

BOARD OF ALDERMEN
COMMUNITY RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2017 – 6:30 P.M.
JOAN WILLIAMSON ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS
MINUTES

Ronald Sill called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All rose and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call

Present: Ronald Sill, Barbara L. DeGennaro, Anthony Staffieri, Carmen DiCenso

Also Present: Alderman Thomas Donofrio
Anthony DeFala, Public Works Director
Andrew Cota, Blight Officer
Marc J. Garofalo, Town & City Clerk
Leslie Creane, Chief of Staff
Shane Mangado, Mayor's Office
Francis Teodosio, Corporation Counsel

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CORRECTIONS AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Ms. DeGennaro said she would like to add an item, which could be 13 a. – Discussion regarding the Riverwalk as it applies to the geese situation. Discussion/Possible Action and recommendation to the full Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mr. Staffieri to add the new item 13 a. and adopt the agenda as amended. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PORTION

Mr. Sill asked if anyone wished to address the committee.

Adam Pacheco, 91-93 Caroline Street, Derby, CT

Mr. Pacheco spoke in favor of constructing a basketball court on Caroline Street.

Mr. Sill asked three more times if anyone else wished to address the committee. Hearing no requests the public portion was closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS MEETING DATED MAY 9, 2017

A MOTION was made by Mr. DiCenso with a second by Ms. DeGennaro to approve the Minutes of the May 9, 2017 meeting as presented. Mr. Staffieri abstained. **Motion carried.**

**CAROLINE STREET PROPERTY NEAR 119 CAROLINE STREET – FUTURE USE -
DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL BOARD OF
ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN**

Ms. DeGennaro said as you know this item was brought to the full Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen at their last meeting and I requested that it be brought back to this subcommittee. She said she felt some information was lacking. It was her understanding that the cost estimate that was presented was \$53,000± and she now hears it is more like \$83,000±. Ms. DeGennaro said she found out the original cost estimate did not include the possibility of an engineering study for the wall that supports the lot or for the equipment that would be needed to complete the basketball court. She said one thing that came to her attention after our subcommittee meeting on June 14, 2016 when Officer Tim Conlon first brought this item to this committee and we in turn brought it to the full Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen meeting on June 23, 2016. At that meeting there was a motion to investigate appropriating funds for a basketball hoop at Irving and have Public Works install it. Ms. DeGennaro said there was discussion at that meeting regarding doing this at Irving School noting that the cost would be substantially less than putting a court in at some point. She's not saying that there shouldn't be a court at some point; however how do we say we're going to put in a court at Caroline Street or Hawkins Street at a price with grants that we don't even have. Again we're putting the cart before the horse. She said she's not saying that at some point it can't happen. Ms. DeGennaro said Ms. Creane is here this evening as is Patty Finn who has done some grant work for the City. Ms. DeGennaro asked Ms. Creane if she is aware of any grants that have been applied for the basketball court. Ms. Creane said to the best of her knowledge she is not aware of any. Ms. DeGennaro asked Ms. Finn if she has applied for any grants. Ms. Finn said she submitted a grant to the Katherine Matthies Foundation on May 1, 2016 in the amount of \$83,000 to construct and outfit a basketball court on the Caroline Street lot. Ms. DeGennaro asked what would happen if we don't select the Caroline Street property for the basketball court. Ms. Finn said she would notify the Katherine Matthies Foundation of a new location. She said she put the property in the grant to show the City's in-kind contribution towards the project and noted even if we change the location the outcome will still be the same, which is to construct a basketball court. Ms. DeGennaro said the Mayor also indicated that Griffin Hospital would be willing to donate funds for the project. She said she was in touch with Griffin Hospital and stated that their name would need to be associated with the donation for the project.

