

## New Haven Board of Park Commissioners

Meeting No. 1364  
July 20, 2011

Department of Parks, Recreation & Trees  
Maintenance Division  
180 Park Road  
Hamden, CT 06517

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

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- I. Minutes of Meeting 1363:** Commissioner Bush motioned to approve the Minutes of Meeting 1363, with two spelling corrections; and it passed unanimously.
- II. Treasurer’s Reports:** Commissioner Torres motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report and it passed unanimously.
- V. MetroPCS—Cell Tower Inquiry:** John Nestor representing Metro/PCS mobile phone company made a presentation on the need for a cell tower in the vicinity of Ft. Hale park. He noted that currently there is a dead spot in that area and coverage would be improved with a new tower. Metro/PCS has taken over a company called “Pocket” and is trying to improve its network. He mentioned three (3) different types of installation strategies:
1. Commission builds tower with their funds and Metro/PCS hangs an antenna on it.
  2. Metro/PCS builds the tower and others hang their antennas on it for a fee.
  3. Private group builds the tower and generates revenue from the antennas.

Mr. Nestor indicated that revenue could range from \$2,500 - \$10,000 per month depending upon the number of folks interested in mounting an antenna. Metro/PCS prefers to attach to existing towers rather than build their own. When the tower would be built it would look like a thick flag pole (a stealth pole) and the antennas would be mounted inside. In addition to the stealth pole there would be a 10’ x 16’ concrete pad with up to four refrigerator sized boxes on it.

**IV. Common Ground High School—New Building:** Melissa Spear, Executive Director of Common Ground gave an update on the enhancements to the Common Ground School which received a \$1,200,000 state grant for school expansion. Drawings from Gray Organschi are attached and show the current concept for improvements to the facilities. Cost containment issues have moved the new building from further into the site to the location that is the flattest area of the site. Ms. Spear walked the Commission through the plans and answered questions. Targeted cost per square foot is \$250 - \$275. Energy efficient design will dictate various elements as cost allows. She anticipates a building of roughly 13,000 sq. ft. that will be able to

provide both community and educational programs. She hopes for a completion date of Feb. 2013. There are currently 155 students, 70% of whom are New Haven residents. They are approved for 164 students next year (2011-12) and capacity with the new building is up to 225 students.

President Belowsky opened with concerns about having only ½ of a basketball court in the multi-purpose room. A discussion of various design elements ensued including photo-voltaic, geothermal, roof angles/shadowing, changing the elevation of the existing water line, the parking lot surface characteristics and the change in grade from the existing building to the proposed building.

**VII. DeLauro Family Table:** Plans prepared by Barry Svigles were presented by President Belowsky and discussed by the Commission, for a piece of public sculpture being proposed to honor the DeLauro family. Concerns were raised regarding the perpetual maintenance of the sculpture and the strong possibility that graffiti would need to be removed on a regular basis. The work is tentatively titled “The DeLauro Family Table” and consists of a stone table and bench-like chairs to be placed in Wooster Square (Columbus Park). The Commissioners agreed that the neighborhood needed to be in favor of the installation. A spirited discussion of art and the creative process ensued. Michael Tucker was somewhat concerned about the way the piece would integrate with existing park infrastructure and wondered about the surfacing under the sculpture. **President Dave Belowsky made a motion to approve the installation of the art with the stipulation that the neighborhood be in favor. The motion passed with four in favor, one opposed and one abstention.**

**VII. Other Business:**

Commissioner Kevin Walton expressed an interest in having the department look into offering programs in alternative sports such as lacrosse and field hockey that typically aren't popular in New Haven. Director Levine indicated that Commissioner Walton would be invited to attend a meeting with staff in the near future to discuss the possibilities.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:55 p.m.

**Next Park Commission Meeting:  
(No August Meeting)  
September 21, 2011**