

New Haven Board of Park Commissioners

Meeting No. 1432
November 21, 2018

Parks Department
720 Edgewood Ave
New Haven, CT 06511

Present: President David Belowsky, Commissioner Georgia Miller, Ronell Higgins
Ernie Santiago
Absent: Commissioner Carl Babb, Hector Torres
Staff: Director Rebecca Bombero

- I. **Minutes of Meeting #1431: Motion to approve Minutes of Meetings 1431, Motion Seconded, unanimously approved. Closed.**
- II. **Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve Treasurer's Report, Motion Seconded, unanimously approved. Closed.**
- III. **Pardee Flower Budget Account Update:** Director Bombero shared with the commissioners that Gary Dickinson has accepted the position for the new Horticultural Supervisor. Due to his union contract, there will be a contractual salary upgrade which would result in the salary increasing out of the Pardee fund. As part of his new responsibilities, he will be submitting a budget in January for the fund with anticipated expenses.
- IV. **Temple Plaza Permit:** Jerry Garcia (216 Yale Ave) from Economic Development requested permission from the commissioners to vend at their "Holiday Village" event in Temple Plaza. The "Holiday Village" will be modeled after the one in Bryant Park in NYC. The display at Temple Plaza will have about 12-16 (10x10) green houses that will be occupied by New Haven merchants along the park area. Mr. Garcia presented photos of the green houses to the commissioners. The event will take place on December 13, 2018 – December 16, 2018 at 12pm – 7pm (except on Dec. 16 it will end at 6pm). It gives New Haven merchants the opportunity to sell their items and to create a festive environment.
Mr. Garcia has been in contact with the Engineering Department about discussing the layout for the event. Director Bombero believes all 16 greenhouses should fit and it will be ADA compliance. They will not be serving any food or alcoholic beverages at this event. **Motion to approve vending in Temple Plaza for "Holiday Village" event, Motion Seconded, unanimously approved. Closed.**
- V. **Quinnipiac River Park Roadway Reconfiguration:** Giovanni Zinn from Engineer Department requested permission from the commissioners to expand the right-of-way at Quinnipiac River Park. The Grand Ave. bridge will be closed and under construction starting December for 12 – 18 months. One of the improvements to the bridge would be rebuilding the deck of the bridge and expanding the right-of-way by 3ft. **Motion to approve to expand the right-of-way at Quinnipiac River park, Motion Seconded, unanimously approved. Closed.**
- VI. **Lights at Soldiers; and Sailors' Monument:** Giovanni Zinn gave the commissioners an update about fixing the lights at the Soldiers' and Sailors' monument on the East Rock summit. A while back lightning hit the monument which blew out the electrical equipment. He came up with a plan that would include putting in 3 fixtures in the 4 corners that will be on a 6 ft. footings to get a better distribution of lights. He showed the commissioners a diagram of the plan. The project will cost about \$40,000 for construction. Director Bombero requested \$20,000 of the of English Fund. **Motion to approve to use \$20,000 of English Fund towards the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument's light project., Motion Seconded, unanimously approved. Closed.**
- VII. **Director's Report**

Staffing:

- **Horticulturist Supervisor:** Gary Dickinson will start his new position on Monday.
- **Landscape Architect:** The position has been posted and will be closed on November 30, 2018.
- **Assistant Superintendent:** The position will require the civil service testing. It will be posted then tested. The process takes a bit longer to fill because of the testing.

Major Project Updates:

- **Ralph Walker Ice Rink:** The rink facility has a tentative opening date of January 19, 2019. The tentative date gives enough time to start scheduling. The other facilities will not be available, however, there will be working restrooms. Albertus Magnus will start using the building in October.
- **Ailing Memorial Golf Course:** As discussed in previous meeting, the bids for the golf course came back extremely high. The project is being value engineered to come up with a different plan that would be within budget. Giovanni Zinn from Engineer Department suggested having the project broken up into different phases and have many general contractors.

Tree Lighting: The tree lighting will take place on November 29, 2018 on the New Haven Green. Wells Fargo will be sponsoring the event which would be covering the costs for the additional contractors, new lights, and some of the amusements. NBC will be doing a 30-minute TV broadcast during the event. Telemundo (partner of NBC) will be filming during the event but will broadcast their follow-up segment after the tree lighting. KC101 will be the radio sponsor. They have been running numerous commercials about the event and Toys for Tots.

Holiday Party: The event will take place at Anthony's Oceanview on December 13, 2018 from 12p – 2:30pm.

Budget Submission: Director Bombero informed the commissioners that she was required to submit a much lower capital budget of \$2.5 million. Last year, the capital budget was \$4.4 Million with a portion of it for the ice rink project. The only change with the budget is that there will not be any large projects next year (2019). She pushed back the Lighthouse project to take place the following year (2020).

Just about everything is the same except the infrastructure fund which is a bit more flexible. There is a need to repair the roof at the Parks office (720 Edgewood Ave) and Trowbridge Nature Center. Director Bombero stated that they are getting quotes from a roofing expert versus a general architect.

General budget guidelines states that she will be absorbing the cost of salaries' increases.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 16, 2019

720 Edgewood Ave