Mr. DiCenso said in a year or two down the line that lot could be used for additional parking for something that is going to go on Caroline Street. He said he would hate to spend the money and maybe in two years we won't be able to use it. Mr. Staffieri asked about using the Irving School court. He said it is a perfect location. Mr. Sill said we can do that sooner so it can be used. Mr. DiCenso said that would cost us virtually nothing to expand the courts at the school. He said the full Board of Aldermen/Alderwoman would need to review and approve it. Ms. DeGennaro said we should also have the input from the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Conway. It was noted that the full board has already approved using the Irving School location. Mr. DiCenso said he met with Mr. DeFala about the possibility of having it at Irving. This way it will get the kids off the streets and in a fenced in area, which will be much safer. Ms. DeGennaro said she just doesn't want to be in a position where we promise the kids a court and then we can't go through with it. She truly doesn't want to disappoint them.

Mr. DiCenso said he would like to bring the Irving School lot to the full Board of Aldermen/Alderwoman for discussion and possible action.

A MOTION was made by Mr. DiCenso with a second by Mr. Staffieri to bring the discussion of using the Irving School lot for additional basketball.

DISCUSSION ON MOTION

Ms. DeGennaro said we would need to include rules for using the site such as no playing after dark, etc... Mr. Sill said he would like someone to reach out to Dr. Conway before the next full Board meeting for his input on the situation.

MOTION CARRIED.

DERBY GREEN – VANDALISM AND SAFETY ISSUES – DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL BOARD OF ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN

Mr. DiCenso said he spoke to Mr. DeFala who informed him that so far this year there has been close to \$6,000 in damages on the Green. He said he has also discussed this with Jamie Cohen who is overseeing the restoration of the Civil War monument on the Derby Green. Mr. DiCenso said he would like to discuss the possibility of installing surveillance cameras around the Green. He realizes that the cameras won't be manned 24/7 but we might just be able to figure out the individuals who are causing the damage. It was also noted that the damages are occurring at the Community Center building. Mr. DeFala said he was a police officer for twenty years and he has never seen the amount of damage like he's been seeing recently. He informed the committee that the fountain was also vandalized and it took them three weeks to work on it. There have also been 26 signs on the Greenway that have been defaced. Ms. DeGennaro said the railing on the footbridge is also damaged. Mr. DeFala said they're not just slightly damaging items – they are staying at the site long enough to completely damage the property. Mr. Sill said this is not just a police issue – it is effecting all departments in the City and we need to get a handle on this. He also noted how kids are smoking marijuana on the steps at the Community Center. Mr. DeFala agreed with Mr. Sill that all departments have to work together on this and he suggested holding a special meeting to come up with a solution. Mr. Staffieri said he would gladly offer his building to install cameras. Mr. DeFala said he spoke to Jamie Cohen and the Public Works Department has offered to do some work on the monument and with the savings we could then illuminate the monument. If we're able to install cameras in certain areas around the Green the illumination would help the cameras and then hopefully we would be able to identify the individuals who are causing this damage. Mr. DiMartino informed the committee that individuals got into the Press Box at Ryan Field and boulders were thrown onto the bleachers.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mr. DiCenso to forward the Derby Green Vandalism and Safety Issues to the full Board of Aldermen/Alderwoman for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried.**

DERBY HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD TEA – STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RECOGNITION - DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL BOARD OF ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN

Mr. DiCenso said he doesn't see anyone here tonight for this item (it was noted that Dr. Conway was at graduation.) He said a couple of meetings ago he made a suggestion

that the Board of Education and the City in their budgets should allocate \$2,000 a piece for an award so that every year at least there would be \$4,000 set aside going forward if a team makes a championship to purchase rings. Mr. DiCenso said the Track Team recently won the State Class S Title. He said he is sure they will be approaching the board for funds to purchase rings. Ms. DeGennaro asked if they have made a request. Mr. DiCenso said not yet – this just happened last week. Mr. Garofalo said this committee doesn't have to take action since there is already a policy in place. He said the Board of Apportionment & Taxation would have to appropriate the money.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS ITEM

