

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** Authorizing the execution of the extension of the lease agreement with City Bench, Inc. for a seven-year term from the date of execution. (Director of Parks, Recreation, and Trees)

REPORT: 1515-07

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

The City owns a property located at 180 Park Road, known as the “Sheep Barn,” which it leases to City Bench, Inc. This lease is set to expire on May 14, 2017. Prior to the lease with City Bench, this building was unoccupied and deteriorating. City Bench has breathed new life into the space, activating this part of the Parks Department’s maintenance parcel, and would like to extend the lease by an additional seven years.

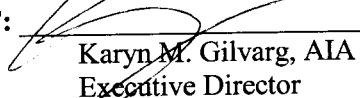
PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

City Bench uses the facility for their wood milling operations where they take wood debris – much from New Haven – and convert it to board length that is used by the Parks Department, and for wood that City Bench uses to manufacture furniture. As part of the partnership, City Bench has provided the City with multiple pieces of unique furniture including the “Lincoln Bench” created from the Lincoln Oak that fell on the Green during Hurricane Irene and is now on display at City Hall. In addition, City Bench provides education to the community and students on the recycling of biomass and the wood milling process. The lease extension will encourage and allow City Bench to make additional investments in the site including the installation of a gas kiln to dry wood and help expedite the process which can now take several years to cure wood for furniture.

ADVICE

The Commission finds the Order in the best interest of the City and recommends approval.

ADOPTED: February 17, 2016
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director