers at Mayor's Conference Room