VENDOR LICENSE – MY MIXED GRILL – LOCATION: ELIZABETH STREET - DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL BOARD OF ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN

Mr. Sill said everyone should have the paperwork in their packet. Mr. Staffieri asked where on Elizabeth Street is this going to be located. Mr. DiCenso said he believes they would like to have it where Court House Dogs used to be; however it is too big to be on the sidewalk and they would like to request using two parking spaces. Ms. DeGennaro said Chief Narowski has included a memo with some observations – the first being the metered parking spaces that they would be occupying and the second pertains to Section 136-12 (B) (6) that does not allow for the issuance of a license on or within 15 feet of the Derby Green. It was noted that the location requested is greater than 15 feet from the Derby Green. There was discussion that the area is already congested with the handicap parking space and crosswalk. Mr. Sill suggested referring this to the Mayor's Office since that office oversees the Parking Division. The committee discussed other areas but noted it can't move across the street since it would then fall within 15 feet of the Derby Green.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Ms. DeGennaro to refer this item to the Mayor's Office as the Parking Division authority and to have them provide information for the next full Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen meeting. **Motion carried.**

VENDOR LICENSE – JOE'S DOG'S – LOCATION: DERBY TRAIN STATION - DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL BOARD OF ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN

Mr. Sill said he believes this is renewal. It was noted that the Police Department hasn't completed their review. Mr. Garofalo said he expects to have it by the full Board of Aldermen meeting.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Staffieri with a second by Ms. DeGennaro to recommend to the full Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen the Vendor License for Joe's Dogs located at the Derby Train Station contingent on the Police Department sign off. **Motion carried.**

SIDEWALK REIMBURSEMENT – DAVID L. MANLEY – 20 CHERRY STREET - \$613.00 - DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL BOARD OF ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN

The committee reviewed the paperwork and asked Mr. DeFala about the thickness and cost for the sidewalk.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Staffieri with a second by Ms. DeGennaro to recommend to the full Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen the sidewalk reimbursement for David L. Manley of 20 Cherry Street in the amount of \$613.00. **Motion carried.**

SIDEWALK REIMBURSEMENT – CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS – 112 DERBY AVENUE - \$320.00
DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL BOARD OF ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN

A MOTION was made by Mr. Staffieri with a second by Ms. DeGennaro to recommend to the full Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen the sidewalk reimbursement for the Catholic War Veterans of 112 Derby Avenue in the amount of \$320.00.

DISCUSSION ON MOTION

Mr. DeFala said he is all for promoting new sidewalks but asked if an organization is tax exempt do they still have to pay. There was then a discussion and the conclusion was reached that they would have to pay.

MOTION CARRIED.

NEW ITEM – DISCUSSION REGARDING THE RIVERWALK AS IT REGARDS TO THE GEESSE SITUATION

Ms. DeGennaro said she asked that this be on the agenda since she is receiving a lot of complaints about the geese excrement all over the Riverwalk. It was noted that there are a number of persons feeding the geese. Ms. DeGennaro asked if we could put up signs telling them not to feed the geese. Mr. DeFala said he met with a representative from DEEP today and there are concerns regarding the geese excrement and the Clean Water Act. He said DEEP recommends that we purchase coyote mannequins, which they have found scares off the geese. Mr. DeFala said he has seen them successfully used on golf courses. The committee members were in agreement that we need to do something to stop people from feeding the geese. Mr. DeFala said he is meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers on Thursday and they want the geese and woodchucks gone. Ms. DeGennaro said we need to comply with DEEP. Atty. Teodosio said he is not an expert in this area; however he will do some research for the full Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen meeting. Mr. DeFala noted that our Greenway is the third highest in the State with usage.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Sill with a second by Mr. Staffieri to have Atty. Teodosio research what can be done regarding this problem and have him present it to the full Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen at their next meeting. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Staffieri with a second by Ms. DeGennaro to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Finn
Recording Secretary

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE AT THEIR NEXT MEETING.