

New Haven Board of Park Commissioners

Meeting No. 1463

Zoom Conference Meeting

January 19, 2022

New Haven, CT 06513

Present: Commissioner Carl Babb, Commissioner Harvey Feinberg, Commissioner Ernie Santiago, Commissioner Hector Torres, Commissioner Kevin Walton; Alder Salvatore DeCola, Alder Steven Winters; David Delwiche, Greg Chandler, Steve Hicks, Olivia Martson, Rocco Giampaolo

Absent: President Belowsky

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

- I. **Minutes of Meeting #1462: Motion to approve Minutes of Meeting 1462. Motion Seconded. Unanimously approved. Closed.**
- II. **Treasurer's Report:** Commissioner Harvey Feinberg did not receive a copy of the report. Deputy Director Carone stated he would forward him a copy. **Motion to approve Treasurer's Report. Motion Seconded. Unanimously approved. Closed.**
- III. **New Business:**

Historical Marker Installation – Greg Chandler & Rocco Giampaolo

Greg Chandler and Rocco Giampaolo are requesting approval to install a historical panel on the Farmington Canal in reference to the clean-up of the historical site at 71 Shelton Ave. The property is a contributing element to Winchester Repeating Arms Company Historic District. There is an agreement to install a historical panel between the State Historic Preservation Office, the Mayor of New Haven, and the owner of the property.

Commissioner Feinberg questioned what the historical marker would say, what material will be used to house the marker, will it last more than a short period of time, and how much it is costing the city. Carone said he would email Commissioner Feinberg a copy of the marker. Chandler stated it will be hot galvanized powder-coated material and the panel itself is designed for long time exposure to the elements. Also, there is no cost to the city. They are funding the manufacturing and installation. Katherine Jacobs requested the sign have a 10-year warranty with the documentation passed to the city. Commissioner Hector Torres questioned who would perform maintenance. Chandler stated the city would be responsible for maintenance.

Clinton Ave Park – Katherine Jacobs

Due to issues with dirt bikes and ATVs at Clinton Ave Park, Jacobs is seeking approval to make modifications to the fence. The neighborhood would like children to be able to play safely here. The field displayed is adjacent to a school, a basketball court, and a playground. There is a request to add a fence to the side that borders the school. Gates will be added to the fence for maintenance and ADA access. The fence along with modifications to other entrances would make it impossible for ATVs to enter. Dirt bikes would still be able to enter through the ADA entrances but this proposed change would make it so they had nowhere to flee if the police came to ask them to leave. Hopefully, these changes will make it a less desirable place for them to ride.

Commissioner Torres asked how tall the fence will be. Jacobs stated it would be the same height as the existing fence which she believes is 4 feet. Commissioner Feinberg asked who would be paying for the fence and what is the cost. Jacobs stated the fence would be paid from existing allocated parks funds and the fence would cost about \$20,000. Commissioner Ernie Santiago questioned if there were 2 baseball fields. Jacobs stated there was a discussion about replacing a field and putting in a full-size soccer field. Commissioner Santiago asked if the soccer field will affect the cricket pitch and will the cricket pitch damage the grass. Jacobs stated the cricket pitch would remain in any case and it would damage the grass the same amount it already does. **Motion to approve the fence. Motion Seconded.** Commissioner Harvey asked when will the fence be installed if Jacobs receives approval. Jacobs stated they are hoping to get it done this construction season before the end of 2022. **Unanimously approved. Closed.**

Commissioner Santiago participates in a league based out of Bridgeport and his team represents New Haven. They have won many championships and will receive rings for their most recent win. On April 30, 2022, at Criscuolo Park, the inauguration of the Bridgeport league in New Haven will take place. Two inauguration games will be held in New Haven and the remainder of the season will be played in Bridgeport. Commissioner Feinberg asked what Commissioner Santiago would need from the commission. Commissioner Santiago stated all he needs is the field prepared. Carone asked Commissioner Santiago to reach out to him to book the field.

