

New Haven Board of Park Commissioners

Meeting No. 1486

Commission Conference Meeting
720 Edgewood Ave
New Haven, CT 06515

April 17, 2024

Present: President David Belowsky, Commissioners Kenya Adams, Carl Babb, Emily Sigman, Hector Torres

Absent: Commissioners Harvey Feinberg & Honda Smith

Staff: Director Mike Siciliano, Deputy Director William Dixon, Tariq Dasent

I. Minutes of Meetings #1485: Motion to approve Minutes of Meeting 1485. Motion Seconded. Unanimously approved. Closed.

II. Treasurer's Report: No report.

1. Happy Hour in the Plaza – Francesca Vignola

Francesca Vignola is requesting permission to host Happy Hour at Temple Plaza from June -September. Temple Plaza is located downtown on Temple Street between Chara Peruvian Bar and Pitaziki.

- This event includes food and drinks, music, and games for families.
- Events will run twice a month.
- There are safety checks in place such as ID and wristband checks, a limit of one beer, wine, or cocktail option, and ambassadors will be available.
- Attendance is typically between 75- 125 people.
- There are no retail vendors. It is free to enter the only cost would be if someone purchased food or beverages but that is not mandatory.
- The event is advertised on their website and Instagram.

Motion to approve Happy Hour at Temple Plaza. Motion Seconded. This event has been happening for 6 years and there have been no problems. President Belowsky is hopeful that an incident like the one that happened at West Haven's beach will not happen in New Haven.

Unanimously approved. Closed.

2. Quarry Park Update – Tracy Blanford

Katherine Jacobs no longer works with the City of New Haven. Any questions about projects should be directed to Deputy Director Stephen Hladun. Tracy Blanford has concerns about work being done at Quarry Park and the possible damage that could occur at the site. Rebecca Bombero will follow up with the stone dust project and work with Hladun to create a barrier (strategic placement of rocks).

III. Director's Report:

Parks & Public Works:

- Quarry Park survey to start by Parks Dept. utilizing Engineering Dept.'s on-call firms. The report once completed will be presented to the commissioners.

- Athletic Field Preparation- despite rainy weather, crews have been working on several fields to support BOE Athletics baseball/softball programs. Several additional fields are being prepared for youth little leagues. Rice Field 1 fence installation and warning track completed by Engineering Dept.
- Seasonal Caretaker and Seasonal Technician applications are in process with Human Resources – onboarding (12+) seasonals within the next two weeks. Applications are available online at the city’s website and the posting is ongoing.
- Bids for In-Field Grooming Equipment due May 2 and an RFP for Park Concession/Partners due April 30, 2024.
- RWA Water Meters are being put in place where needed for plumber water activation.
- Bench installation to start replacing older model benches in parks citywide.
- Event Support including the Cherry Blossom Festival this past weekend has begun.
- Picnic Permit and event applications indicate a busy season ahead!
- East Rock Summit opened on Sunday, April 7, 2024, from 7 am to sundown.
- Citywide Trimming and Removals are ongoing in all wards. Stump Grinding also supports spring tree plantings being conducted by Urban Resources Initiative.
- Director Michael Siciliano met with staff at Dom Aitro field (Fairmont Park) to discuss issues with the outfield. Siciliano will work with Engineering who already has a plan to address the issue. In the meantime, a contractor was contacted to install an access so the leaves could be blown to the field and picked up by employees.
- There are 4 active little leagues in the city of New Haven. Pop Smith and Annex are the most active.

Youth & Recreation – No report

IV. Old Business

- Margaret’s Clock is not working again. The electrician will be sent out tomorrow to fix it.
- The golf course is open and had one of the best March’s ever.

V. New Business

- Commissioner Harvey Feinberg sent a letter to the finance committee stating his support to split Parks & Public Works.
- David Agosta submitted a letter regarding sidewalks throughout the city. These issues have been forwarded to the Engineering Department as many of these sites are outside of the park's purview. Engineering will inspect the asphalt sidewalk that runs along Edgewood Park as they handle sidewalk complaints.

Meeting Adjourned 6:05 P.M.

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

Next Meeting: May 15, 2024

Location: 720 Edgewood Ave, New Haven, CT 06515