

New Haven Board of Park Commissioners

Meeting No. 1469

Zoom Conference Meeting

July 20, 2022

New Haven, CT 06513

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Present: President Belowsky, Commissioner Harvey Feinberg

Absent: Commissioners Carl Babb, Ernie Santiago, Hector Torres, Kevin Walton

Staff: Director Jeff Pescosolido, Director Gwen Williams, Deputy Director William Dixon, Katherine Jacobs, Tariq Dasent

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**I. Minutes of Meeting #1468: No Quorum**

**II. Treasurer's Report: No Quorum**

**III. New Business:**

- Communication will be key between Parks & Public Works, Youth & Rec, Engineering, and supervisors in William Carone's absence. In the meantime, please forward all park requests to Director Jeff Pescosolido. Pescosolido will be relying on staff and other individuals to help but the goal is to provide the same service to residents. The city has a policy and procedure for filling any positions, Carone's former position as Deputy Director is a civil service position. Pescosolido will keep commissioners updated on the hiring process. Typically, the commission does not get involved in the hiring process, however, a candidate can be introduced to commissioners prior to hiring if they are interested.
- A termite infestation was discovered at the golf course when the walls were demolished in the building.
- Albertus Magnus' women's hockey team is looking to rent space at the rink.
- The retaining wall in Edgewood Park was repainted with the help of Youth@Work employees. Using funds from the Pardee Trust account Katherine Jacobs would like to plant shrubs in front of the wall to prevent graffiti. Jacobs estimates it will cost \$3,000 dollars including installation. President Belowsky stated that is fine as it is for the beautification of New Haven.
- Rebecca Bombero wants to print new rule signs to have on hand to post in parks as needed. The new signs are 18 x 24 and include two updates. No motorized vehicles are permitted in the park and the city ordinance for reference has been added to the sign. Deputy Director William Dixon stated electric bikes are now permitted in the park so the wording on the motorized rule needs to be changed. Director Gwendolyn Busch would like the sign to state the exception to this rule is ADA requirements. Commissioner Harvey Feinberg would like to have the print of "per city ordinance" larger. There is currently no specific plan to replace the old signs with new signs, but as old signs require replacements the new signs will be phased in. Jacobs will send the new rule sign with the revisions to the commissioners for review.
- Some areas at the Summit need repointing.

**IV. Old Business:**

- The agreement with the contractor at Bowen Field has not been renewed. Jacobs has met with a new contractor on site to get a new quote. In the meantime, the irrigation system is working, and the dugouts have been redone. The baseball field is usable and will get better in a couple of months.
- The Edgewood tennis courts are under construction. The pavement has been redone and once the asphalt has been cured the color coating will be applied. Electrical work needs to be done to get power to the lights.

- Close to finishing the improvements at Fairmont Park. Currently in the final stretch of getting the electrical system done for evening baseball.
- There was a community meeting held regarding the basketball courts at Goffe St Park. One of the main outcomes of the meeting was the importance of John Williamson to the community. Within the next month to eight weeks, the artwork will be submitted. His two daughters attended the community meeting and if any other family members have questions, they can contact Jacobs as she is the point person on the project. The courts should be completed in spring 2023.
- Jacobs is working on court renovation at Kimberly Field (located adjacent to Betsy Ross Arts Magnet School). Jacobs is hoping to involve some collaboration with the art students to paint a mural on that court. Additional improvements have been made to Kimberly Field such as
  - Basketball hoops have been replaced
  - Cracks on the court have been filled (resurfacing and coloring must be done)
  - Backstop has been removed
  - Drainage improvement designs are complete – need to go out to bid
  - Partners at URI have a grant to do a walking loop and some planting
  - Fence work needs to be completed

#### **V. Director's Report Parks & Public Works:**

- Park maintenance and the tree division are very busy around the city.
- Working with Engineering to look at some older irrigation systems and get those running.
- Having trash-related issues at Long Wharf. Parks & Public Works crews are working together to keep the area clean, so debris does not end up in the water.
- The path cut at the golf course has been backfilled.
- Completed a drainage project at DeGale field associated with the splash pad which is up and running. There is talk about redoing the walking path.
- Parks & Public Works employees are working together to complete the stone dust path at Quinnipiac River Park.
- Staff reporting early due to the heat.
- A list will be developed for stumps. Our subcontractor will assist with trimming, takedowns, emergency response, and stump removal. There are talks to get another stump remover but there are limited funds.

#### **VI. Director's Report Youth & Recreation:**

- Programming is in full swing (Summer employment, summer camps, and some activities under the American Rescue Plan).
- Waiting on the Board of Alders to finalize the American Rescue Plan dollars. When those are finalized, there will be an expansion of the department regarding programming and staffing.
- Working with Engineering to revive some park buildings. (Barnard, East Rock, Coogan, and DeGale are first on the list)
- Over the past month there have been unpermitted parties at city parks at night. Police are aware. Requesting Parks & Public Works have all electrical boxes locked.

#### **Meeting Adjourned: 6:17 PM**

Minutes submitted by: Tariq Dasent, Executive Administrative Assistant to Parks & Public Works

Next Meeting: September 21, 2022

Location: Zoom