IV. Old Business:

Commissioner Carl Babb asked for an update on both the baseball field and throwing cage at Bowen Field. Jacobs stated there are fence and field contractors however scheduling has been an issue. Contractors were informed it must be completed first thing in the spring. Jacobs anticipates the field will be complete by the fall at the latest. Director Gwen Williams gave an update on the throwing cage. Jacobs will give Williams the cost estimate for the installation, the BOA submission will be completed by Williams in time for the next meeting, Erik Patchkofsky will be contacted from the BOE as this will impact them as well, and working directly with UNH regarding the leasing agreement. Williams will have more information next month for the commissioners. Commissioner Santiago would like Williams to send him talking points for the BOA.

Edgewood Park Tennis Courts – Katherine Jacobs

There has been positive feedback regarding the renovations for the tennis courts at Edgewood Park. One tennis court will be converted into a Pickle Ball Court and the color scheme for the courts will be blue and green. There is interest in making the area more distinctive and giving it more character. The commission has already approved a rededication of the courts however the Alder will work with the community to discuss what kind of sign or what kind of commemoration they would like to do. Jacobs will continue to work on finalizing the construction drawings for the tennis courts and is on track to have work done this summer.

Commissioner Feinberg asked will the courts be completed by this summer. Jacobs stated they probably won't be finished by this summer, but she is hoping they will be finished by this fall. Commissioner Feinberg asked if the courts will be closed to the public until the fall and how much will it cost. Jacobs stated yes, it is possible they will be closed through the fall due to construction delays and supply chain issues. Jacobs stated the estimate is about \$400,000 which will come from Park's capital.

Criscuolo Park Swings – Katherine Jacobs

Originally planned for one swing structure for all age ranges but have now moved to two swing sets that are grouped with age-appropriate structures. The plan for the new swings at Criscuolo Park has been modified in response to community feedback. Moving forward in the spring barring any supply chain issues. Commissioner Torres asked if this will be completed by the summer, Jacobs stated yes.

Seawall Park Guardrail – Bill Carone/ Jeff Pescosolido

Director Pescosolido and Carone gave an update on the guardrail at Seawall Park. A contractor was contacted to do the installation/repairs of guardrails throughout the city. The contractor started at College Woods unfortunately he ran into a supply problem. The contractor will be in next week to continue. There were two accidents at the Seawall which caused damages to the guardrail. Secured the pieces of fencing that were damaged and the contractor will be in next week to reinstall.

V. Director's Report Parks & Public Works:

- Winter maintenance mode – snow and ice removal
- Park maintenance – going through all playgrounds and parks to do repairs and leaf removal
- Assisting with COVID testing and vaccination sites
- Gearing up for Spring – taking permits for parks
- New caretakers have started. Additional positions have been posted.

Director's Report Youth & Recreation:

- Began applications for summer 2022 for the youth employment program.
- Working with the Mayor, and under the American Rescue Plan have put in a request for ten million dollars under the youth component which would deal with the continued expansion of our youth programming as well as early childhood education and youth centers.
- Deputy Director Dixon has been working with Bauer to bring hockey back to the forefront. Albertus Magnus, Bauer Hockey, and the BOE will come together to work with 40 children and provide hockey equipment. The program will run from February to April 30th and resume in September. In the future hoping to get more schools involved. Baurer will pay for everything through a grant.
- There are also many programs running for anyone who is interested in things outside of hockey (lacrosse, volleyball, line dancing, ceramic, etc.).
- The management company at the ice hockey rink is going well.
- Doing a walkthrough of all facilities on the park's grounds (ranger stations, apartments, etc.) with Engineering to develop a five-year plan of repairs.
- Skate night was very successful.

At the end of the meeting, there was not a quorum to vote on the historical marker. It will be added to the agenda for next month for a vote.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:39 PM

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

Next Meeting: February 16, 2022

Location: Zoom