

New Haven Board of Park Commissioners

Meeting No. 1492

Zoom Meeting

October 30, 2024 Special Meeting

Present: President David Belowsky, Commissioners Kenya Adams Martin, Carl Babb, Harvey Feinberg, Emily Sigman, Honda Smith, Hector Torres

Absent:

Staff: Rebecca Bombero, Stephen Hladun, Jennifer Velasquez

I. Albertus Magnus College: Ralph Walker Agreement Approval- Rebecca Bombero

Rebecca Bombero addressed finalizing an agreement with Albertus Magnus College, allowing a new 5-year term to establish a women's locker room and reinforce community benefits, including defined service hours and volunteer commitments. The agreement enhances engagement through programs like Learn to Skate and includes a 5-year lease with an option to renew. The volunteer hours were increased from an unspecified amount to 200 hours annually. Clarifications were made on locker room use, ensuring exclusivity for teams and flexibility in fulfilling volunteer hours.

Motion to amend the agreement by doubling the volunteer hours from 200 to 400 hours. Seconded. Unanimously approved.

Motion to finalize agreement with Albertus Magnus College with the addendum. Seconded. Unanimously approved.

Bombero will work on finalizing agreement terms with economic development and Albertus Magnus College. Alder Honda Smith absent for motion.

II. Schubert Theatre Mural Approval -Tara von Schmidt

Schubert Theater's proposal presented by Tara von Schmidt during the October commissioner meeting, is to install a mural in Temple Plaza, adjacent to the theater. The mural will commemorate the past 50 years of shows at the Schubert Theater and feature actors and actresses who performed there. The agreement for the mural is set for 5 years, during which the theater will maintain it. At the end of this period, the mural may either be maintained further or removed. The mural will retain the same artistic rendering for the entire duration and will be touched up as necessary to ensure its good condition.

Motion to approve the mural. Seconded. Unanimously approved. Alder Honda Smith absent for motion.

III. Edgerton Park Gatehouse Residency Extension and Building Repair Funding Approval - Stephen Hladun

Stephen Hladun addressed the Edgerton Park Gatehouse residency, pension, and building repairs. Significant updates and repairs were identified for both the carriage house and gatehouse, with plans to prepare the gatehouse for a new resident, potentially a park ranger or a department worker. The commissioners expressed support for the Resident Park Ranger program and discussed the potential for similar uses of other park buildings. They emphasized the need for regular maintenance and explored options for historical preservation grants and energy efficiency upgrades.

Motion to proceed with renovations, focusing on immediate repairs to leaking roof. Seconded. Unanimously approved. Alder Honda Smith absent for motion.

IV. Historical Signage in Edgewood Park Approval- Stephanie FitzGerald

The proposal presented by Stephanie Fitzgerald during the October commissioner meeting is to install two historical signs in Edgewood Park with historical pictures and descriptions. One sign will highlight the almshouse farm building and early park plans, while the other will focus on small manufacturing along the West River and the British invasion of New Haven. Commissioners emphasized the need to include information about indigenous inhabitants and broader historical perspectives, requiring evidence to support this additional content.

Motion has been tabled. Commissioners intend to discuss with Fitzgerald the possibility of installing four signs. Alder Honda Smith absent for motion.

V. East Shore Living Shoreline Project Approval - Giovanni Zinn & Dawn Henning

East Shore Park Coastal Erosion Project aims to address coastal erosion, enhance coastal access, and prepare the park for climate change using natural methods. The project, dating back 5-6 years, involves creating ecosystems, improving water and park connections, and enhancing the walking path. After facing delays with permits, the project recently received final approvals. Proposed solutions include installing rock sills, adjusting the shoreline slope, managing vegetation, relocating paths, and improving drainage. The project, one of the largest of its kind in the Northeast, includes a 5-year monitoring plan to maintain the shoreline and minimize maintenance needs.

Motion to proceed with the project. Seconded. Unanimously approved. Alder Honda Smith absent for motion.

VI. Personnel – Executive Session- Rebecca Bombero

Motion for executive session to discuss personnel items. Seconded

Meeting Adjourned 6:50 P.M.

Minutes submitted by: Jennifer Velasquez, Admin and Finance Manager Parks Department

Next Meeting: November 20, 2024

Location: 720 Edgewood Ave, New Haven, CT 06515