

## New Haven Board of Park Commissioners

Meeting No. 1363  
June 15, 2011

Meeting Location: Pardee Greenhouse  
180 Park Road  
Hamden, Connecticut

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

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Meeting called to order 5:35 p.m.

**I. Approval of Minutes—Meeting 1362:** Commissioner Tucker asked if we received the \$100k from Yale. Director Levine stated that we did receive the check for \$100,000 and Lynn Piekarz was depositing it in the Charles Schwab Account via Halsey Associates. Commissioner Tucker asked if the cost of the portrait restoration was high at \$2,800. President Belowsky stated that it had actually been around \$5,000 and we managed it down to \$2,800; which includes matting, glass, framing and installation. **A Motion to Pass the Minutes of Meeting 1362 passed unanimously.**

**II. Treasurer's Report:** Commissioner Tucker noticed that some checking accounts were closed completely at Bank of America and moved to Start Bank and others had only part of funds moved to the new bank. Director Levine stated that we were in the process of transferring all banking funds to Start Bank and the checking will be free as well. **A Motion to Pass the Treasurer's Reports from April & May 2011 passed unanimously**

**IV. Public Art—Pitkin Plaza:** Tony Bialecki, Deputy Director of Economic Development addressed the Commission. Mr. Bialecki stated that in 1974 the old New Haven Arena on Grove & State was taken down. The City saved three cast concrete structures that were part of the facility. The slabs were taken to the New Haven Coliseum; but never installed. They were discovered again when the Coliseum was demolished. The City moved them to a storage area for use in the future. We would like to install them in the Pitkin Plaza as public art. The City put some funds aside from the Coliseum demolition to fund the future installation and maintenance of these slabs. Each slab is approximately 3' wide by 7' tall and 5" thick; they weigh about 1,000 lbs. each. The slabs will be well lit to deter vandalism and sealed to protect them. The Commission discussed the request at some length.

**President Belowsky motioned to install the concrete slabs in temple plaza in the order that they were originally installed in the old New Haven Arena. Additionally the City will need to let us know if they move them in the future. Commissioner O'Sullivan-Best motioned for an Amendment to the Motion, that the City must place funds in a maintenance account with the Park Commission to cover future expenses. The structures must be removed by the City if they fall into disrepair. Commissioner Castro seconded the Amended Motion and it passed unanimously.**

**III. Director's Report:** 1). President Belowsky and the Park Commission formally asked Director Levine to have the City Tree Warden oversee the care of trees on Park property. 2). Director Levine stated that the improvements to 720 Edgewood Ave. had been slowed down with an issue with the contractor that did not maintain proper payroll records for contract compliance. They are back now in full force with subcontractors. 3). Summer issues in City Parks are about the same a last year: unauthorized vendors in parks, grills where they are not allowed, cars parking where they shouldn't. New fees have been implemented except the \$20 season parking pass for New Haven Residents. The other fees were all implemented and included boat launch fees, non-resident parking fees rose to \$20 day or \$100 season and out of state car fee of \$30 per day. The City will wait until next season to implement the resident fee. The residential parking zone was established in the area surrounding Lighthouse Park. We haven't had any issues as of yet. 4). Director Levine stated that there are some issues with the two large soccer leagues; however, field marshals are required at each game to curtail problems. The field use committee will not be established at this time; we will be utilizing Community Mediation. The leagues will sit down and work things out with Community Mediation and if that doesn't pan out we'll look at the committee option. 5). We have had an additional meeting with Amarante's. On a very busy night they are short 16 +/- parking spots; they have about that many employees working. What they plan is to park the employees down by the boat launch area and after 9pm retrieve their vehicles and move them to open spots at the restaurant. They will be making a donation to the Park Commission which could be in the form of a discounted holiday party for the employees. 6). IKEA & Wells Fargo are sponsoring the fireworks this year. We will have shuttle buses bringing people up to the summer. We may have a vendor or two with food but no band this year. 7). We are way behind on trimming and mowing due to a lack of Seasonal Caretakers who can't be hired until after July 1 due to funding. Contracted tree crews will also begin after July 1<sup>st</sup>. Our regular tree crews are working but they can't get through the backlog of requests for trimming, removal and stump grinding. 8). The Tree Barn agreement is moving through Corporation Counsel. 9). Fair Haven area garden folks never came back with information requested by Commission. The City Engineering Dept. is working on the huge sink hole in the area. 10). David Moser is putting together a design for guardrail on Morning Dove Circle adjacent to Bishop Woods Park; there will be an access point for the gas company to put a lock on and access to the trail but not big enough for ATV to enter. On the right there's a private fence; and on the left they'd have to go two houses down to access park. 11). President Belowsky stated that he went by the Townsend Ave. property; the house looks like it needs to be painted and grass trimmed. Director Levine asked if the Commission wanted to paint the house; one side and the back are vinyl siding so it would only be two sides of the house that need painting. The Commission agreed.

**Meeting Adjourned: 6:30 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: July 20, 2011**

**Location: Pardee Greenhouse, 180 Park Road, Hamden, CT**